



PLUNDERERS GET THE BOOT

By Mukosha Funga

The Civil Service Commission, working with the Public Service Management Division has fired Lusaka Province principal accountant Grace Mwenya Zimba and her two deputies Nzewa Chumbu and Gideon Zulu for theft of government funds.

And the Civil Service Commission has ordered that the money they stole must be recovered from their terminal benefits.

Earlier this month, Lusaka Province PS Charles Sipanje suspended his deputy Josephat Lombe and four accounting officers after an audit report revealed shocking theft of millions of kwacha. *To page 5*

Lusaka Province top accountants fired, to lose benefits for misappropriation of funds

ZRA impounds 60 tankers for smuggling fuel

By Abraham Kalito

ZRA has unearthed a scam and impounded 60 tanker trucks involved in fuel smuggling at Chanida, Chirundu and Katima Mulilo border post. ZRA Communications Manager Topsy Sikalinda told journalist, Sunday, that so far 5 trucks at Katima Mulilo and 15 others at Chirundu border have already been seized and forfeited to the state. *To page 2*

Arrest of Ndola pastors, CTPD officials proves PF's dictatorship – HH

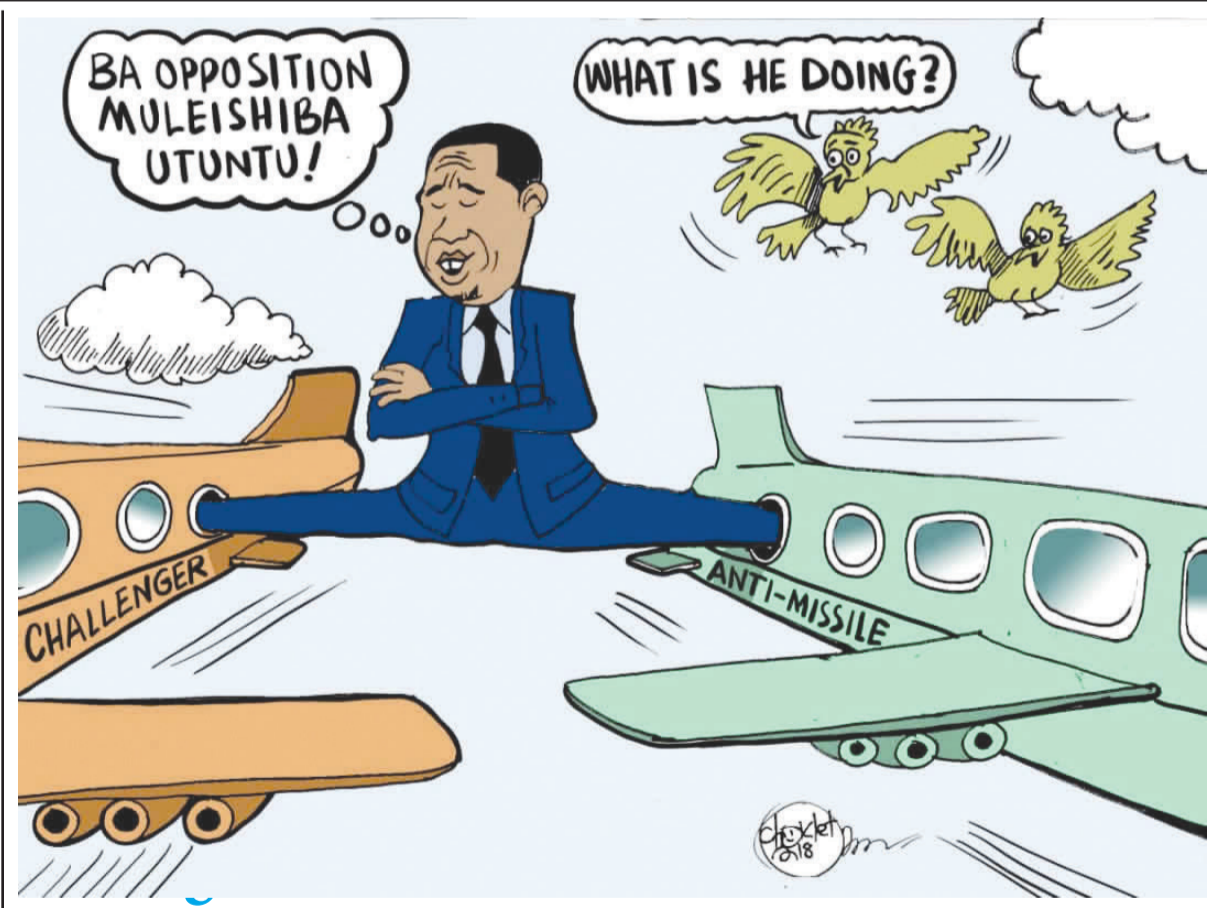
By Mirriam Chabala

Hakainde Hichilema says the arrest of Ndola pastors and some officials from CTPD who met to discuss the national budget, only goes to prove the dictatorship of the PF.

Last Friday, Police disrupted a meeting at Ndola Central Baptist Church organised by CTPD to reflect on the proposed 2019 national budget, to which members of the clergy were invited. *To page 7*

K19 million paid to 'ghost' students shocks UNZALARU

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Prof Saasa explains Oxford's downgrade of Zambian Universities to college status

By Mirriam Chabala

The University of Oxford has downgraded all universities in five African countries, including those in Zambia to college status

in its admission process to the Rhodes Scholarships, National Secretary of the Rhodes Trust in Zambia, Professor Oliver Saasa has disclosed.

This means Zambian graduates wishing to study at Oxford University should further study for another year at universities in neighbouring countries. *To page 7*



ZRA impounds 60 tankers for smuggling fuel into the country

By Abraham Kalito

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has unearthed a scam and impounded 60 tanker trucks involved in fuel smuggling at Chanida, Chirundu and Katima Mulilo border post.

ZRA Corporate Communications Manager Topsy Sikalinda told journalist, Sunday, that so far 5 trucks at Katima Mulilo and 15 others at Chirundu border have already been seized and forfeited to the state for smuggling fuel.

“Zambia Revenue Authority has unearthed another fuel scam at Katima Mulilo boarder and Chanida boarder. So far a total of 60 trucks are in detention. Details are as follows: 5 trucks here at Katima Mulilo Boarder have already been seized for smuggling while 15 others have been seized. Another 3 trucks have been detained so far which are headed outbound. We also have 23 trucks inbound and 4 trucks outbound at Chanida boarder.

Facts of the matter are that, the trucks have installed false belly tanks meant to be used in concealing the smuggled fuel. The belly tanks are not connected to the vehicle fuel system and investigations have revealed that the fuel is actually meant to be used for internal operations within Zambia after being offloaded. The drivers are currently giving statements and the 4 trucks inbound at katima mulilo boarder have been seized and will be forfeited to the state in accordance with section 149, 156 and 160 of the Customs and Excise Act, Cap 322 of the Laws of Zambia,” he said.

“This has actually been affecting our revenue collections and this explains the underperformance of excise duty on fuel due to smuggling. The Zambia Revenue Authority will not hesitate to prosecute anyone who smuggles items into the country as this robs the Zambian people of the much needed resources meant to

improve social Welfare, health, education and other strategic sectors of the economy. Investigations continue with other impounded trucks, while all boarders have been put on high alert. We want to send a very strong warning to all truckers with additional tanks on the trucks to remove them immediately before we pounce on them and they risk losing their trucks if we find them With additional tanks meant to conceal undeclared fuel.”

Meanwhile Siklinda says the authority has deployed anti-smuggling officers at all border posts to ensure that members of the public do not smuggle goods into the country during the festive period.

“We know that as an authority, the festive period is around the corner and Zambia during this period has lot of imports that are coming in preparation for the period. Various items will be coming in terms of alcohol and other items. We

went to also send a very strong warning to the general public especially the importers out there that we are up to the task. We have deployed our enforcement teams in all the areas. Our mobile compliant units are always on the ground and we will make sure that if you try and smuggle any item during this period we will face you head on and we will make sure that we deal with you extensively,” said Sikalinda.

“As you are aware last year circular number one was issued by the Commissioner General which stated that if you try to smuggle any item into the country, we will not only seize the item but we will go further and seize the vessel rusty wad being used to smuggle these items into the country.” Therefore the authority is in high alert during this period to make sure that people do not smuggle items to rob the Zambia people the much needed revenue resources.”



Salvation Army members dance at the national day of prayer, fasting, repentance and reconciliation in Lusaka on October 18, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

K19 million paid to ‘ghost’ students shocks UNZALARU

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The University of Zambia Lecturers and Researchers Union (UNZARU) says it is shocking how a ministry which keeps saying that it has no money to pay retired lecturers, can afford to spend over K19 million on paying meal allowances to ghost students.

The latest Auditor General’s report has revealed that over K19 million was paid to students who were not on the data base of the government bursary.

“A comparison of the

invoices from UNZA for sponsored students to the database of Bursaries Committee supported students revealed that 3,568 students were appearing on the UNZA invoice but not on the bursaries list of Government supported students. As a result, the University over billed Government in amounts totalling K71,082,937 for the 3,568 students. In addition, it was observed that there were 3,191 students who appeared on the bill but were not

on the overall registered GRZ Sponsored students database,” revealed the Auditor General.

“During the year under review, meal allowances in amounts totalling K19,503,068 were paid to 3,864 students who did not appear on the list of students on the University Invoices. As a result, it was not possible to ascertain whether the payments were made to intended students.” Commenting on the development, UNZALARU secretary general Dr Kelvin

Mambwe said the money in question must have landed into someone’s pocket.

“It’s very unfortunate that such a thing is happening in a ministry where we are told that money is a problem for paying some of our outstanding arrears such the gratuity, pension and so on and then at the same ministry money is misapplied. I am not so sure whether that money was spent. If it was really spent, [then] there is need for an investigation to see who is that [who] benefited from those monies because those are huge sums of monies which could have gone a long way in alleviating some of the many issues that the university is facing particularly issues to do with members of staff who have retired and have not been paid their money,” Dr Mambwe said.

He said there was need for the ACC to thoroughly investigate the matter.

“So what I can say is to call upon the Anti-Corruption Commission to come in and investigate where exactly that money went to? Who benefitted from that money? It is really a very sad development on our part and we are so disappointed as a union that such money can be spent on ghost students at a cost of real

people who are in need of that money including the students themselves. There are students who have been denied bursaries, there are a lot of students who are struggling to pay and here is a ministry extending monies on ghost students. It’s very unfortunate and it just goes to show how deep rooted corruption has become,” Dr Mambwe said. And Dr Mambwe said it was very possible that the money in question could have landed into someone’s pocket.

“That explains why there have been delays in other monies for paying students on time including lecturers because that money which is budgeted for this course has been extended to ghost individuals. So, indeed if these monies were spent on real people, the issues that the university is facing and the unrest that you have seen in the recent past would have been avoided. And I don’t know how the university works with the Ministry of Education. So that money must have landed somewhere and in fact I don’t think that money was received by the students who are not on bursary. It must have landed somewhere in people’s pockets,” said Dr Mambwe.

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Kambwili was fired because he wasn't loyal to PF - Sunday

By Mirriam Chabala

PF media director Sunday Chanda says President Edgar Lungu fired Roan member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili because he had ceased to be a loyal member of the ruling party.

And Chanda says the PF does not take Kambwili's apology to President Edgar Lungu and Presidential Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe seriously because it is fake and is meant to attract attention from the Head of State.

On July 22, 2017, the PF central committee expelled Kambwili and the now NDC Secretary General Mwenya Musenge from the party, following an extraordinary meeting chaired by President Lungu in which it was agreed that the two be expelled for disobeying party orders.

But since his expulsion, Kambwili has taken on the PF government with criticism targeting the President and top government officials, and has also challenged his expulsion from he party in court, calling it illegal.

At a press briefing last week Kambwili said he was asking

for forgiveness from President Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe and President Edgar Lungu because he did not know why the Head of State fired him and expelled him from the party.

But commenting on Kambwili's failure to accept his expulsion, Chanda explained that the reason why the former Information Minister had been expelled from the party was because he was not a loyal member.

"If he wonders why he was expelled from the Patriotic Front, he was expelled from the party because he has never been loyal to anything. He was not loyal to the Patriotic Front, he was not loyal to his own words and a man who is not loyal to his own words cannot be loyal to anything. Honourable Kambwili doesn't see anything wrong in the things that he does and the attacks that he makes on individuals and the Patriotic Front. To him he has the preserve to insult anybody else expect himself. He has the preserve to call anybody names and any organisation names expect himself. And

we again say to honourable Kambwili that he is now pronounced as a member of the NDC. On that score, we want to challenge him to go and withdraw that case [of his expulsion] in court. Let him go and withdraw that court case so that we can go and taste his medicine in Roan. We can put his popularity to taste," Chanda said.

And commenting on Kambwili's apology to the President and his Presidential Affairs Minister, Chanda said the Roan lawmaker's apology was fake.

"We read about Mr Kambwili's supposed apology and our take is that firstly, honourable Kambwili is a time waster. He's craving for attention but unfortunately, he doesn't know how to solicit that attention. He thinks that when he insults President Lungu then he will attract the attention of the Patriotic Front and President Lungu to reach out to him and probably and start engaging [in] some peace talks. But he knows that more he insults, the more he alienates himself. So for us, our focus is developing and

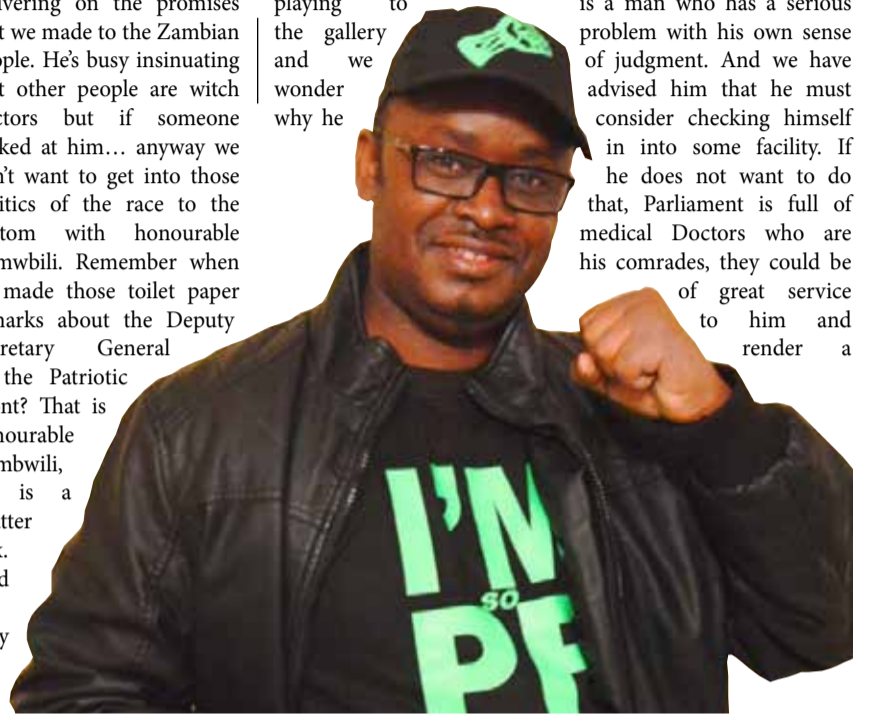
delivering on the promises that we made to the Zambian people. He's busy insinuating that other people are witch doctors but if someone looked at him... anyway we don't want to get into those politics of the race to the bottom with honourable Kamwibili. Remember when he made those toilet paper remarks about the Deputy Secretary General of the Patriotic

Front? That is honourable Kambwili, he is a chatter box. And it's very sad

that we have such calibre of people aspiring for public office in this land," Chanda said.

"So honourable Kambwili is a flip flopper. He says one thing in one breath and says another thing in another breath and clearly, those are attributes of a prank master. He enjoys

playing to the gallery and we wonder why he



is a man who has a serious problem with his own sense of judgment. And we have advised him that he must consider checking himself in into some facility. If he does not want to do that, Parliament is full of medical Doctors who are his comrades, they could be of great service to him and render a

expects people to take him seriously when he cannot take himself seriously. So when we look at his apology, that apology is fake and it's a man crying out for attention. We have said to honourable Kambwili that owing to his inconsistencies and flip flopping, clearly this

professional opinion to him because a man who says 'this colour is white' today but calls it black after 30 minutes is a man who is suffering from impaired judgment and there is very little that we can do in that regard to help him. Our own judgment is that honourable Kambwili deserves more sympathy than anger because he is a victim of his own creation."

Chanda further argued that Kambwili was incapable of sustaining an ideological argument due to his capacity issues.

"Kambwili wrongly believed that he was this national oracle but truth dawned after his expulsion that he is nothing but a loud and foul mouthed politician with little substance if any. We saw him address that press briefing in pair of shorts which warranted viewer discretion but again he has no problems with expose' as past incidences have shown. He does not mind exposing himself including his ignorance and arrogance. He is a puffed-up self who believes it can only be him and nobody else. The truth is that Kambwili is a serious indictment of the state of our national politics in 2018. He is a reckless politician thriving in insults and demeaning language against others in Parliament and outside Parliament. Kambwili is unfortunately an embodiment of politics of cheap populism and that makes him the high priest of political theatre. We sympathise with him because he is associated with more lies, inconsistencies and double talk than any other politician," said Chanda.

CTPD demands transparency in purchase of National Airline planes

By Mirriam Chabala

CTPD has expressed concern over government's failure to clearly state how many planes are required for the reintroduction of the National Airline, what they will be used for and if the venture is a priority.

In a statement, CTPD researcher Bright Chizonde observed that it had become apparent that citizens were being given fragmented and inconsistent information concerning the source and modalities of the acquisition of the planes to be used by the airline.

Chizonde further urged government to give a detailed and accurate update to the public regarding the purchase of planes, but still wondered if Zambia really needed to take the route of re-establishing a national airline, considering the economic challenges that the country was facing.

"CTPD would like to urge government to step up efforts in providing timely and consistent information to the public with regards matters of national interest, this will help cure the growing culture of citizen dependency on foreign media platforms for them to know government's dealings. One such dealing is with regards to

governments intentions to relaunch a national airline. It is public knowledge that governments intention to bring back Zambia airways has attracted considerable public debate and it has been met with mixed reactions from various stakeholders with some supporting the plans due to the potential economic benefits and employment creation and others condemning the decision owing to the fact that Zambia is currently in hard economic times, and thus does not have the luxury of spending on such a risky venture," Chizonde stated.

"It has become apparent that citizens are being given fragmented and inconsistent information concerning the source and modalities of the acquisition of the planes to be used by the airline. In July, last year, it was published by a number of tabloids that government signed a contract for the purchase of five Russian made Super jets to be delivered in the country by early 2018. Four of the five aircrafts were said to be Sukhoi Superjets 100 passenger planes while one was a VIP version for the President. In early 2018, the Zambian public did not witness the delivery of these planes but instead, new information

emerged on the acquisition of planes. Ethiopian Airways announced plans to buy new Jets as it readied itself for Zambia Airways relaunch. This hinted of a leasing arrangement on Planes from Ethiopia to be used by Zambia Airways. In September 2018, the Minister of Transport and communication, Mr. Brian Mushimba, announced that three planes to be used by Zambia airways are expected in the country this month (October)."

Chizonde insisted that it was every Zambian's expectation that clarification would be provided on the purchase of planes for the national airline, saying citizens should not be left to speculate over such important issues.

"Although the source of these three planes was not expressly given, it is widely assumed these are from Ethiopia Airlines. While the nation still awaits the arrival of the three planes, new revelations have come to public domain. There is now talk of Zambia Airways planes coming from Israel and Saudi-Arabia, and the delivery of only the Russian made Business Jet for the President. The Ministry of Defence recently refuted 'rumours' about the Russian SuperJet

Business plane costing a maximum of US\$45 million after media publications sourced from the vice-president of Russia's Sukhio Civil Aircraft-Yevgeny Andrachnikov, went viral on social media," stated Chizonde.

"CTPD remains deeply concerned and urges government to give a detailed and accurate update to the public regarding the purchase or acquisition of planes. There is need to clearly state how many planes are to be acquired, what will they be used for? Even more concerning, are they a priority? Does Zambia really need to take this route of establishing a national airline looking the economic challenges the country is facing? It is our expectation that clarification will be provided as Zambians should not be left to speculate concerning such an important issues."

Meanwhile, Chizonde disclosed that CTPD was currently conducting a study aimed at evaluating the benefits and risks of running a national airline. The study is being done by drawing lessons from African Countries like Ethiopia, South Africa and Malawi. And this report is scheduled for launch before October, 2018, month end.

ZRA refunds tax payers K5.5bn against regulations – AG

By Stuart Lisulo

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) spent over K5.5 billion in tax refunds to companies that were owing the Authority, in breach of their own regulations, the latest Auditor General's Report reveals.

And the Ministry of Gender misapplied amounts totalling nearly K1.9 million meant for economic empowerment of women and promotion of gender mainstreaming, but were instead squandered on purchase of motor vehicles and outfits for health week, among others.

Meanwhile, the Department of Immigration was found to have misappropriated over K2.9 million, funds meant to have been banked from proceeds from visa fees, among others.

According to the Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Republic of Zambia for the financial year ended December 31, 2017, the ZRA spent over K5 billion in tax refunds to companies that were owing the Authority, in breach of their own regulations.

"The ZRA Treasury Procedure Manual states that, 'the operating divisions shall ensure that lists that are sent for refund processing have offsets indicated to avoid payment to taxpayers who owe ZRA. Treasury Department will ensure that refunds are not made to taxpayers who owe ZRA money as advised by the divisions,'" reads the Report.

"Contrary to the above guideline, ZRA paid VAT refunds in amounts totalling K5,490,273,003 to 573 taxpayers who owed ZRA amounts totalling K2,648,871,995 in unpaid taxes."

The Report added that the Authority is also experiencing

a worsening of arrears of domestic taxes.

"In paragraph 14 of the Report of the Auditor General for the financial year ended 31st December, 2016, mention was made on the inefficiencies in collecting taxes, which resulted in tax arrears increasing from K24,430,797,316 in 2015 to K28,225,582,971 in 2016. A review of the domestic tax debt records in 2017 revealed that the trend had continued in that debt stock escalated from amounts totalling K28,225,582,971 (Principal - K12,859,279,897; Interest - K1,351,717,732 and Penalties K14,014,585,342) in 2016, to K31,144,696,256 in 2017 (Principal - K13,838,239,156; Interest - K1,230,215,749 and

Penalties - K16,076,241,350) thereby increasing the tax debt by 10 per cent," it added. And at the Ministry of Gender, misapplication of funds totalling nearly K1.9 million meant for economic empowerment of women and promotion of gender mainstreaming, but were instead wasted on purchase of motor vehicles and outfits for health week, among others.

"Contrary to the Appropriation Act of 2016, amounts totalling K1,889,168 meant for Economic Empowerment of women and Promotion of Gender Mainstreaming were applied on unrelated activities such as purchase of motor vehicles, furniture, office operations

and outfits for health week, among others," the Report states.

Meanwhile, the Department of Immigration was found to have misappropriated over K2.9 million, funds meant to have been banked from proceeds from visa fees, among others.

"i. Unaccounted for Revenue. A review of visa fees receipt books, general revenue cash books, deposit slips and the bank statement in respect of visa fees showed that visa fees in amounts totalling K300,320 (US \$30,320) were collected during the period from 10th November, 2016 to 11th July, 2017. However, it was noted that only amounts totalling K2,400 (US \$240) were banked leaving a balance

of K300,800 (US\$30,080) unaccounted for in that no cash was found on hand and the deposit slips to support the banking of revenue were missing," it read.

"ii. Misappropriation of Revenue. Although revenue in amounts totalling K2,882,700 (US \$288,270) was deposited and traced on the Zanaco Ministry of Finance Dollar Transit account bank statement, a balance of K2,919,600 (US \$291,960) was misappropriated as the deposit slips were falsified."

The Auditor General's Report also mentioned that as many as 48 casinos functioning under the Ministry of Tourism & Arts are not licensed, exacerbating revenue leakages in unpaid

license fees.

"According to the Tourism and Hospitality (Casino) Regulations No. 93 of 2016, all operators of casino are supposed to obtain a licence from the Ministry to enable them operate and no person should operate a casino, or allow to be kept, or played, on any premises, games of chance (card games or table games or gaming machines) for the purpose of gaming without a casino licence. Contrary to the regulation, during the period under review, 48 casinos operated without obtaining a casino licence resulting in loss of revenue amounting to K504,000 in respect of unpaid licences fees," revealed the Report.

MPs have turned Parley into a battle field because of failed dialogue – Nalumango

By Mirriam Chabala

UPND national chairperson Mutale Nalumango says political players are turning the National Assembly into a battle field because they do not have equal space outside of Parliament to speak freely.

And Nalumango who is former deputy Speaker of the National Assembly says the failure for the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) to agree with opposition on the position that the Church must Chair the national dialogue has also contributed to the ongoing aggression amongst members of parliament in the House.

On October 16, Roan PF

member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili got yet another beating ordeal in Parliament from Presidential Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe after he called him a witch.

The incident happened when Kambwili was debating the 2019 budget and Sikazwe kept interrupting the former Information Minister with running commentaries. It took a horde of other MPs to restrain Sikazwe who had reached out for Kambwili's throat while throwing punches in the Chambers.

But commenting on the matter in an interview with News

Diggers! Nalumango who condemned the behaviour of the two lawmakers said she however understood the anger that was in hearts of MPs, especially those from the opposition because they had no other means of airing their views outside Parliament.

"Members of parliament must remember who they are, that is the cardinal point. When people elect you, you go there for serious matters, you don't go there for personal petty issues or time to vent out your anger. But I do understand that the issue at hand is that political players do not have space outside Parliament to

engage. So they go in there with that anger to do politics in the House. So as such, it's difficult to blame them. What we need is political space outside Parliament, free expression of opinions and once that happens, I don't think we will see any personal confrontations in the House," she said.

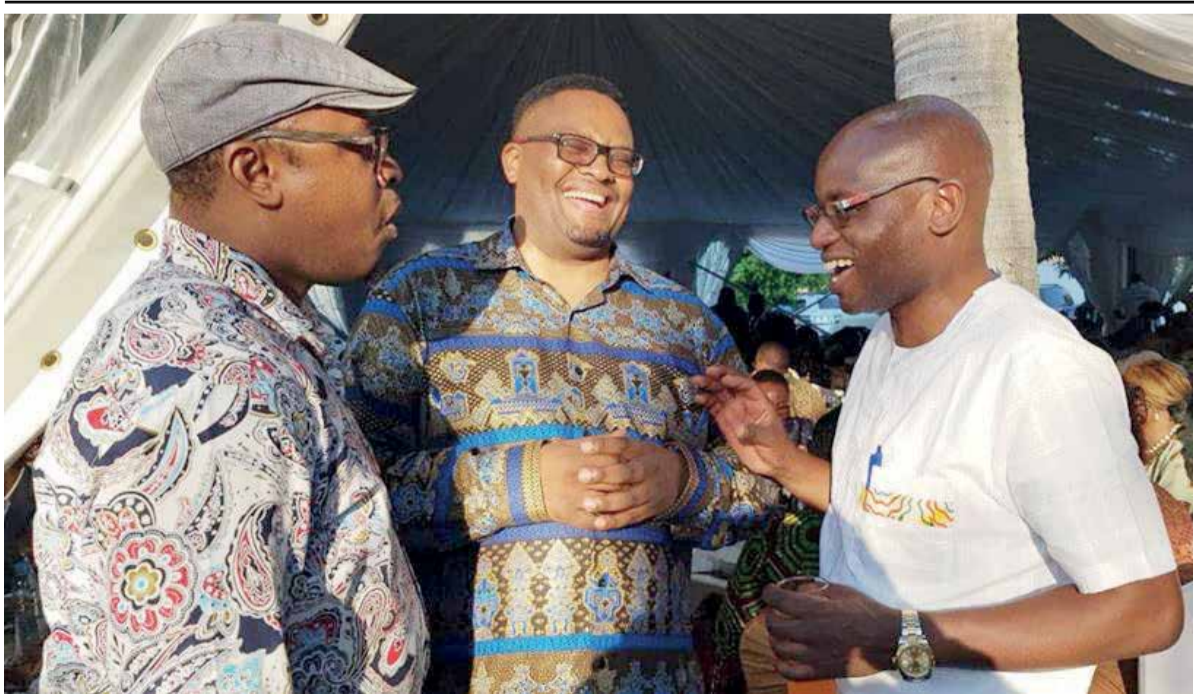
"But if that is not done and others are squeezed out of the playing field, then parliament will be their only ground for people to vent out what they feel is not right. So maybe that's what's happening. I mean, if we call for a meeting as the opposition and then the police come and arrest us, then what do we do? The only place they won't come and arrest you is in Parliament. So you say what you want to say in Parliament, which is not good. Let the political space be levelled for all of us."

Nalumango further explained that the failure for the ruling party to agree to dialogue with the opposition under the Church had also contributed to the aggressiveness of lawmakers.

"Who is saying that dialogue is up to Hakainde and Lungu? I think we are also leaving our responsibilities as a nation, in the sense that we should call a spade a spade. Hakainde and UPND have said they are more than ready to go to dialogue led by the Church. And there is no way we can corrupt the Church, we don't even have the capacity to do that but

our colleagues still refused. So the Church must have taken responsibility and said 'we are calling you all to dialogue. Whoever doesn't come then we will see'. To me that's how I see it. Because PF at one point, including Lungu said they were ready for the Church led dialogue talks. They even said 'it is UPND which is not ready'. But us we have been ready, we are ready. For us even today if the [Church] Mother Bodies want they can go ahead and say 'come, we are ready to go. And how ready should we be? Should we call Lungu ourselves? Do you think Lungu will come if we say 'Lungu come?'" wondered Nalumango.

"After all the person who is holding the instruments of power, rightly or wrongly is Lungu. And he has all the capacity to say 'let's go' and if we refuse then people will say 'ah ah, but the Church has said come and the President has said come'. At that point then people can truly and sincerely say 'what do you people want? You don't want the Church... so the failure to dialogue is also destroying institutions of government, including Parliament. Because you are having members of Parliament who come bottled up and therefore, they start calling each other names in the House, which is not necessary. And Parliament is not a platform for such but you are squeezing them and they don't know what else to say."



L-r: PF media director Sunday Chanda, Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba and Presidential Press Aide Amos Chanda share a light moment at Chanda's Matebeto. Picture Courtesy of Smart Eagles

Lusaka accountants fired for theft of govt funds

By Mukosha Funga
The Civil Service Commission, working with the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) has fired Lusaka Province principal accountant Grace Mwenya Zimba and her two deputies Nzewa Chumbu and Gideon

Zulu for theft of government funds. And the Civil Service Commission has ordered that the money they stole must be recovered from their terminal benefits. Earlier this month, Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje

suspended his deputy Josephat Lombe and four accounting officers after an audit report revealed shocking theft of millions of kwacha. The suspended accounts officials included Psela Banda, Nzewa Chumbu, Gideon Zulu and Grace

Mwenya. According to records obtained by News Diggers! among the most glaring irregularities were that the five officers paid themselves meal and subsistence allowances in amounts totalling K2,109,275 for carrying out various activities

over days ranging from 612 to 732 days, which is way over the number of days in one calendar year. The records obtained show that Lombe alone was paid subsistent and meal allowances totalling K549,000 over a period of 732 days out of 365

calendar days, translating into an excess of 367 days. Mwenya also paid herself allowances for a period equal to two years but under one calendar year, amounting to a total K439,500. Assistant accountants Banda, Zulu and Chumbu paid themselves K357,590, K358,985 and K404,200 for 612, 683 and 726 calendar days respectively.

The records showed that millions were spent on 28 officers to carry out various activities in Lusaka District, but an investigation conducted revealed that the officers either did not spend any money on the activities or did not visit the sites at all. The records further revealed that Lombe had been getting subsistence allowances at the rate of Permanent Secretary, without authority from the Secretary to the Cabinet, resulting in overpayment of K49,600.

According to dismissal letters dated October 17, 2018 signed by PSMD director for technical services department Margaret Kapihya, and addressed to the Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary, four of the five accused government officials have been dismissed for misappropriation of funds.

Reference is made to the minute number PALUSP/AE: 101562 dated 25th September, 2018 on the subject above. I wish to inform you that the Civil Service Commission acting in the name and on behalf of His Excellency the President, has directed that Ms Grace Mwenya Zimba, Principal Accountant be dismissed from the public service with effect from a current date for misconduct, unethical conduct and misappropriation of government funds in accordance with Section 21(a)(v) of the Disciplinary Code and procedures for handling offences in the public service," read the dismissal letter in part.

"The Public Service Commission has also directed that the misappropriated government funds be recovered from her terminal benefits. Kindly inform Ms Zimba of the Commission's directives accordingly."

The other dismissed officials read like wise and copied to the Auditor General and the Accountant General among other government department heads.

According to sources, Lombe has not yet availed himself before a disciplinary hearing. "The deputy PS hasn't been very cooperative when it comes to appearing for the disciplinary hearing. That's how come there's no action on him yet," said the sources.



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Lungu must call for early elections, he has failed - PAC

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda has agreed with Muchinga Province Minister Malozo Sichone that Zambia needs to borrow at this stage to supplement next year's budget since most donor aid was frozen.

And Banda says the fact that the 2019 budget will not be able to support the balance of payment without funds from donors is a sign that President Lungu has lamentably failed to run the country, and as such, he must call for early elections. The opposition leader said this in an interview when he reacted to calls by Sichone that President Lungu should be supported in borrowing because doing so would help the country make economic returns.

He the problem with the PF government is that it gets too excited when borrowing and in turn start buying luxurious vehicles for themselves.

"We are already in a suicide stage because from day one 2011, the time that the PF came into government, they have been borrowing money. And right now, I may agree with him to a certain stage because truth be told, first of all the donors have pulled out the funding and that is what the government was expecting to support the budget next year. You know business is becoming difficulty [as] a lot of businesses are closing up and there is a chance that next year due to the changes in the budget, the Mining companies may sabotage the government by trying to reduce on production and also laying off employees because of the removal of VAT and the introduction of sales tax and also the increment in the mineral royalty tax. So to agree with him, there will be a huge gap next year between the revenues that were collected to the revenues that were budgeted. So definitely the only way to cover that gap is to borrow," Banda said.

But Banda was quick to express concern over the misuse of borrowed money.

"Now, the problem we have is [that] when they borrow, they get excited. They start buying planes, they start buying new Mercedes Benz for the president, so there is lack of priorities. Borrowing, you can only allow a government that has got its priorities in the right place to continue borrowing. As it stands, our government priorities are misplaced hence we are of the view that the best way [for] us as PAC we don't have any more confidence in the PF government. We don't

believe that the PF government can redeem itself, we don't believe that President Lungu can do anything right going forward," Banda said.

Banda said President Lungu needed to call for early elections and seek a new mandate from the Zambian people who have lost confidence in him.

"We have to find a way of either, if the constitution allows, he should call for early elections so that he can seek a new mandate from the people of Zambia, parliament can seek a new mandate from the people of Zambia because at the rate we are going, Zambians do not have any confidence in the leadership of the PF. So therefore them borrowing is suicidal and we do not support it because their priorities are misplaced. Just look at what they have been spending money on in the last few months like the Land Cruisers, stealing of social cash transfer, now the aeroplanes, the jets, the president buying himself...it's like he is just doing things for himself. He is not interested in the well-being of the Zambian people. So that is where our problem is and that is why we don't believe that it is okay for the PF to borrow," Banda said.

And Banda said that the purchase of the five planes was not necessary.

"It was very unnecessary for the president to authorise the purchase of jets or to even propose because that idea came from State House. We have a lot of challenges in our country right now. That money would have gone to repaying the debt because the money that was spent on those things is almost half the money that we were supposed to pay the Eurobond. So it clearly shows that the PF have got no priorities at all. They don't have a moral standing in society because of the way they are doing things. And also they are not transparent in the way they do things. They always want to do things in secrecy so that people cannot know what they are doing but it always comes out in the open. We always learn about these things from the donor community and in the end, they want to start telling us to keep quiet saying that we are denting the country's image. But what we are saying is that it is not us who are making all these mistakes, it is them. If they want us to say nice things about them, they should do the right things. And as PAC once we form government, we are going to sale off all those jets. And since when did Ministry of Defence start purchasing passenger planes? Under which company?" asked Banda.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (left) and 12th Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert raise their hands during the morning exercise in Lusaka on Saturday - Picture by Salim Henry

It is not enough to fire donor aid thieves, they must pay back - CSPR

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) executive director Patrick Nshindano says it is not enough to only suspend or fire those that have stolen Social Cash Transfer funds but that beyond that, they should also be made to pay back.

The latest Auditor General's report has revealed that K31 million which was sent to ZAMPOST for distribution to the poor and vulnerable citizens through the Social Cash Transfer Programme vanished without any banking records.

During the period under review, the Ministry of Community Development remitted amounts totalling K109,386,458 to ZAMPOST for payment to scheme beneficiaries to districts in Luapula and Western Provinces only, according to the contract.

"It was however observed that for the September/October 2017 Cycle the Ministry remitted funds in amounts totalling K30,947,320 to ZAMPOST for disbursements to North Western, Northern and Muchinga Provinces and Masaiti and Lufwanyama on the

Copperbelt which were not included in the contract. In her response dated 14th September 2018, the Controlling Officer stated that having noted that the contract did not adequately cover the provinces in question, the parties signed an addendum on 26th April 2018 after it was cleared by the Attorney General's Office. However, the inclusion of North Western, Northern and Muchinga Provinces and the two districts on the Copperbelt was done in October 2017 before the addendum was signed," revealed the report.

"During the period under review, the Ministry remitted amounts totalling K30,947,320 to ZAMPOST to pay the September/October 2017 cycle to 144,142 beneficiaries in Northern, Muchinga and North Western. However, as at 31st August 2018, ZAMPOST had not paid the beneficiaries and the funds were not accounted for in that there was no evidence of banking and no cash was found on hand. Contrary to the Appropriation Act of 2016, amounts totalling K116,893 meant for Social Cash Transfer Scheme activities were spent on activities such as Grants

for juvenile conveyance, purchase of furniture and contribution towards traditional ceremonies among others, activities not related to the purpose for which the funds were appropriated."

Reacting to the revelation, Nshindano in an interview said the due process of the law should be undertaken on the suspects.

"We also need to follow the due process of the law, to be taken to court and to be prosecuted accordingly in line with the Public Finance Management Act and there is no excuse whatsoever why they should not be prosecuted. But beyond that also we need to ensure that those that have stolen these funds are made to pay back. It is not enough for them to be either suspended or fired or whatever measures. There is need to make sure that the money is recovered because this money is meant for the poor and the vulnerable in society," Nshindano said.

"As CSPR we did indicate that everybody found wanting must be prosecuted and we hope that with this being part of the evidence that is

basically part of the information that ideally leads to prosecution. The fact that there is no trace on these funds it means that the people who were involved in the management must have stolen these funds and they need to be prosecuted accordingly. And we hope to see that this process will need to be made public in terms of those that were involved in the transaction so that the people's money, the tax payers' money will stop being misused," he said.

And Nshindano said once the funds are recovered, they must be sent to the intended beneficiaries who were deprived.

"So we need to recover those funds and ensure that the beneficiaries receive these funds even when the coming allocation is going to be given in retrospect. It's an issue of life and death really when you look at the constituency that is targeted. They barely have anything, they are very old people, we are talking about child headed households, disabled households and so on. So it's a criminal offence and necessary action should be taken," said Nshindano.

By Mirriam Chabala

The University of Oxford has downgraded all universities in five African countries, including those in Zambia to college status in its admission process to the Rhodes Scholarships, National Secretary of the Rhodes Trust in Zambia, Professor Oliver Saasa has disclosed.

In an interview, Professor Saasa explained that, following the downgrading, Zambian graduates wishing to study at Oxford University should further study for another year at universities in neighbouring countries or elsewhere outside the country for them to qualify for the Rhodes Scholarships

The Prof however, stressed that the downgrading of Zambian universities as well as the four others in Africa did not mean that graduates coming from the said universities had been banned from attending the University of Oxford.

“This happened about two years ago, although the story is just coming out now. What is happening now is that because of falling standards in some of the Universities in the world and particularly in Africa, Oxford University usually re-ranks universities for the purposes of admission. It doesn't mean that they don't recognise that you are a university, no! But when

Prof Saasa explains Oxford's downgrade of Zambian Universities to college status

they are matching you against other applicants, for you they consider your institution almost equivalent to a college because they believe the standards have come down. They have a criteria of checking the quality of education that is provided,” Prof Saasa explained.

“For Africa, five countries unfortunately that includes Zambia, have been classified. For the purpose of admission, not that they are no longer universities but only for the purpose of admission. That clarification is very important, they consider these universities substandard. Almost equivalent to that of a college. So in other words, the universities are downgraded for the purpose of admission into Oxford. What this means is that you can still be admitted into Oxford if you are a graduate of the University of Zambia or any other university in Zambia. But the prospects of you

being admitted are slimmer because your qualifications is not to the Grade that is befitting Oxford University.”

Prof Saasa added that, following the downgrading, Zambian graduates wishing to study at Oxford University should further study for another year at universities in neighbouring countries or elsewhere outside the country for them to qualify for the Rhodes Scholarships.

“So for one to be easily admitted if they come from the University of Zambia, we prefer those that after graduating from the University of Zambia, they may have acquired a Master's outside the country because then it will be easier for us, then we will just say ‘over and above your University of Zambia education, you have something in exposure of an international nature’. Then you easily get into Oxford but not straight from these Universities. But of course it

might still be possible if the course that you are applying for is not very competitive because you compete there, the whole world wants to go to Oxford. So this downgrading just means you are less competitive as a university, you are not banned. Not the way this is coming out like someone from these universities can never go, you can still get admission into Oxford, only that it will be very difficult and that you stand a better chance if you have an extra year outside the country after graduating from these universities that have been classified,” he added.

Prof Saasa noted that since the downgrading was necessitated by the falling standards in the quality of education as well as political interference, there was need for government to work on modalities that would improve the status of the country's universities.

It talks so much about the quality of education. But it's also important to note that Oxford University is the top notch university in the world. University of Zambia graduates are well established graduates for most countries in the world and you can be admitted in any other university in the world, this must be clarified. Zambian students can get admission into any university, it's the difficult of getting into Oxford now. This also speaks to us, what is it that has happened in terms of quality of our university education? Especially whether you are talking about University of Zambia, Mulungushi University, the Copperbelt University or the Mushrooming universities? It means we have to get back onto the drawing board, make sure that the quality of what comes out of there is befitting international class, especially if viewed by top ranking

universities like Oxford,” said Prof Saasa. “Frequent closures of universities, underfunding of the universities, hardly any research of a meaningful nature has been undertaken by the universities because of poor funding. Politicisation of Universities, the quality of the syllabus, the quality of the lecturers, the quality of the research that comes out from there, all these come together. The quality of publications by those academics that are in these universities. All these they are considered and unless you start up meaningfully financing universities properly, putting in place proper management structures in universities, minimising political interference in universities, minimising student militants that lead to frequent closures, minimising easy decision by government to close universities at every excuse when it happens. All these add up to a level where those that are watching cannot think that you are serious about university education. And therefore, graduates from a university like that will have very difficult challenges. These may be very bright candidates for getting into Oxford but the image issue is an issue that must be addressed.”

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says the arrest of Ndola pastors and some officials from the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) who met to discuss the national budget, only goes to prove the dictatorship of the PF.

Last Friday, Police disrupted a meeting at Ndola Central Baptist Church organised by CTPD to reflect on the proposed 2019 national budget, to which members of the clergy were invited. But the officers arrested five pastors and three officials from CTPD. Copperbelt Province Police Commissioner Charity

Arrest of Ndola pastors, CTPD officials proves PF's dictatorship - Hichilema

Katanga said the eight were arrested for unlawful assembly in church.

“People were arrested for unlawful assembly. We had information that there is a political group that had meetings without police notification. Initially, 53 people had gathered but only eight were picked with Pastor George Palo who was the convener of the meeting. A

warn and caution was recorded from them,” said Katanga.

But Hichilema expressed shock at the worsening dictatorship of the PF.

“We condemn the arrest of members of the clergy and others from the civil society organisation. We call on the PF to stop abusing the police in hiding their corruption and debt crisis. This brutal arrest of pastors and the

civil society organisation advocating for transparency and accountability on the part of how government and donor resources are spent is a clear indication of the PF's continued oppression and dictatorship,” Hichilema said in a statement released by his assistant for press Brian Mwiinga..

“Zambia does not need a regime such as the PF that

has robbed citizens of their freedoms of association, assembly and expression. Clearly, due to their corruption, injustices and unprecedented debt crisis, the PF has shown that it will even start following citizens in their homes and arrest them for expressing themselves over things going wrong in our country. Is that what Zambians want?”

He urged the church to remain resilient.

“To the church, we say remain strong because history records show that you, together with all of us gave hope when our country was under siege by such elements before. And to the civil society organisations, as a party we would like to encourage you to place the interests of our country first and ensure those plundering both public and donor funding, in this case the PF, are held accountable,” said Hichilema.

“It is no longer guess work that the PF will arrest anyone opposing their corruption, debt crisis and bad governance but we call on the country to join hands and say no to such colonial way of running our country. And as always, we appeal to our country's men and women in uniform not to accept to be abused by the corrupt few in the PF. We are aware that our men and women in uniform are the least respected by the PF but we will restore their dignity and improve their conditions of service when in government and this is why we call on them to think twice when asked to arrest pastors, civil society organisations members and citizens in general.”



L-r: Rupiah Banda, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Vice President Inonge Wina at the national day of prayer, fasting, repentance and reconciliation in Lusaka on Thursday October 18, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Before we talk about another physical fight in Parliament from yet another PF member of parliament in the name of Freedom Sikazwe and his foe Chishimba Kambwili, let's step back a little bit to see where we are coming from with our comment.

Two weeks ago Lands Minister Jean Kapata said she would be glad if members of parliament engaged in a physical punch up in the House in order to see who is stronger. The minister who is a representative of the people of Mandevu Constituency said this as she expressed outrage with UPND members who walked out of the House in a show of protest over accusations that the opposition party caused the death of a University of Zambia student.

Honourable Kapata, or simply Jean, as she deserves to be called, is an unrepentant thug. In March this year, this woman together with her fellow thug Bowman Lusambo were suspended from Parliament over violent behavior. This was after a special select committee that probed their conduct found them guilty of slapping and pouring water on their fellow parliamentarian Chishimba Kambwili. Unfortunately, the Speaker's punishment on Kapata was reversed by her fellow mafia MPs who saw nothing wrong with fighting in parliament and voted against the Speaker's ruling.

Jean apologized for her unparliamentary behavior and promised

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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The violence of PF MPs defines a State run by brutal thugs

that she would never involve herself in violent conduct again. But we knew that she was simply fooling the Speaker because there was no way Jean's violent DNA could have been fixed with a 7-day suspension. In fact, even the Speaker himself knew that the minister was lying, because he knows, more than anyone else that he is presiding over thugs in that House.

If any Zambian thought Kapata was remorseful over her conduct then they need to think again, because this time around she wants an actual boxing tournament in the House to see who is stronger between UPND and PF members of parliament. How can this be said to be a normal person? Proposing

a fistfight in Parliament? What a shame! We wonder how the people of Mandevu are feeling about this woman's embarrassing behavior.

But most importantly, Jean's violent conduct in Parliament is inviting us to question the decency of her appointing authority. It is sad that President Edgar Lungu has continued to tolerate violence from senior members of his Cabinet. Our Head of State surely loves violence and treasures its fruits. That is why he appointed a thug like Jean to be the chairperson for women's affairs. This appointment has nothing to do with her capacity to promote the plight of women or to inspire women in leadership, it was about

a gangsta who could spearhead a provocative movement of insults against political rivals.

If we are wrong, how does President Lungu justify the conduct of his Presidential Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe, just last week? When another uncouth product of the PF Chishimba Kabwili called him a witch, the Mpulungu member of parliament couldn't find any other civil means of addressing the verbal attack, but instead charged at his aggressor, reaching for his neck while throwing punches like a possessed barbarian.

We thought that Mr Sikazwe was too close to the presidency to engage in such violent behavior and that maybe he would

express regret over it in fear that President Lungu could mete out maximum punishment on him. But we were wrong. To our surprise, the State House minister was bragging that, had he not been restrained by other members of parliament, he would have punched Kambwili hard because he is a very stupid man. Yes we agree that Mr Kambwili's mouth is untamed, and can really say stupid things at times, but beating him only goes to show the worse stupidity of the other person.

That is why we thought it would have been expected for President Lungu to at least scold or condemn the violent behavior of the minister who handles his presidential affairs. But nothing came out of State

House. In fact President Lungu and Sikazwe were seen pretending to be worshiping God on the National Day of Prayer in Kabwe, only a few days later.

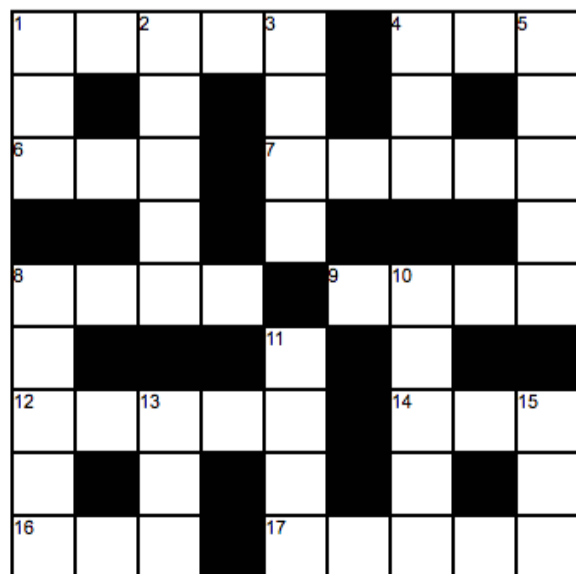
This is the problem that the Patriotic Front has. It is MPs like Sikazwe, Jean and Lusambo who are taking the ruling party to the grave because their thuggery has made it impossible for President Lungu to shake off the violence tag that is on his head. This is what makes people believe that he adores violence because he is a product of it.

A normal political party would overlook the tolerance of the Speaker over such conduct and instead punish these MPs for bringing the name of the party into ridicule. But we are not seeing that happening in the ruling party. Instead, we are hearing other PF thugs cheering their gangsta leaders in the House as they trade punches.

Speaker Matibini must be very worried with this conduct. When he sees old men like Sikazwe with grey hair playing the role of Kung Fu masters in Parliament, he must ask himself if he is safe. These thugs wearing the title of MP have no limit as to how far they can take their unreasonable behavior. A time will come when these thugs will disagree with the Speaker and they will knock off a few of his teeth.

This conduct from the PF members of parliament only defines a State run by brutal thugs who think using their fists and not their brains.

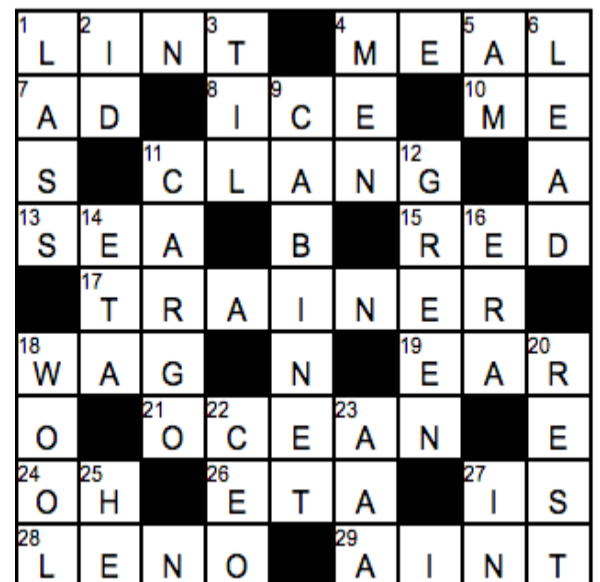
Crossword puzzle 213



"Liberty should be understood as freedom from the government, specifically, freedom from the initiation of physical force by the government."
- George Reisman

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hit the books 4. Long-tailed rodent 6. Angry 7. Wandering one 8. Piece 9. Remain in place 12. Infuriate 14. In the past 16. Family 17. Door sign | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total 2. Beneath 3. Tug 4. "Losing My Religion" band 5. Present time 8. Practical joke 10. Distinctive quality 11. \$0.00 13. Rifle or revolver 15. Rowing need |
|---|--|

Solutions to puzzle 212



Reader's feedback

ND's OPINION: Whose interest does ERB serve?

Editor,
"Very good analysis, Diggers! Let ERB respond to this." - Moses Peyala

"Excellent and well-put; hope those good for nothing institutions have heard." - Chisowa Matilda

"Exactly my thinking. This is one of the good for nothing filled with old men and women without solutions." - Bruce Mutale

"A thought-provoking article..." - Roy Miselo

"There are just too many agencies in Zambia doing literally nothing, but a huge cost to the tax payer. E.g. RDA, RTSA, ZICTA, ZEMA etc. Can some educate on the loss Zambia would incur if we had to do away with these conduits for corruption. In my view, they were created to provide employment to friends and relatives for those in the corridors of power." - Jibambo Kafwilapanembo

"It has never been transparent, and never expect it to be under the current regime. You may like to know that your country buys fuel from individuals deliberately when the nation-to-nation option is there and extremely cost-effective. ERB has literally no powers, they are an academic entity." - Maningi Dibili

"The ERB is as useless as our National Assembly. I would like to know the annual budget for ERB. The reason is simply to shut this useless branch of govt and transfer this money to the Ministry of Agriculture. Let the ERB tell us who currently has

the contract to supply crude oil to Zambia? It is up to us citizens and not some thieves at ERB to decide who should supply us crude oil. We know that our neighbours are buying cheaper crude oil." - Christopher Kalima

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



Foote's caution that theft of US donor aid won't be tolerated

Dear Editor,
"Daniel Footé is right and they have right to withdraw aid in Zambia. Their money is not meant for politicians; we have so many people suffering, yet these politicians are using that money for their pocket and personal gain." - Chris Banda

"I just like this guy because he is always on point." - Graton Mainza Sinjabu

"Good warning." - Muhami John

"I can smell more trouble coming." - Obrian Mwanza

"Just take action, big man; there's no donor aid the PF has not touched." - Obrian Ndumba

"And this includes ARVS!!! PF, please careful..." - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"It will be the end of this country." - Stanley Muswema

Police's arrest of UNZA lecturer for "insulting Lungu"

Editor,

"Jungle laws in Zambia. Is it an offense to hate someone or something not good? This is the most repressive regime ever." - Donald Oscar Phiri
"What he wrote was nothing, but the truth. When was truth criminalised in Zambia?" - Jibambo Kafwilapanembo

"Ni nolle again. Who doesn't know that

whenever there are by-elections in Eastern Province, their message is that of 'wako ni wako?' Moreover, their utterances of tribal remarks are all over in media houses. So, it's another nolle." - Kazundulu Wachila

"Ama charges aya kufyafya. Ba police nabo. I feel sorry for our police that have become political and oppressing the innocent." - Albert Kasonde

Mexico allows caravan women, children in, but thousands still stranded

Mexican authorities allowed dozens of women and children from a US-bound Honduran migrant caravan to enter the country Saturday but thousands remain

stranded on a border bridge between Guatemala and Mexico where riot

police barred their progress. Mexico's ambassador to

Guatemala Luis Manuel Lopez told AFP the women and children would be

processed by immigration authorities and taken to a shelter in the city of Tapachula, 40 kilometers (25 miles) away.

Mexican authorities said around 900 other migrants -- tired of waiting on the bridge -- resorted to crossing the Suchiate River below on makeshift rafts and police did not intervene as they clambered up the muddy riverbank on the Mexican side.

Many of them had spent more than 24 hours on the packed bridge where heat and hunger was adding to a growing sense of despair. Efforts to retrieve them were ongoing, authorities said.

US President Donald Trump, speaking at a rally in Elko, Nevada, kept up his rhetoric against the migrants and suggested the caravan was politically motivated.

"The Democrats want caravans, they like the caravans. A lot of people say 'I wonder who started that caravan?'" he said.

He thanked Mexico for blocking the caravan's progress. "Mexico has been so incredible. Thank you Mexico and the leaders of Mexico, thank you. And you know why, because now Mexico respects the leadership of the United States."

Last week, Trump threatened to cut aid to the region, deploy the military and close the US-Mexican border if authorities did not stop them.

Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and his Guatemalan counterpart Jimmy Morales continued Trump's theme after they met in Guatemala to discuss the crisis Saturday.

"This migration has political motivations," said Morales, "which is violating the borders and the good faith of the states and of course putting at risk the most important thing, people."

Hernandez also deplored "the abuse of people's needs" for "political reasons."

"Without a doubt, we have a lot to do so that our people can have opportunities in their communities," he said.

The caravan originated in the Honduran town of San Pedro Sula a week ago, with about 2,000 would-be migrants drawn together by social media. **AFP**



Honduran migrants heading in a caravan to the US prepare to jump into the Suchiate River from the Guatemala-Mexico international border bridge in Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico, on October 20, 2018.

Brazil looking likely to elect far-right Bolsonaro as president

Barring any last-minute upset, Brazil appears poised to elect Jair Bolsonaro, a populist far-right veteran politician, as its next president in a week's time.

His lead seems insurmountable over his leftist rival Fernando Haddad ahead of the October 28 run-off, with most voters swayed by his anti-corruption promises -- while a minority fears his authoritarian bent and intolerant views.

In the first round two weeks ago, Bolsonaro handily beat a dozen other candidates, garnering 46 percent of the vote. Polls since then suggest his support has climbed to 59 percent, against 41 percent for Haddad.

Much of his appeal lies in his image as a "clean" political outsider who wants to crack down on rampant crime and stamp out graft in Latin

America's biggest, most populous nation.

His virulent attacks on Haddad's Workers Party -- widely seen as a corrupt outfit under now-jailed former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and the cause of Brazil's worst-ever recession -- have worked to his

advantage. So has the endorsement of many of Brazil's increasingly influential evangelical churches.

But opposition to Bolsonaro, while smaller, is fierce and won't go away.

His record of contentious comments -- praising

Brazil's brutal 1964-1985 military dictatorship during which he served as an army captain, calling a female lawmaker "not worth raping," justifying torture, and denigrating gay and black people -- have repelled a significant portion of the population.

Demonstrations in Brazil over the weekend both for and against Bolsonaro highlighted the deep polarization.

Bolsonaro's profile got a boost when he was stabbed last month by a lone assailant while campaigning for the first round. **AFP**

President Trump to pull US from Russia missile treaty

The US will withdraw from a landmark nuclear weapons treaty with Russia, President Donald Trump has confirmed.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Trump said Russia had "violated" the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

The deal banned ground-launched medium-range missiles, with a range of between 500 and 5,500km (310-3,400 miles).

The US would not let Russia "go out and do weapons [while] we're not allowed to", Mr Trump said.

"I don't know why President [Barack] Obama didn't negotiate or pull out," the president said after a campaign rally in Nevada. "They've been violating it for many years."

In 2014, President Obama accused Russia of breaching the INF after it allegedly

tested a ground-launched cruise missile. He reportedly chose not to withdraw from the treaty under pressure from European leaders, who said such a move could restart an arms race.

A Russian foreign ministry source said the US move was motivated by a "dream of a unipolar world" where it is the only global superpower, state news agency RIA Novosti reported. **BBC**

About 380,000 illegal migrants, mostly from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, have left Angola in less than a month during a massive operation targeting diamond smuggling, a minister said Saturday.

On a visit to Dundo in northern Angola on the border with DR Congo, Pedro Sebastiao dismissed allegations that the migrants had been violently expelled and often beaten by police. Sebastiao, a state minister and the head of presidential security who is in charge of the operation, told travelling reporters that diamonds worth more than \$1 million had been seized. He said that the migrants had all left voluntarily, and 231 premises for illegal diamond trading had been closed and 59 weapons seized.

"Angola is a democratic and lawful state," he said. "It must be made clear that 'Operation Transparency' is not based on any xenophobic sentiment against citizens of neighbouring countries or any other nationality." Speaking at the Chitato border post, he said the crackdown across northern and western Angola was "legitimate" and was to ensure that the country's diamond reserves were correctly exploited.

There was "illegal

Angola says 380,000 illegal migrants have left in weeks

immigration and the plundering of our natural resources without any contribution to the treasury," he said, adding the operation was scheduled

to continue for two years. After pouring across the border in recent weeks, many Congolese have described being brutally thrown out of Angola after

sometimes living there for more than 10 years. Migrants who had crossed back to the frontier town of Kamako told AFP this week that their houses had been

burnt by police and gangs of Angolan youths, and some had been attacked with machetes and beaten as they fled. With 1,000 arrivals crossing

some border posts every hour, many have been left in DRC Congo without shelter and adequate food and water as authorities struggle to cope.

"During displacement, DRC nationals have experienced violence and human rights abuses, and many have arrived with almost nothing," ACAPS, an humanitarian crisis group, said in a briefing note.

"Although the Angolan government claims all returns are voluntary, there have been reports of forced returns," it added.

This week DR Congo threatened to take international action against Angola over the allegedly violent expulsions.

Clashes have been reported between Congolese, Angolan security forces and local Angolans in several provinces especially in Lunda Norte, which borders on DRC.

Local media and an NGO reported that several migrants have been killed. AFP



Congolese migrants who were living in Angola gather near the Congolese border town of Kamako on October 12, 2018, after returning to their country following a security crackdown by Angolan authorities

Problems plagued hundreds of Afghan polling centres Sunday in the shambolic legislative election's second day of voting, fuelling criticism of organisers and eroding hopes for credible results after a ballot marred by deadly violence.

As voters once again braved the threat of militant attacks in more than 20 provinces, an AFP tally of casualty figures from across the war-torn country showed the number of civilians and security forces killed or wounded in polling-related violence on Saturday was nearly 300.

That is more than four times the latest figures released by the interior ministry.

The huge discrepancy supports speculation that officials have deliberately downplayed the violence, adding to concerns about the lack of transparency and credibility of the long-delayed election that is seen as a dry run for next year's presidential vote.

At some of the 253 polling centres opened for voting on Sunday, election workers still struggled to use biometric verification devices and voter rolls were "either incomplete or non-existent", Electoral

Afghan polling centres plagued by problems as casualties surge

Complaints Commission spokesman Ali Reza Rohani told reporters.

"Most of the problems we had yesterday still exist today," said Rohani, adding some polling sites again opened late and had insufficient ballot papers.

Another 148 polling sites that were supposed to open remained closed for security reasons, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) told AFP.

The IEC's chronic mishandling of the parliamentary election, which is the third since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, has all but dashed hopes it can competently organise the presidential ballot, scheduled for April.

"This does not bode well for next year," Afghanistan Analysts Network co-director Thomas Ruttig told AFP.

"The IEC has clearly shown its lack of capacity to run acceptable and transparent

elections, instead publishing doctored figures."

A Western official, who had monitored the months-long preparations, told AFP they had no confidence left in the IEC.

"None at all," they said on

the condition of anonymity. "With the current IEC leadership there are a lot of doubts that they would be able to handle the presidential election properly," political analyst Haroun Mir said.

Initial IEC figures show

around three million Afghans risked their lives to vote on Saturday -- many waiting hours for polling centres to open -- despite scores of militant attacks.

Nearly nine million voters registered for the parliamentary election, but

many suspect a significant number of those were based on fake identification documents that fraudsters planned to use to stuff ballot boxes.

But the fact any Afghans turned out to vote was an achievement in itself, some observers noted.

"The people of Afghanistan showed that they are still hopeful for their future," Mir said.

Despite the shortcomings in the voting process, that was "undoubtedly a great achievement", he said AFP



All eight carriages on the Puyuma Express train in Taiwan were derailed and five flipped onto their side in the accident, 22 people had been killed and said 171 people had been injured, 10 seriously. AFP

The London Film Festival got its one of its starriest red carpets on Thursday when actresses Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz and Olivia Colman premiered "The Favourite," a costume piece with a difference being billed as an Oscar contender. With plenty of laugh out loud moments, the movie sees Colman portray Britain's 18th-century Queen Anne as an insecure, frail,

Olivia Colman adds royal touch with 'The Favourite' at London Film Festival

tempestuous, childish royal who is easily influenced by her friend and confidante Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. However Sarah, played by Weisz, soon finds herself vying for the

queen's attention as well as affection when maid Abigail, portrayed by Stone, arrives. "All three of us ... play parts that were filthy and sexy and emotional and sad ... which is normal, not just an attempt to

be gorgeous all the time and a little bit sort of prettily flawed," Colman said at the BFI London Film Festival. The actresses, who have praised by critics, share the spotlight as three central characters,

which Weisz described as "very textured and layered and complicated." "I suppose I find it sad that we have to bring that up but I suppose we do, it's still a little bit unusual although

I don't think it was ... back in the Hollywood golden era," she said. "There was Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Barbara Stanwyck - the list goes on ... they were women that took the leading roles."

While set in the 18th century, the film directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, known for "The Lobster" and "The Killing of a Sacred Deer", has contemporary touches such as in the language used.

"This was such a specific type of period story," Stone said when asked whether she would do more costume pieces.

"It was kind of filthy and funny and ridiculous and all of it. So (if) there are more like this than then sure, of course."

"The Favourite" first premiered at the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Grand Jury Prize, and Colman - soon to be seen portraying Britain's Queen Elizabeth in Netflix series "The Crown" - was named Best Actress, garnering Oscar buzz.

Asked about the Oscar speculation, Lanthimos said: "It matters if you get it."

"But I think it's best to not think about it too much and do the work, do the best that you can and then if people appreciate the film that's great." **REUTERS**

'A Private War' goes to frontline to tell reporter Marie Colvin's story

Award-winning American war reporter Marie Colvin was known for her dispatches from some of the world's most brutal conflicts. Now a new film starring "Gone Girl" actress Rosamund Pike tells her story about being fearless on the battlefield. Focusing on the last decade of her life, "A Private War" takes audiences to the frontlines of fighting in Sri Lanka, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. Colvin, reporting for Britain's Sunday Times, was killed in Syria in 2012. Based on an article about Colvin in Vanity Fair, the film for which Pike wears a patch to cover the eye the journalist lost in a blast in Sri Lanka in 2001, follows her evading gunfire and digging for the truth as well as the effects her war zone trips had on her personally.

"I just thought 'My gosh, this is a woman who would be a joy to kind of get people to see...' this complicated, ferocious, driven, ambitious, vulnerable, romantic soul and put that out on screen," Pike told Reuters. "Because... oh yes is she a role model, but a role model in a real way." "Fifty Shades of Grey" star Jamie Dornan plays photographer Paul Conroy, who accompanied Colvin on trips and was with her when she died in Homs while covering the Syrian conflict.

"It gives you a far more sort of heightened respect for the people who go to these

places and try to report the actual truth of what's happening," Dornan said. Conroy, who worked as the set photographer for the film, said the actors had caught "the essence" of his relationship with Colvin. "(Colvin) was a force of nature... It was like peeling an onion back, she just kept going further and further and further in... until we were at what she considered the



heart of it," Conroy said.

The film is directed by Oscar-nominated documentary maker Matthew Heineman, whose past works include covering activists grouping together against Islamic State in Syria.

"In this world of sort of fake news and with journalism under attack... I think it's both a homage to Marie (and also) a

homage to journalism and the importance of journalism," he said.

Heineman said he wanted to make the film, shot in Jordan for the war zone scenes, as "authentic as possible" and cast Syrian refugees who tell their stories.

"We spent a tonne of time researching every single detail, looking at every image we could to try to recreate these war zones but a huge part of that were the people we put on screen," he said.

"Most of the extras were non-actors, refugees from those countries who are living in Jordan... They are telling their real stories... Ultimately it created a real heightened sense of emotion on set."

REUTERS

Pop superstar Rihanna declined an offer to perform at a Super Bowl halftime show because she supported former National Football League quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his protest against racial injustice, according to media reports.

US Weekly and other reports cited an unnamed source as saying that the NFL and broadcaster CBS Corp (CBS.N) "really wanted

Rihanna turns down Super Bowl show, backs Kaepernick

Rihanna to be next year's performer."

However, she declined in support of Kaepernick, the first player to kneel as the national anthem played at a game in protest over racial

inequality and police brutality against black people and minorities in the United States.

"They offered it to her, but she said no because of the kneeling controversy. She doesn't

agree with the NFL's stance," the source told US Weekly.

Rihanna's decision to reject the offer over a political issue follows her Instagram message earlier this month

urging fans to vote in the November U.S. congressional elections. She is one of several celebrities who have taken political stances ahead of the voting. **REUTERS**

Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' Camille Grammer Gets Married in Hawaii

E! News can confirm that the 50-year-old Real Housewives of Beverly Hills star has wed beau David C. Meyer, an attorney. The two tied the knot at a private beach club in Hawaii in front of family and friends, including many of her co-stars. Fellow Housewives star Lisa Vanderpump did not attend. Camille and David went public with their relationship in March 2017 after dating for a few months. They had met through mutual friends at a party.

"He's a lawyer. We've been together for almost a year," Camille told Bravo's *The Daily Dish* last year. "Things are really good. It's nice to be in a relationship again. I was alone for a while, but I needed to be. But now it's nice. I like having a companion in life. He gives me really good advice and we get along really well." Camille and David's engagement was announced in October 2017.

This is the second marriage for Camille, who finalized a divorce from *Frasier* alum

Kelsey Grammer in 2011 after more than 13 years of marriage. The two share two children, daughter Mason Grammer, 16, and son Jude Grammer, 14. Camille was Kelsey's third wife. The actor also has five other children, including three with his fourth and current wife, Kayte Grammer.

On Saturday morning,

one of Camille's wedding guests, Real Housewives of Beverly Hills star Kyle Richards, posted on her Instagram page a photo of her, Camille and co-stars Dorit Kemsley, Lisa Rinna and Teddi Mellencamp Arroyave standing by a pool.

"With the beautiful bride to be @therealcamille," Kyle wrote.

Co-star Lisa Vanderpump was not pictured. Kyle commented, in response to a fan asking about her whereabouts, that she was invited to the wedding. She also told another fan, "This is about Camille. It's a special time for her."

Days earlier, Camille posted on her Instagram page photos of her standing on a beach in

Hawaii and wearing a bikini, writing, "Morning training Hawaiian style. Just finished a wonderful 2.8 mile paddle and swim. Took a few underwater pics of an two eagle rays swimming beneath us. Camille has battled two types of cancer over the years.

A couple of months after her and David's engagement

was announced, the reality star revealed that she underwent a procedure to remove a squamous cell carcinoma, or skin cancer, which was found early. In 2013, she underwent a hysterectomy after being diagnosed with endometrial cancer. In 2015, she celebrated one year of being in remission. **EONLINE**

Naomi Campbell says Hello! Magazine presents 'completely whitewashed' London

Naomi Campbell has spoken out about the lack of diversity in fashion magazines, criticising Hello! for presenting what she calls a "completely whitewashed" London.

The supermodel was speaking in The Hague, Netherlands, ahead of an appearance at the One

Young World summit, which gathers young leaders from around the world to discuss some of the world's most pressing issues, from climate change to extremism.

Campbell explained how she'd seen a copy of the magazine in her hotel room and was shocked by its representation of her home

town.

"I picked up a Hello! magazine today and if I was not from London I would think 'My god, London is completely whitewashed,'" she told Press Association.

"That's what it sells you, it's awful.

"London is one of the most diverse cities and

cosmopolitan cities in the world and we have a huge diversity of people. I was shocked. I was just like 'wow'."

The model didn't specify which issue of Hello! she had read, but went on to praise close friend and British Vogue editor Edward Enninful, who

took over from Alexandra Shulman in August 2017, for bringing diversity to fashion magazines.

"It's (his editorship) uniting a whole different culture of people and innovations, and young people coming together and speaking out and I hope that it continues," she said.

Prior to Enninful's appointment, British Vogue was frequently criticised for featuring predominantly white women on the cover.

In 2015, Jourdan Dunn was the first black model to front the magazine on her own in 12 years, succeeding Campbell herself.

Since taking the reins at the fashion bible, Enninful has been keen to combat the title's exclusive reputation, choosing mixed race model Adwoa Aboah as his debut cover star and casting models from a mix of backgrounds for photoshoots in subsequent issues.

Using Enninful as an example, Campbell described the fashion industry's shift towards diversity as "better late than never," adding that this season's runways showed a marked improvement, with designers casting models of a wide range of ethnicities.

The 48-year-old model, who is now a contributing editor at British Vogue, made headlines when Enninful commenced his role at the title by posting a photograph on Instagram of the magazine's editorial staff as of June 2017, which featured exclusively white faces.

"Looking forward to an inclusive and diverse staff now that @edward_eninful is the editor," she wrote in a post that has been liked more than 22,700 times.

YAHOO

Pregnant Meghan takes break from Australia royal tour

Meghan, the pregnant wife of Britain's Prince Harry, is scaling back her engagements during the royal couple's 16-day Pacific tour, Kensington Palace said Sunday, ahead of their visit to Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand.

The royal couple have had a gruelling schedule since arriving in Australia on Monday, visiting Sydney, Melbourne and the regional town of Dubbo, as well as opening the Olympic-style Invictus Games for disabled and wounded soldiers.

"After a busy programme, The Duke and Duchess have decided to cut back The Duchess's schedule slightly for the next couple of days, ahead of the final week and a half of the tour," Kensington Palace said in a statement.

The opening ceremony for the Games at Sydney's Opera House on Saturday night was delayed after an intense thunderstorm, and the Duchess of Sussex did not attend a cycling medal presentation with Harry on Sunday.

At the event, held in The Domain gardens, the prince was asked by someone in a crowd of onlookers where his wife was.

"She's resting at home," the Australian Broadcasting

Corporation reported him as saying. "Being pregnant takes its toll."

Meghan rejoined her husband for lunch with Prime Minister Scott Morrison, before watching a

Games sailing event from a boat on Sydney Harbour.

They are due to attend a private reception for the Invictus Games Foundation at Government House late Sunday before heading off to

Fraser Island in Queensland state.

But Meghan is not expected to take part in official engagements at the World Heritage-listed site on Monday, with Kensington

Palace adding that "The Duke will continue with the engagements on Fraser Island as planned".

The pair are due to visit Fiji and Tonga after Fraser Island. **AFP**



The Duchess of Sussex will cut back her schedule on the 16-day Pacific tour

Ronaldo celebrates landmark goal but Juve's perfect run broken

Cristiano Ronaldo scored but wasteful Juventus had to settle for a 1-1 stalemate at home to Genoa to end the Italian champions' perfect start to the season on Saturday.

With eight Serie A wins and two in the Champions League Juve were all set to extend that fine run when Ronaldo put Massimiliano Allegri's men into a first-half lead.

But Juve were made to pay for failing to convert a hatful of chances when Daniel Bessa headed in a second-half equaliser.

Ronaldo, despite the turmoil of explosive rape allegations that surfaced before the international break, notched up his fifth goal for his new employers since his headline move from Real Madrid in the 18th minute, ironically helped by a mistake from Genoa's top-scoring Polish striker Krzysztof Piatek.

A communications mix-up saw Piatek leave Joao Cancelo's blocked shot for his keeper, but the loose ball fell at Ronaldo's feet

and he tapped in to an empty net.

This was the 33-year-old's 400th career goal in Europe's top five leagues,

making him the first player to reach that tally.

Lionel Messi is next best on 389.

Ronaldo, who returns to

Old Trafford on Tuesday to face his old club Manchester United, would have bagged a double shortly after but his low

shot was denied by Genoa keeper Ionut Radu's diving save.

With Genoa struggling to contain the lively Cancelo

down the right Juve were firmly in control, their only regret at the break being they weren't further in front.

Genoa had to wait until the 53rd minute for their first shot on target, and unsurprisingly it fell to Piatek, but his hopes of swelling his nine-goal Serie A haul were dashed when Juve keeper Wojciech Szczesny tipped his shot around the post.

Energised, the 23-year-old should have levelled seconds later, outjumping Leonardo Bonucci but his header went wide.

In an attempt to stifle Genoa as they scented an equaliser Allegri replaced Juan Cuadrado with Douglas Costa, the Brazilian winger making his first appearance since a four-game ban for spitting. Juve paid heavily for failing to kill off the encounter when Bessa headed a cross from Christian Kouame into the back of the net on 67 minutes.

Allegri responded by introducing Paulo Dybala for Blaise Matuidi as a frantic finale beckoned with Genoa holding on for a surprising point.

Napoli cut the gap on Juventus to four points with a third successive win in all competitions and a third clean sheet in a row after a 3-0 win at Udinese.

Napoli, coached by Carlo Ancelotti who will take his side to former club Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League in midweek, were in front after 12 minutes on Saturday through a superb effort from Spanish player Fabian Ruiz.

Despite dominating the game, Napoli had to wait until the last 10 minutes to wrap up the points thanks to a Dries Mertens penalty and a strike from Croatian midfielder Marko Rog.

Earlier, Roma came unstuck 2-0 to visiting minnows SPAL to dash their hopes of a fourth straight league win.

The hosts had beaten Frosinone, Empoli and above all city rivals Lazio and had been hoping to improve on their sixth place in Serie A ahead of Tuesday's home Champions League game with CSKA Moscow. **AFP**



Lionel Messi will miss the Clasico against Real Madrid and the Champions League double-header with Inter Milan after fracturing his right arm during Barcelona's win over Sevilla on Saturday.

A "positive" Thierry Henry suffered defeat in his first match as a head coach when his 10-man Monaco side slumped to a 2-1 loss at Strasbourg on Saturday to drop into the Ligue 1 relegation zone, while Paris Saint-Germain eased to a 10th straight victory to start their title defence.

The principality club have failed to win in 11 games in all competitions since

Henry suffers defeat on Monaco return, PSG seal perfect 10

the opening weekend of the French top-flight season, and are only above bottom team Guingamp on goal difference. Monaco, who were runners-up to PSG last season, are

now 24 points adrift of the reigning champions after they cruised to a 5-0 thrashing of Amiens at the Parc des Princes despite resting several key players.

A dreadful error by Monaco's third-choice goalkeeper Seydou Sy gifted Strasbourg midfielder Adrien Thomasson an early opener, and substitute Samuel Grandsir was sent off

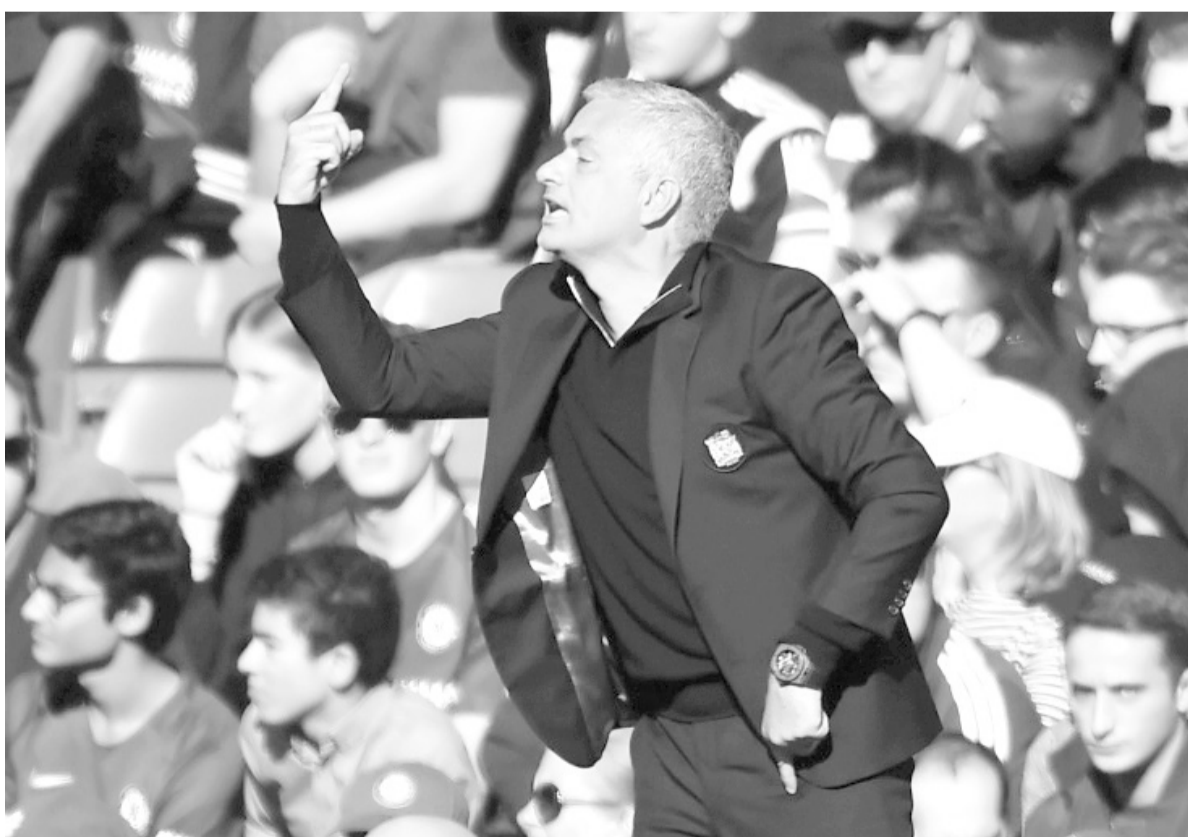
midway through the second half.

Lebo Mothiba doubled the advantage, and a late Youri Tielemans penalty was a mere consolation for the 2017 Ligue 1 title-winners.

"It wasn't easy, we tried to put something in place which worked at the beginning, and then we conceded that goal that I don't need to describe... Human error, I don't want to wipe the floor with anyone," said the 41-year-old Henry.

"Then we tried to change the game, and unfortunately Sam (Grandsir) is sent off. After that it was even harder, but we still tried to keep playing. "But I want to keep positive despite the negatives... The game could have turned in our favour, but it didn't. In addition, we lost (Radamel Falcao) at the beginning. It wasn't the dream scenario."

Henry -- a World Cup winner and Arsenal's all-time record goalscorer who started his playing career at Monaco -- made four changes to the team which lost to Rennes before the international break, with former Manchester City and Inter Milan striker Stevan Jovetic restored up front. **AFP**



Jose Mourinho gestures on the touchline during Manchester United's 2-2 Premier League draw against Chelsea.

AFP

Barclays Cup finalists smell triumph

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Young Green Buffaloes made history on Saturday by becoming the first division one side to qualify for Barclays Cup finals after beating Green Buffaloes 4-3 on penalties in their semi-final encounter. The game ended 1-1 in regulation time with Young Buffaloes' Emmanuel Mwiinde finding the back of the net in two additional minutes of the first half. Green Buffaloes made more attempts in the first half but to no avail as most shots were either deflected or were too wide to take down their junior counterparts. Biltone Musonda, with the help of assistant coach Christopher Katongo made changes in the second half. Felix Katongo was withdrawn for Friday Samu in the 53rd minute while Gideon Sichone was introduced after substituting Katiba. It was however the introduction of Joseph Yubia that saw the senior combatants score after

Yubia benefitted from a rather weak pass from Jack Micheal Musonda

thereby making it 1-1 in the 64th minute. Efforts made by both teams

after levelling up were all in vain as the game ended 1-1 in regulation time. A

session of penalties came underway as per Barclays Cup playing regulation that

doesn't favour extra time. Young Buffaloes goal keeper Jonathan Mfula made three saves and guided his side to the finals. Mfula was also named Man of the Match and walked away with K5 000 cash and a one year medical plan. A high tempo second semi-final between Kitwe giants, Nkana and Power Dynamos filled up Woodlands stadium to rafters with an atmosphere of a final. It was a balanced red and yellow affair, although Nkana carried the day. The game ended 2-2 in regulation time with Jimmy Dzingai and Elvis Rupiah scoring for Power Dynamos while Ronald 'Sate Sate' Kampamba and Kelvin Kampamba did the needful for Aba Red. The Barclays Cup final therefore pins Young Green Buffaloes against Nkana on 10th November, 2018, at National Heroes stadium. Both sides had never reached the Barclays Cup final.



Young Buffaloes' Sam Mbewe loses his footing after a challenge from Stephen Kabamba in the Barclays Cup semi final on Saturday. Young Buffaloes beat Green Buffaloes 4-3 on penalties after 1-1 draw.

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Botswana will be hosting the highly anticipated African Union Sport Council (AUSC) Region 5 Youth Games 2018 from the 6th-16th of December in the capital city Gaborone, where 10 nations are expected to participate. COSAFA has once again been tasked with organising the football tournament and an official draw was conducted for the men's Under-17 and women's Under-20 competitions resulting in some mouth-watering fixtures. In the men's draw, hosts Botswana will face Zambia, Eswatini and Namibia in Group A. The 2018 COSAFA Under-17 champions Angola are the top seeds in Group B and will take on Tanzania who is the guest nation in the competition from outside the region. Malawi and South Africa are the other two competing in what is believed to be the group of death. In the women's competition, seven countries will be taking part. Hosts Botswana have been pitted in Group A against Zimbabwe, Malawi and Lesotho, while defending champions South Africa will face Namibia and Eswatini in Group B. The top two teams in each pool will proceed to the semi-finals with winners in the groups facing the runners-up in both the boys and girls' competitions. Meanwhile, Zambia's coach said his side was not going to be a mere participants

Zambia draws Botswana, Namibia, eSwatini at Region 5 games

but a possible champion. "Our young Copper bullets will never go into any tournament as mere participants but title contenders. We have a great number of talented youngsters and they can deliver," he said. Botswana Under-20 women's team coach Jacqueline Gaobinelwe said the draw went well and she is taking nothing for granted even though they have home advantage and says respect would be given to all of their opponents. "We missed these Games in 2016 so Botswana is not here to add numbers despite our

challenges. We will not have the preparations that we wished for because my players are writing their final examinations in October and November, so this must not be an excuse as we want to win," said Gaobinelwe. In the men's competition, Botswana coach Tebogo Mokute said their group was not an easy one, however he believes his side had the talent to call the shots. He added that in the COSAFA Under-17 Championships held in Mauritius in July, they lost to Namibia in the group stages and also played Eswatini

during the preparations and as such they know what to expect from the two teams. "Our main shortfall was a lack of scoring and we have since added three new players to our squad to resolve that problem," said Mokute. The coach added that their target is to do well in the first round and progress to the knockout stages. "As the hosts we can't afford to be eliminated early in the tournament and watch from the stands, so we need to work very, very hard," concluded Mokute.

2018 AUSC REGION 5 WOMEN'S DRAW	2018 AUSC REGION 5 MEN'S UNDER-17 DRAW
Group A	Group A
Botswana	Botswana
Zimbabwe	Zambia
Malawi	Eswatini
Lesotho	Namibia
Group B	Group B
South Africa	Angola
Namibia	Tanzania
Eswatini	Malawi
	South Africa

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Mighty Green Buffaloes once again carried the day on Saturday in the FAZ women's soccer league, but it was Bauleni Queens who won the hearts of fans. The young Queens held their own despite allowing two goals past their goalie, Ethel Mutale, thanks to Buffaloes' Melan Mulenga who scored a brace in the second half of the encounter. Bauleni Queens and Chibolya Stars were the only teams with the youngest players as the oldest for each was only 23 years old.

Bauleni Queens impress in defeat

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Queen's goalie Ethel Mutale expressed happiness that her side had given Buffaloes a run for its money. "We have managed to allow only two goals against a team

that has scored 6 goals against another giant Red Arrows and 22 goals against other upcoming clubs. I cannot be more excited. It is a sign we are doing okay and come next year, we will even be better.

In the women league, almost every club looks up to Buffaloes and when a team performs like this against them, it is quite encouraging," said Mutale. Meanwhile, Scoring genius Melan Mulenga said she

was glad she saved the day for the combatants. "It is amazing to see how much Bauleni Queens have improved. They are young players but with so much talent and determination. I'm also happy I scored two goals out of the three chances my team mates created for me. I hope to score more in other games," said Mulenga. Buffaloes have not lost a game this season and are on top of the table with 58 points while second placed Red Arrows has 39 points. Bauleni Queens are sixth with 29 points.

CHIPOLOPOLO IN FAIR GROUP

*...draws Botswana, Namibia,
eSwatini at Region 5 games*

By Alex Chilumbwe

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In the men's draw, hosts Botswana will face Zambia, Eswatini and Namibia in Group A.

The 2018 COSAFA Under-17 champions Angola are the top seeds in Group B and will take on Tanzania who is the guest nation in the competition from outside the region.

To page 15



Rockets spoil James' home debut in fight-marred game

LeBron James's home debut with the Los Angeles Lakers ended on a sour note Saturday as the Houston Rockets seized control late for a 124-115 win in a physical contest at Staples Center.

James finished with 24 points and five assists but the Lakers couldn't stop the Rockets' dynamic duo of James Harden and Chris Paul, who combined for 64 points. AFP



Power Dynamos' skipper Alex Ng'onga attempts an overhead kick in the Barclays Cup Semifinal against Nkana on Saturday. Nkana won 5-4 on penalties. See story on page 15

