

PF GOES FOR JUDGE

WOOD, MALILA

Step down in 5 days or else, warns Ngwira

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Patriotic Front surrogates have launched a new wave of threats on senior judges, this time targeting two Supreme Court justices Mumba Malila and Albert Wood.

This comes just months after another clique of PF surrogates demanded the removal of Chief Justice Irene Mambilima after she advised judge High Court judge Sunday Nkonde to recuse himself from handling The Post liquidation case. *Story page 7*

Chongwe residents protest opening of Chinese cemetery

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

A suspected Chinese-run cemetery in Chongwe district's Silverest area has sparked outrage among residents. The residents have complained that the cemetery, if allowed to go ahead, will pollute the water table. *To page 6*

Govt announces new exam dates for G7, 9, 12

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Minister of General Education David Mabumba has announced new dates for the Grade 7, 9 and 12 examinations. And Mabumba says his ministry has decided to replace all six Grade nine papers which were tampered with. At a media briefing yesterday announced that the Grade 12 Examinations will start on 31st October. *To page 6*

VJ mourns Mama Chibesa Kankasa

Story page 10

PF officials drag SG to court over malpractice in intra-party elections

Story page 4



Dr Kenneth Kaunda blesses UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema yesterday - picture by Brian Mwiinga

If not for you, I'd be in the village with 8 wives by now, HH tells KK

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Without you, I would probably be in the village with eight wives today, UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema told First Republican President Dr

Kenneth Kaunda yesterday.

Speaking when he visited Dr Kaunda at his residence in Lusaka, Monday, Hichilema thanked the founding father for his guidance.

"Sometimes, we do not remember to do the right things, which is to thank you for guiding our nation over many years," Hichilema said.

To page 2

Civic space shrinking in Africa - Mo Ibrahim

Story page 5



By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Without you, I would probably be in the village with eight wives today, UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema told First Republican President Dr Kenneth Kaunda yesterday.

Speaking when he visited Dr Kaunda at his residence in Lusaka, Monday, Hichilema thanked the founding father for his guidance.

"Sometimes, we do not remember to do the right things, which is to thank you for guiding our nation over many years; to thank you for sending some of us to school. We are your products. If it wasn't for you, I would be in the

Without you, I'd have 8 wives in the village, HH tells Kaunda

village by now, maybe with eight wives," Hichilema said.

"So, we owe it to you and your team and also to say; 'please continue guiding us, continue giving us your counsel, as citizens. [and] As young people, sometimes, we make mistakes, please continue correcting us. We are blessed as a nation to have you."

And Dr Kaunda offered a short prayer for Hichilema, coupled with his trademark blessing ritual with his white handkerchief.

Meanwhile, speaking when he featured on Muvi TV's 'Assignment' programme, Sunday, Hichilema advised PF to listen to his sound advice even if they did not like him.

"Sometimes, I feel sorry for colleagues who really have not done things before and they were landed with these public jobs and we expect them to deliver. And I can see and read through this situation. Instead of calling people like us [as] alarmists, they should listen to us, if they don't like Hakainde's face or ear, they should at least in silence [be] taking some

of the issues we alerted them on because if they had listened to us when we said; 'don't borrow too much and don't borrow at the high cost because you are going to create a problem,' we wouldn't be in this meltdown," Hichilema said.

"We are in an economic meltdown, and again, we foresaw that, but when we said it, it was a matter

of intense debate. And I understand [because] if you were a typical PF member, you wouldn't want to hear someone like Hakainde saying the economy is collapsing because you were made to believe that there will be more jobs, you were made to believe that there will be more money in people's pockets; you were made to believe that salaries would be paid on time; you were made to believe that your taxes will be lower and here is Hakainde saying that, there will be an economic meltdown, there will be no jobs, there will be no money in your pockets, you will have a higher cost of living. What would you say to a guy like Hakainde? You will say he is lying? So, simply put; we are in an economic meltdown [and] there is no debate about it." And Hichilema said because of government's appetite for corruption, the country was undertaking projects such as the Digital Migration at a higher cost. "This increase in the tax burden is driven by the appetite for debt, which in itself is driven by the appetite for corruption; [or] the high levels of corruption where a project like Digital Migration where [the] ZNBC and TopStar deal that cost the country around US \$275 million should have only cost the tax payer US \$25 million. For us, in the UPND, we would have spent US \$25 million on the Digital Migration and, therefore, we would have saved US \$250 million. That would have reduced this burden of debt because we would have spent the right amount of money on one project. Today, tax payers are paying in addition of US \$250 million to fund the corruption that has caused these colleagues to borrow more money at a higher cost. Now, you steal money to go and buy a plane when a policeman has been living in an unpainted house for 20 years, he makes a little money and without kindness, you still get that money," said Hichilema.



MEANWOOD IBEXHILL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

illegal subdivisions of plots

It has come to our attention that there are illegal subdivisions/units on 5 acre plots being advertised and sold at the Meanwood Ibex Hill Housing Development.

These subdivisions do not have clearance (planning permission from relevant authorities)

Please, get in touch with us for verification to avoid losing your money.

contact our offices

Plot 106 Great East Road, Fairview, Lusaka

www.meanwoodproperty.com sales@meanwoodproperty.co.zm

Tackling Zambia's debt situation – What are the solutions?


Over the past five weeks we have discussed the implications of high public debt in the country. The alarming rate at which debt has been rising has impacted the economy negatively, contributing to the Kwacha depreciating and increasing inflation which impacts consumers and contributes to slow economic growth. The implications trickle down to ordinary Zambians who end up being taxed more while public service provision declines. Businesses and employees also feel the burden as the cost of doing business increases and could potentially lead to job losses or businesses closing down.

The situation needs to be addressed as it could lead to hard economic times for all Zambians now and also in the future. This article will explore some of the ways the Government can tackle the debt situation which will influence the way Zambia's economic future plays out over the coming years. By far the most important step toward getting the best deal for Zambia, and reducing the impact of debt on the Zambian people, is to rebuild market confidence in our economy. There are several steps to doing this in the short, medium and long term which will help put Zambia on a more sustainable trajectory:


In the short term


The first step on the road to recovery is to be more transparent on the exact amount of Zambia's debt, its broad structure, creditors and interest terms. This can be achieved through delivering the promised quarterly debt status reports, as well as publishing the recently conducted Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA). The publication of these reports would help avoid speculation and for open discussions on the way forward for the country, which will in turn start to

How can Zambia tackle its debt situation?




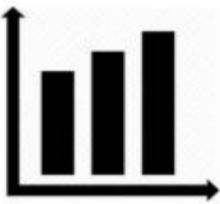
Foreign Exchange Reserves







Bond Yields





Debt to GDP Ratio





Exchange Rate Risk

CUTS International #DebtConcernsMe

build investor confidence in the economy.

In the medium term

Demonstrating improved governance, management and controls over the economy and a willingness to re-engage with the IMF will further bolster market confidence in Zambia's ability to manage its debt stock. This includes enacting the pending legislation needed to improve financial management in the country. For example, the revision of the Loans and Guarantees Act to allow for parliament to approve loans will help to improve oversight of debt acquisition in the country; while enactment of the Planning and Budgeting Bill and Public Procurement Act will lead to prudent management of public funds. Government also needs to acquire an IMF program to help build up its foreign reserves. This would relieve the burden of interest payments and free up space for spending on pro-poor policies and public service delivery that Zambia needs to continue on a trajectory of economic growth.

In the long term

Actions taken in the short- and medium-term will help strengthen the Kwacha, build up foreign reserves, encourage more foreign investment and, ultimately, help make the longer-term refinancing of existing debt less painful.

Refinancing means that new loans will be raised in order to pay out an existing loan – namely the pending Eurobonds due in 2022, 2024 and 2025. Without taking actions in the immediate future to improve market confidence in Zambia's economy, however, this option could be extremely expensive as market confidence impacts the rates at which Zambia can borrow money, and could swell the debt stock even further.

#DebtConcernsUsAll

Tackling the country's high debt levels requires bold steps by the Government from the short to long term. Yet building a stronger future for Zambia is not just the job of the Ministry of Finance, but should involve representatives from all sectors of our society. Government should engage business, civil society, economists, researchers, the church and other stakeholders in a constructive dialogue to explore practical ways forward for the economy. After all, debt concerns all of us.





Lusaka's Nyumba Yanga Primary School pupils took to the street to riot over the suspended grade 7, 9 and 12 examinations. The Pupils almost blocked Alex Chola Road as they chanted 'Give us our exams' slogan yesterday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Govt wasted money on unoccupied houses in Geneva - Auditor General

By Mukosha Funga

Government lost thousands of kwacha when its foreign mission in Geneva, Switzerland, paid rentals for apartments which had been vacated by recalled diplomats, the Auditor General has revealed.

And the Auditor General has revealed that former Zambian Ambassador to Belgium Grace Kabwe was paid K32,857 as a special advance on January 18, 2018 although she left the mission on January 7, 2018.

According to the Auditor General's report for the financial year ended December 31, 2017, the mission paid K336,469 as rentals for a house which had been vacated by Zambia's former ambassador to Switzerland.

"Payment of Rent for Vacated House – Villa Chemin De Mollies 29 Bellevue 1293. The Mission

spent amounts totalling K336,469 (US\$37,725.34) (CHF36,000) on rentals for the period from July to September 2017 for a house which had been vacated by the Ambassador who had been recalled. In addition, amounts totalling K70,619 (CHF6,600.62) (US\$7,097.44) were spent on storage charges for Mission properties that were placed in storage. Payment of Rent for the Vacated House – Apartment No. 60 Route De La Satigny. In Paragraph 35 (f) of the Report of the Auditor General for the financial year ended 31st December 2014, mention was made on the wasteful expenditure which was as a result of continued payment of rentals for an apartment which was vacated in December 2014 by the First Secretary Trade following her recall from Foreign Service. As of

March 2015, the Mission had paid amounts totalling K85,733 (CHF12,003) (US\$12,247.50) for the period from January to March 2015," read the report. "A review of records, carried out in May 2018, revealed that the Mission did not give notice to vacate the apartment. Consequently, a total amount of K154,817 (CHF20,005)(US\$20,715.71) was paid for rentals covering the period from April to August 2015. The new officer, First Secretary, Trade, who was posted to the Mission took occupation of the house in September 2015.

Further, a review of correspondence from the Ministry Headquarters dated 17th February 2016 revealed that the former Ambassador was charged K85,733 (CHF12,003) (US\$12,247.50) paid for the vacated apartment for the period from January

to March 2015. However, there was no evidence of a decision made on how the amounts totalling K154,817 (CHF20,005) (US\$20,715.71) paid for the period from April to August, 2015 would be treated as the Ambassador had since been recalled and left the Mission in June, 2017."

The Auditor General also revealed that the former ambassador had incurred some repair costs which were settled by the mission.

"At the time of her recall in June 2017, the former Ambassador was owing the Mission an amount of K37,999 (CHF3,900) (US\$ 3,979.59) as salary advance and as at 31st July 2018, the advance had not been recovered. Payment for Repair Costs – Apartment No. 60 Route De La Satigny. Contrary to Foreign Service Regulation No. 108 which states that

an officer occupying rented accommodation shall pay the total cost of repairs in case of damages caused to the property, amounts totalling K8,578 (CHF667.20) (US\$702.32) were paid by the Mission in November 2015, to settle the cost for repair of the damages to the apartment No. 60 Route De La Satigny on behalf of the former First Secretary, Trade. As at 11th May 2018, there was no evidence that the amount owing had been recovered and reimbursed to the Mission," read the report. And the Auditor General revealed that Kabwe was paid K32,857 as a special advance on January 18, 2018 although she left the Brussels mission on January 7, 2018.

"The former Ambassador was owing amounts totalling K62,517 (€5,229.52) comprising 4th Quarter 2017 medical insurance K5,157 (€431.40) and damages

to the Residence K57,359 (€4,798.12). In addition, on 18th January 2018, an amount of K32,857 (€2,700) was paid to the former Ambassador as a special advance although she had left the Mission on 7th January 2018," read the report.

The report also revealed that the mission's Second Secretary left a €40,000 unsettled loan with the local bank in Brussels at the time of her recall.

"On 15th December 2016, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalled the Second Secretary and directed her to return to Zambia not later than 15th March 2017. However, it was observed that at the time of her return to Zambia, the officer was owing a local bank an amount of €40,000 arising from a loan she obtained from the bank. A scrutiny of records revealed that the matter of settling the outstanding amount of €40,000 had been presented to Ministry of Finance by Ministry of Foreign Affairs for possible funding through minute number MFA/STA/2442C dated 27th April 2017. However, as at 31st August 2018, the funds had not been sent to the Mission to settle the loan," read the report.

"On 20th December 2016, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalled the First Secretary Press and was directed to return to Zambia not later than 20th March, 2017. At the time of leaving, the Officer was owing the former Landlord an amount of €1,906.28 (US\$2,240.90) as cost for damages to the house. As at 31st August 2018, the Mission had not resolved the matter with the Landlord."

PF ward officials drag SG to court over malpractices in intra-party elections

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Matero constituency's Kapwepwe Ward 25 PF Vice-Secretary Christopher Mumbi and Ward Chairman Charles Kabwe have dragged party Secretary General Davies Mwila to court seeking an order to declare the intra-party elections held last month, null and void.

The plaintiffs, Mumbi and Kabwe, have sued Mwila in his capacity as PF SG, saying they have been greatly disadvantaged as there was no transparency and fairness in the said elections.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Thursday, the plaintiffs stated that on September 29, 2018, PF held intra-party elections for

various executive positions in relation to Kapwepwe Ward 25.

They added that the said elections were not free and fair as they were characterised by unorthodox or unusual activities, which caused them to be aggrieved.

"The unorthodox activities alluded to were fraudulent and unfair, and as such, negatively affected the reliability of any purported results that have been disclosed. The election was supposed to be conducted on the basis of the branch registers, however, despite 29 branch registers having been verified, the Election Committee permitted five other branch registers to be included for purposes of election without being verified in a transparent manner," read the statement of claim.

The plaintiffs further stated that the said elections were not announced publicly as had been the custom.

They stated that they there was evidence of bad faith as they discovered that some of the voters in the registers for PF had been fake or forged NRCs, which led to one official being arrested as a result.

The plaintiffs stated that they lodged their displeasure on how the elections were conducted to Mwila, as well as the Chairman of the Elections Committee, and the District Chairman for Lusaka on September 30.

They stated that they had greatly been disadvantaged by the manner in which Mwila and the Election Committee handled the elections

as there was no transparency and fairness.

The plaintiffs stated that due to this lack of transparency, PF members in Kapwepwe Ward 25 were divided and there was a likelihood of the two opposing camps clashing with each other.

They are now seeking for an order declaring PF's intra-party elections held on September 29 this year for Kapwepwe Ward 25, null and void.

The plaintiffs are further demanding for an order of interim injunction restraining Mwila either by himself or through his agents from performing Kapwepwe Ward 25 functions until final determination of the matter, as well as, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.

By Mirriam Chabala
The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has hailed 10 clearing agents in Zambia for improved tax compliance and trade facilitation in terms of value for declarations and for duty purposes. And the ZRA says it will continue engaging the local clearing and freight forwarding companies in the country to improve their skills competences to ensure they control more of the market share. In a statement availed

ZRA challenges local clearing agents to up their game

by ZRA Corporate Communications Manager Topsy Sikalinda, ZRA Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda applauded the 10 agents identified during his

visit to Northern and Muchinga Provinces for helping to boost tax compliance. "Mr Chanda praised the top 10 Clearing and Forward Agents who are

also controlling 90 per cent of the business in terms of value as Bollore Africa Logistics Zambia Limited; Customized Clearing and Forwarding; Transtra International

Zambia Limited; Global Logistics Limited; Cargo Management Logistics; Ultimate Logistics Limited; Esse Clearing Limited; Hill And Delamain (Zambia) Limited; Uti (Zambia) Limited; and Barthsam Freight Services Limited. He, however,

in terms of revenue are mainly international firms who have clear business systems and challenged the local firms to up their game so that they get into the top 10. We cannot focus on building competences, enhancing integrity within ZRA and forget about the external stakeholders because they have a role to play in our mandate. They interact with the business, declare their goods and so they must have the same set of skills that we expect from ZRA officers. With the changing business environment and systems, the Authority will continue engaging clearing and forwarding agents so that they also enhance their skills," Sikalinda quoted Chanda as saying. "ZRA has a standard system for the licensing of clearing and forwarding agents. These standards conform to the World Customs Organisation (WCO) standards. With this licensing, agents are able to do business with both local and foreigner exporters and importers."

warned that any acts of misclassification of goods and smuggling risk having their licenses revoked," Sikalinda stated. And Chanda added that the ZRA will continue engaging the local clearing and freight forwarding companies in the country to improve their skills competences to ensure they control more of the market share. According to the statement, the clearing industry in Zambia currently has 719 active clearing companies out of which 10 companies control 90 per cent of business, leaving 709 companies to share the remaining 10 per cent. "Mr Chanda said the top 10 having over 90 per cent of the market share



His Royal Highness Chief Chamuka VI of Chisamba District receives a Certificate from Plan International Country director Samuel Musyoki for championing and ending early marriages in the region as his wife Maggie looks on October 29, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Civic space shrinking in Africa - Mo Ibrahim Foundation

By Mukosha Funga
The Mo Ibrahim Foundation's 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance has revealed that citizens' and civic space is shrinking on the continent. And the Index has also found that African governance progress is lagging behind needs and expectations of a growing population. Meanwhile, the Index shows that, among African countries, those with the most striking progress in overall governance performance are Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Kenya. Announcing the launch of the Index in a statement, Monday, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation noted that civil society participation in African countries had also recorded negative trends. "The 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched today by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, highlights that public governance progress in Africa is lagging behind the needs and expectations of a growing population, composed mainly of young people. Over the last decade, Overall Governance has on average maintained a moderate upward trajectory, with three out of four of Africa's citizens (71.6 per cent) living in a country where governance has improved," read the statement.

"Progress in Participation & Human Rights has been made on average. Almost four out of five of Africa's citizens (79.6%) live in countries that have progressed in this dimension over the last decade. However, 'free and fair' executive elections do not always translate into a better participatory environment. Alarmingly, citizens' political and civic space in Africa is shrinking, with worsening trends in indicators measuring Civil Society Participation, Civil Rights & Liberties, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Association & Assembly." The Index also showed that African governments had struggled to translate economic growth into improved Sustainable Economic Opportunity for their citizens. "Since 2008, the African average score for Sustainable Economic Opportunity has increased by 0.1 point, or 0.2 per cent, despite a continental increase in GDP of nearly 40 per cent over the same period. There has been virtually no progress in creating Sustainable Economic Opportunity, meaning it remains the IIAG's worst performing and slowest improving category. Defined as the extent to which governments enable their citizens to pursue economic goals and prosper, the almost stagnant Sustainable Economic Opportunity trend

strikes a concerning contrast with demographic growth and youth expectations. Africa's population has increased by 26.0 per cent over the last 10 years and 60 per cent of the continent's 1.25 billion people are now under the age of 25," the Mo Ibrahim Foundation stated. And the Index showed that, among African countries, those with the most striking progress in overall governance performance were Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Kenya. "African countries show increasing divergence in Overall Governance performance. Continental progress is mainly driven by 15 countries that have managed to accelerate their pace of improvement over the last five years. Progress is most striking in Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Kenya. Divergence is also reflected in Sustainable Economic Opportunity trends. While 27 of Africa's countries have shown some improvement, in 25 countries, accounting for 43.2 per cent of Africa's citizens, Sustainable Economic Opportunity performance has declined over the last 10 years," read the statement. "There is no strong relationship between the size of a country's economy and its performance in Sustainable Economic Opportunity. In 2017, four of the 10 countries with the highest GDP on the continent

score below the African average score for Sustainable Economic Opportunity and sit in the lower half of the rankings, namely: Algeria, Angola, Nigeria, and Sudan. Meanwhile, two of the smallest economies on the continent, Seychelles and Cabo Verde, reach the 5th and 6th highest scores in providing Sustainable Economic Opportunity for their citizens." Meanwhile, the Index noted some progress in rule of law, transparency and sound governance performance. "Although Personal Safety and National Security continue to show average decline over the last decade, Rule of Law and Transparency & Accountability have begun to register welcome progress. Rule of Law is the most improved sub-category in the IIAG over the last five years. African average performance in Transparency & Accountability has also improved, though more needs to be done as it remains the worst performing sub-category," read the statement. "The IIAG highlights that citizens' rights and welfare are key to progress in public governance. Overall Governance scores are strongly correlated with citizen-centred measures, including property rights, civil rights & liberties, government

accountability and social welfare policies. The IIAG results also confirm that Rule of Law and Transparency & Accountability are key pillars of good governance. These two sub-categories show the strongest relationships with Overall Governance scores in Africa, with strong performance in these areas being the most common components of countries that perform well. Transparency & Accountability is also strongly related to the Sustainable Economic Opportunity category and Business Environment sub-category, indicating that improvements in these areas will support progress and economic opportunity in Africa." Commenting on the 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "We welcome progress in Overall Governance, but the lost opportunity of the past decade is deeply concerning. Africa has a huge challenge ahead. Its large and youthful potential workforce could transform the continent for the better, but this opportunity is close to being squandered. The evidence is clear - young citizens of Africa need hope, prospects and opportunities. Its leaders need to speed up job creation to sustain progress and stave off deterioration. The time to act is now."

Mosho's K5 million demand is total madness - CK

By Zondiwe Mbewe
NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has charged that it's total madness for Lusaka lawyer Lewis Mosho to demand for K5 million from him and Mazabuka UPND MP Gary Nkombo in an application that lasted 10 minutes in court.

Last week, Mosho threatened to commence bankruptcy proceedings against Kambwili and Nkombo if they failed to pay K5 million within two days.

In May, Mosho's law firm, Lewis Nathan Advocates, wrote to the two parliamentarians demanding K5 million as compensation after the Lusaka High Court threw out the dual's petition to join the impeachment case with costs.

And in a follow-up letter addressed to their lawyers from Malambo and Company, CL Mundia and Company, Keith Mweemba and Advocates and PNP Advocates dated October 26, Lewis Nathan Advocates threatened bankruptcy proceedings.

But speaking to journalists at Lusaka Magistrates' Court, Monday, Kambwili described Mosho's demand as a joke of the year.

"Tell Mosho that, that is the greatest joke of the year! In fact, it's not even a joke. If there is another word that can replace joke, that's it. You go into court, make one application to be joinder to the case and when it is dismissed, you ask for K5 million? I should have been a lawyer. And I think all lawyers could have been flying by now. If he thinks he can make K5 million in 10 minutes, why hasn't he

been flying or why doesn't he own the entire city of Lusaka? So, let him not play politics," Kambwili said.

And Kambwili said Mosho should behave like a lawyer as opposed to playing politics.

He added that if Mosho wanted to go in the political scene, he would be bruised because they would be ready for him.

"So, tell Mosho that let him behave like a lawyer and not play politics. Because lawyers are supposed to live above board and they are supposed to have integrity in everything that they do. But if Mosho wants to come on the political scene, tell him he will be bruised because we will be ready for him," Kambwili cautioned.

"And we know that he is Edgar Lungu's surrogate. He's a friend and does everything for Edgar Lungu; he does some transactions for him. We know everything and time for reckoning for him will come. But for him to start coming on the political scene, coming to our lane, he's welcome. Because you cannot go to court, one application takes 10

minutes in court and you ask for K5 million. Tell him that, that is madness," Kambwili added.

He observed that costs were paid at the end of the matter and to agree on costs, you must first call for taxation.

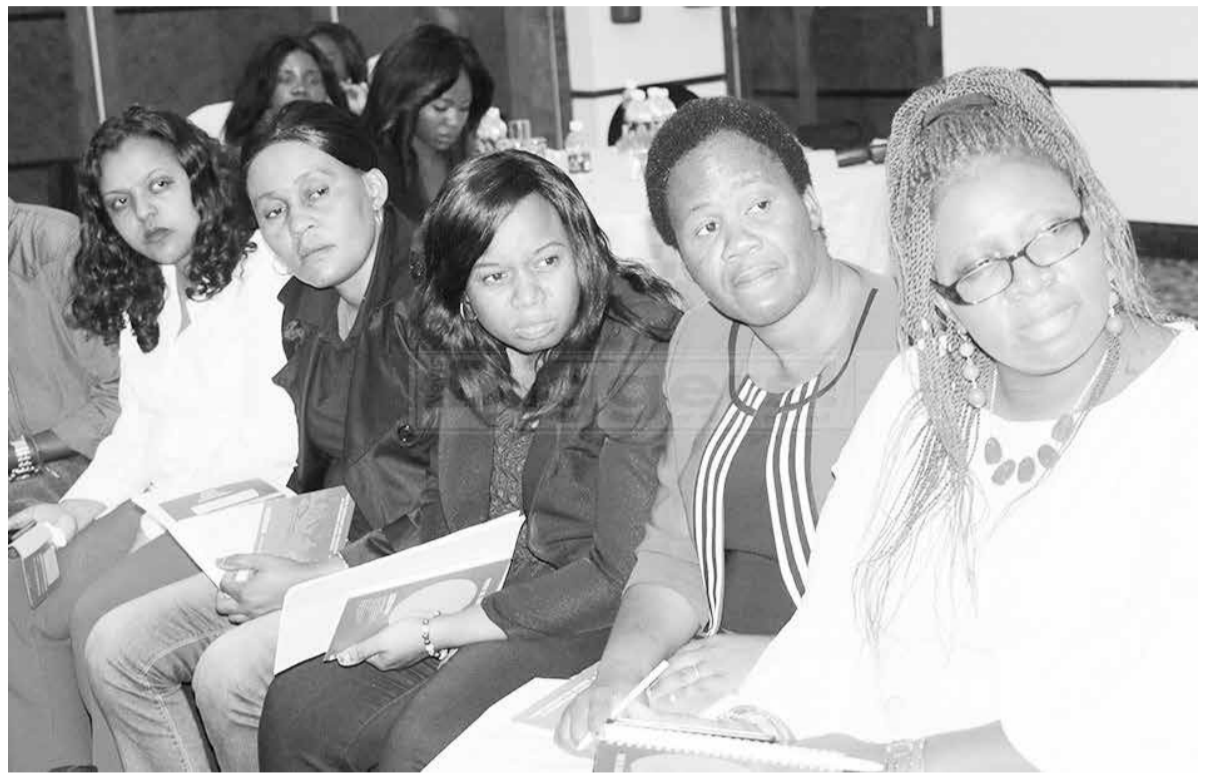
"Wonders will never seize, I

do not expect a respectable lawyer like Mosho to behave like a villager. Mosho must know that all lawyers, their lives are like politicians' lives on the ant hill for everybody to see. I will forgive Mosho because there's a saying in English

that: 'ignorance knows no levels.' One can be a lawyer, but he's ignorant of the law of costs and taxation," argued Kambwili.

"And he must note in case he doesn't know as a lawyer that, costs are paid at the end of the matter, and to

agree on costs, you must call for taxation. So, how does he go in a court for five minutes and think that I'm a very dull person who doesn't know anything, tell Mosho that I'm very enlightened on these things."



Delegates from Plan International listen to His Royal Highness Chief Chamuka VI of Chisamba District during presentation of 'ending child marriages in Eastern and Southern Africa meeting at Lusaka's Pamodzi Hotel yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Mabumba announces new exam dates

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Minister of General Education David Mabumba has announced new dates for the Grade 7, 9 and 12 examinations.

And Mabumba says his ministry has decided to replace all six Grade nine papers which were tampered with.

At a media briefing yesterday, Mabumba announced that the Grade 12 Examinations will start this Wednesday

31st October and end on 30th November 2018.

The minister also announced that Grade 7 exams would commence on 5th November 2018, whilst Grade 9 examinations would start on 2nd November 2018.

He said disciplinary action would be taken against all erring officers.

He also cited the mushrooming tuition centres in most parts of

the country as the major conduits for leakages and examination malpractice.

"There is an observation that the mushrooming tuition centres in most parts of the country have caused more harm than good as they are a conduit to leakages and examination malpractices. Six (6) 2018 grade nine examination papers were tempered with in the districts and schools. These shall be replaced. As a consequence

to the observation listed above, the Ministry of General Education has made the following decisions; (i) Replace all the six 2018 grade nine examination papers with new ones; (ii) Resume the conduct of all examinations effective 31st October 2018," Mabumba said.

"In this vein, the examinations will run as follows; (a) grade seven composite examination

will commence on 5th November and end on 9th November, 2018; (b) grade nine examination will commence on 2nd November 2018 and end on 26th November, 2018; and grade 12 will commence on 31st October 2018 and end on 30th November 2018. This time table has been prepared to allow for replacement of the tempered examination materials. Disciplinary action will be taken on all the erring officers. The Ministry of General Education will collaborate with all line ministries, security wings and community to ensure the safe custody of and successful conduct of examination materials," said Mabumba.

He revealed that the highest number of tampered envelopes were discovered in Central Province. "248 schools administered the examination paper due to communication challenges. 77 examination centres tampered with envelopes of the 2018 Mathematics Paper 2 papers and some of them attempted to seal the envelopes with super glue or other adhesive materials. The highest numbers are in Central, Southern, Western and Copperbelt provinces," said Mabumba.

Chinese cemetery worries Chongwe residents

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
A suspected Chinese-run cemetery in Chongwe district's Silverest area has sparked confusion among residents.

Those spoken to by News Diggers! have complained that the cemetery, if allowed to go ahead, will pollute the water table since the residential area is not connected to Lusaka's water reticulation system, but to individual drilled boreholes.

They revealed that the named Chinese contractors have already started clearing the ground for the said cemetery.

"[It is] after Banyane filling station, but before you get to Silverest School, there is a bus station there known as Willie Nsanda New Station although now it appears to be a mushrooming market. Just around that area. They have cleared the ground and put some poles. I approached them

yesterday and today [and] I called the Chinese man who was on the site who pretended not to know English, but when I called him he came and I used English. When I started asking him what is being constructed he started saying; 'no me [not] know English,' you know how Chinese pretend. Then I asked the Africans who were there [and] they said; 'we are constructing a cemetery for the Chinese,' but, of course, they used local language and said; 'timanga manda yama Chinese,'" one of the residents said.

"I then called Honourable Vincent Mwale (Local Government Minister) and he expressed ignorance about it. I then tried calling Honourable Japhet Mwakalombe [Chongwe] area MP who hasn't been picking up my calls. Then I remembered that my immediate member is Gender Minister Honourable Elizabeth Phiri.

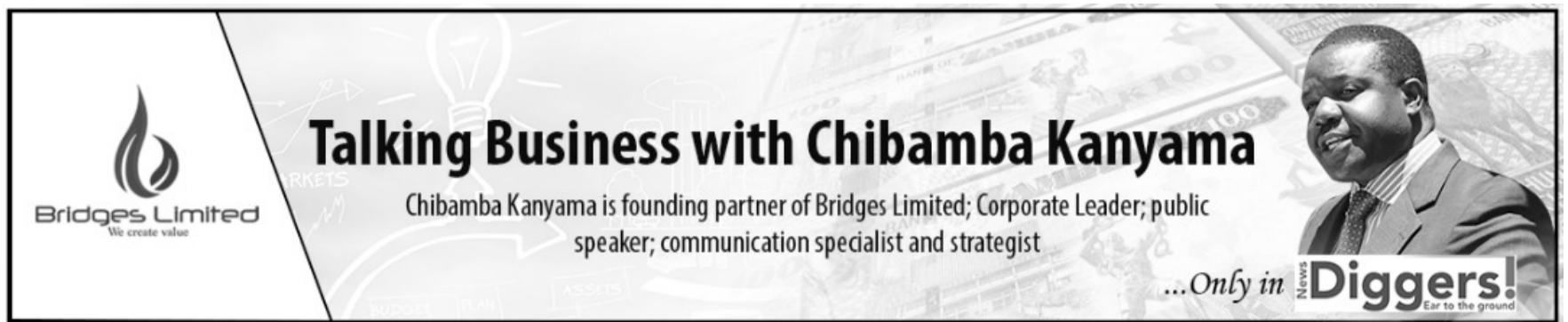
I called her and she also says she is not aware, but has just heard that but promised that she will call Japhet Mwakalombe of which she did. She got back to me and said; 'Japhet Mwakalombe has heard although he is also not fully aware.'

Another resident wondered whether the Chinese had applied to change the usage of the land.

"There is this place which is part of the Liempe farms for the University of Zambia within Silverest area [where] these Chinese guys are establishing some kind of exclusive cemetery for the Chinese. So, our worry is that there is not even that poster you know when you are changing land use [because] that was a farm [and] so from agriculture to another use, there must be a poster asking people to make comments to the council or to the planning authority. That is not there, but the works have already

started. And the major concern also is that [houses] around Silverest are not connected to Lusaka Water and Sewerage [Company]. So, we have no sewer pipes, we have no...all of us are depending on boreholes. So, that thing is going to contaminate the water table," the resident complained. But when contacted, Chongwe Council Chairperson Geoffrey Chuumbwe said although he has heard rumours about the Chinese cemetery, he could not confirm them.

"I have heard rumours, but so far, I don't have any documentation to confirm that. And for me, it will be very difficult to confirm or to say anything because so far, nothing has come to my attention. Once I have gotten information, I will let you know. As up to today, I am not aware [of anything like that]," said Chuumbwe in a separate interview.



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist

...Only in **News Diggers!**
Ear to the ground

Is Consultancy a Business?

I often receive the question about whether or not 'consultancy' should be considered a business in the sense of what is defined as business. Business is defined as a commercial activity or a person's regular occupation, profession, or trade. It means therefore, any legal activity that a person or group of persons engage in is a business.

The reason this question arises, particularly within the Zambian context is that we have a number of 'one-person' run consultancies where an individual does research or provides advice to another entity from which they receive a payment. This can be compared to a person who offers veterinary advisory services to a livestock farmer. The consultant in this case is usually documented as such and the entity would not be registered for tax or audit purposes. This usually falls short of being identified as a commercial activity. The fees earned are much more like a wage and most of these individuals are often times looking for a job.

We normally associate business to an activity that offers a product or service to a broader range of clientele. Services that come in between other 'direct' services are in some cases not considered business. For example, some people do not consider an accountancy firm that has a defined group of clientele to be a business. It is just an extension of the 'real business'. Other services that would not count for business in the opinion of some people are those considered a 'public service'. A private clinic or private school is not usually appreciated as a business.

These perceptions only exist in economies that are weak in value addition where secondary players have a limited role in the value-addition chain. Developed economies have research companies that get outsourced by other companies. Large companies

in Zambia are even beginning to outsource capital development services from specialised consultancy firms that offer training. Lawyers can come together and form a legal firm that offers services to other companies. In some countries like the UK, some lawyers never even appear in court. Their job is to just advise a company on legal matters. These are consultancy firms.

People development and motivation speaking firms are big business in developed economies. We have individuals like John Maxwell, Paul Meyer, the late Steven Covey offering speaking services as a business. They employ hundreds of people who add value to the business by creating associated

"To have a successful consultancy business, run it as a business through effective management and good leadership"

line products such as e-learning, video tapes and other learning materials. Many of these individuals are millionaires for simply taking up a specific space. This is slowly emerging in Zambia where some companies in this business are employing a reasonable number for people. I can go a step further and mention that there are businesses specific to Master of Ceremonies services at functions.

In short, provided you are a registered entity engaged in some consultancy work, you are in business, and this is why we say, 'Pricewaterhouse

is in consultancy business.' You can be in property business, transport business, hospitality business, medical business, education business.

By the way, consultancy business runs like any other business. You should be in a position to offer something that is demanded by the market. Your clients may just be one or two parties and you are in business. Consultancy business has its own pressures and opportunities like any other business. Though considered to have a lower cost outlay, you often times hire other skills to compliment your internal skills on certain projects. This can come at very high cost to the business. You may not have stock that expires if business is slow. There is, however, a downside. Activities may be slow and can easily affect your cash flows. But all this goes hand in hand with your marketing, branding, financial management and client retention strategies.

To have a successful consultancy business, run it as a business through effective management and good leadership. You need a strong team of professionals working with you where possible and anything short of this can be a huge cost to the business. Managing a consultancy firm means three things to me: Providing a service in which you have utmost competence as a team; managing lead time because the longer you take to execute a task, the less the value of the money you receive and more importantly, good pricing. Usually in the consultancy business, pricing is generally determined by opportunity cost. When you have very little work for a period of time, you can afford to price low because 'something is better than nothing'. On the other hand, if you have plenty activities, something you should strive for, it may mean your new clients will pay a premium. Its demand and supply.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Patriotic Front surrogates have launched a new wave of threats on senior judges, this time targeting two Supreme Court justices Mumba Malila and Albert Wood.

This comes just months after another clique of PF surrogates demanded the removal of Chief Justice Irene Mambilima after she advised judge High Court judge Sunday Nkonde to recuse himself from handling The Post liquidation case.

In the latest development, PF sympathiser Chanoda Ngwira has given Justice Malila and Justice Wood five days to step down or face private criminal prosecutions.

Chanoda wrote separate letters on Thursday, addressed to Supreme Court judges, Mumba Malila and Albert Wood, giving them five days to voluntarily step down as judges for

PF stooge demands resignation of Senior Judges Wood, Malila

accepting to act as witnesses on behalf of Mutembo Nchito in the matter where he's challenging his removal as Director of Public Prosecutions in the Constitutional Court.

Chanoda noted that judge Malila had voluntarily taken up a role as a witness on behalf of Mutembo against his appointing authority, the government of Zambia. "You have voluntarily and without any order of court compelling you to do so, taken up a role of a witness on behalf of Mr Mutembo Nchito against your employer and appointing authority, the government of Zambia. From your

witness statement file in the Constitutional Court, you confirmed having served as Attorney General, at which time Mr Mutembo Nchito was also DPP," read the letter.

"A perusal of your statement shows that you have disclosed information that you validly acquired by virtue of your office as Attorney General without any order of court directing you to do so and without any authority of the President." Chanoda noted that section 5(4) of the judicial code of conduct Act prohibited judge Malila as a judicial officer, from acting as a witness.

"You shall agree with me that your taking up the role of a witness in the character case of Mr Mutembo Nchito is a breach of section 5(4) of the judicial code of conduct Act and amounts to an offence of disobedience of statutory duty contrary to section 126 of the penal code chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. I further wish to bring to your attention that while you were holding the office of the Supreme Court judge, your late spouse was clearly involved in politics and served as Chilanga Council Chairperson which you allowed contrary to the spirit of the said judicial code of conduct," read the

letter.

He gave judge Malila a five-day ultimatum to voluntarily step down as a Supreme Court judge to allow investigations into his conduct saying that if he did not step down within the said period, he shall, as a concerned citizen, commence criminal proceedings by private prosecution against him for the relevant offences.

And in a separate letter addressed to judge Albert Wood, Chanoda equally gave the judge a five-day ultimatum to voluntarily step down as a Supreme Court judge, reiterating his earlier submissions in judge

Malila's letter.

Chanoda is a PF and government sympathiser who, in the recent past, wrote a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyett's tweets, demanding that he exculpates himself.

At another point, Chanoda who flaunts himself on social media as a close associate of the the Head of State, wrote that the Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya was 'a snake within the ruling party', adding that her conduct was exposing President Edgar Lungu.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26 0965815078/0977708285
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

To advertise in News Diggers or on the website
Call : +26 0967713093/0977708285 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

We warned last year that one of the key reasons why President Edgar Lungu's immunity will be removed is because of the decisions that the Industrial Development Corporation is making under him as Board Chairman. Our argument point on this matter is that since the Head of State is running the Industrial Development Corporation, then there is no oversight institution, let alone individual, to question its dealings; as such all sorts of criminality is going unchallenged.

Since the President will have no deniability, it will be him to explain why he allowed millions of Zambian taxpayer dollars to go to waste through bogus investments. What is worse is that, almost all the investment ventures that the Industrial Development Corporation is making are being done in the interest of President Lungu's friends and not the citizens of this country. Through these investments, the IDC is becoming Zambia's fastest growing liability; yet the people are being fooled by consistent propaganda statements suggesting that the institution is actually flourishing.

In a keynote address on Saturday 27th October 2018 at the 2nd IDC annual Group Conference, Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe stated that the IDC consolidated balance sheet valued at US\$5.6 billion represents the wealth of the taxpayers of this country. That sounds like great economic news for the country, but let's look back at the policy direction that IDC was tasked to pursue and compare with where it is today.

During the official opening of the first session of the 12th national

IDC, a flourishing liability for the President's friends

assembly in September 2016, President Edgar Lungu stated in his speech that: "In the next five years, my government will through the IDC, target to create a total of one million jobs in the growth areas of manufacturing, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism and information and communications technology (ICT) in line with the PF's Manifesto pledge on industrialization."

When one reads the President's directive to IDC compared to the corporations' operations, it's clear that something is not right with IDC's investment agenda. Why do we say this? The IDC Group consists of at least 25 State Owned Enterprises, among them: NCZ, ZESCO, Times of Zambia, Mpulungu Harbour Corporation, Mukuba Hotel, Mulungushi

Textiles, MOFED London, MOFED Tanzania, Mupepetwe Development Company and Zamtel.

A majority of these companies are in dire need of capital. Employees at these institutions are being laid off because the companies can no longer sustain the desired workforce. In other words, instead of growing, these companies are scaling down their operations while some are literally folding and killing employment. In the face of this, IDC is busy buying loss making companies from the private sector friends of the President.

Why did IDC purchase 90 percent shares in Zambeef's Zampalm for a cash consideration of US\$16 million leaving its own baby Times of Zambia crying on its back? How is IDC finding

it profitable to acquiring 76 per cent of shares in Superior Milling Company Limited when it is failing to keep Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia afloat?

Why has IDC prioritized acquiring loss making private companies at the expense of turning around their existing State Owned Enterprises? What is the justification for their investment strategy? In our view, the people running IDC seem to be recreating INDECO of the UNIP era, but that was not the plan.

The Industrial Development Corporation was designed to be a self-financing national development finance institution whose primary objectives were to contribute to the generation of income, sustainable economic growth for the country and

empowerment to citizens through real job creation. IDC would have achieved this by promoting entrepreneurship through the building of competitive industries and enterprises based on sound business principles.

But the IDC of President Lungu is not after industrialization, it is after corrupt investment deals which are not backed by sound economic principals. It is no wonder they moved their offices away from the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone where they are supposed to build industries, to a posh neighbourhood along Independence Avenue - in proximity with State House.

We challenge the Minister of Finance to inform the people of Zambia how much dividends have been

declared to IDC to date and whether the IDC is using dividends paid to finance its acquisition of loss making companies from the private sector? How are they identifying which companies to invest in? Who are the board members and directors of these companies and who conducts due diligence over proposed investments?

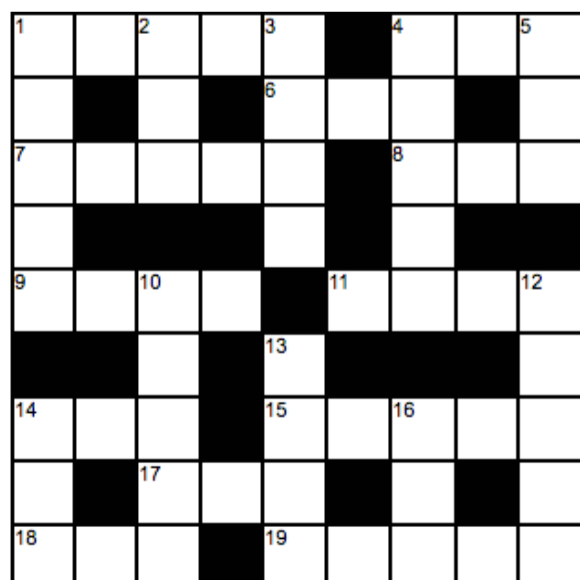
Once again, we wish to advise President Lungu and his Minister of Finance to ensure that the affairs of this US\$5.6 billion Corporation called IDC are guided by commercial considerations for the purposes of achieving the highest return on investment for the people of Zambia.

The Minister of Finance should seriously address corporate governance issues of the IDC if reforms with its subsidiaries are to achieve success. The President and other Ministers should not be part of the IDC Board. Furthermore, the appointment of senior executives at IDC should be on merit and not based on patronage as the case is now.

The Minister of Finance must know that job creation is a key performance indicator of the IDC.

Already, it is very clear that the IDC has no capacity to execute the Presidential directive to create one million jobs, but we are concerned that beyond this failure, someone's son will not enjoy his retirement. This sounds like a joke today because the people sending this advice are young journalists who probably appear as tiny ants in the eyes of the Great Leader of this Great Country, but a time will come when Mr Lungu will remember our warning.

Crossword puzzle 219



"You need to spend time crawling alone through shadows to truly appreciate what it is to stand in the sun." - Shaun Hick

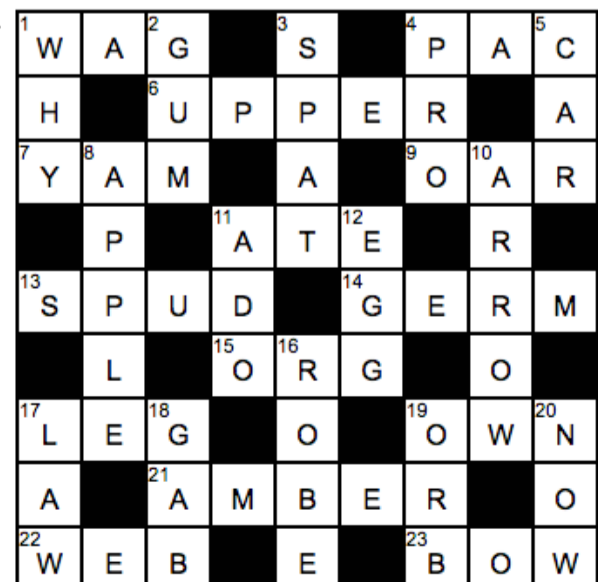
Across

- 1. Soda flavor
- 4. Target towards a goal
- 6. Shake, as a tail
- 7. Consolidate
- 8. Moreover
- 9. Try again
- 11. Frozen precipitation
- 14. As well
- 15. "Carmen", for one
- 17. Globe
- 18. Slightly submerge
- 19. Third planet

Down

- 1. Xbox enthusiast
- 2. What we breathe
- 3. Rams' mates
- 4. Repeated another time
- 5. Furious
- 10. Slump
- 12. Rage
- 13. Earing site
- 14. Smidgen
- 16. Mess up

Solutions to puzzle 218



Reader's feedback

ZCID's renewed attempt to lead national dialogue

Editor,

"The ZCID has lost credibility. I doubt if its 'eminent persons' can restore the required credibility." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"What criteria did ZCID use? Where is the Church? What is its position? Can smell a rat here!!" - Martin Nyanjagha

"This thing was started by the Church & Commonwealth, how come ZCID, chiefs & others, who were nowhere to be seen when things were too hot to be touched, are now trying to highjack what is not theirs now? When two people are quarrelling, it is very sensible, surely, to use the Church to bring them together, not those Silavwes from the so-called ZCID." - Ernest Simwanza

"Only the Church is capable of solving this problem no matter how many tricks people try to play." - Obrian Mwanza

"Who will they deliberate on? The Church, yes, they can faithfully lead the dialogue and be able to enforce the resultant resolutions. ZCID, you were rejected why imposing yourselves on Zambia; we have too many people who do not belong to any party. You are an interested party, please, let a neutral organization lead the national dialogue." - Maningi Dibili

"Where is the Church, if I may ask? Stop the dialogue if you don't know what to do! Don't

force matters if you have failed." - Ezra Kalaluka

"It's just a waste of time. The two don't want to reconcile each other." - Victor Ambali

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



KBF on challenging Edgar for the Presidency

Editor,

"But this Fube once said Lungu is not eligible to stand in 2021, but he wants to challenge him for what?" - Richard Katuta

"Nobody hates Mr Lungu. It's our country that we all love. And we will rescue it in 2021." - Noah François Fas

"Now I understand why KBF was the main architect of the current status quo. Fight for someone who YOU know has got 'limited cognitive capabilities' and then turn round and aim to be the one. No wonder one should be careful of the people who support you so vigorously, such that they can compromise the entire system, such as waking up an honorable judge in the dead of the night to do some signing with one eye closed from sleep. Bravo, KBF. We, the people, have not forgotten and are watching!" - Kangumu Lifalalo

"Currently, there so many interpretations on whether he ineligible or otherwise. We must be prepared for the two interpretations, and in my view, Fube is gunning for both, either /or!" - Francisco Mumba

FBZ still owes redundancy packages

Dear Editor,

Kindly help publish this complaint on the non-payment of redundancy package by Finance Bank Zambia Limited after it was bought by Bank ABC and later changed to Atlas Mara Bank Zambia Limited.

The former MD Ben Dabra from Ghana had agreed to pay as per letter to the Labour Commissioner, but he resigned when the Bank changed the position as his conscience couldn't allow him.

However, Joyce Nonde and Chanda Kaziya called us

so that they could convince us to just cross over to the new Bank without the payment, but just to continue to work despite the employer having changed. Also a lot of staff who refused the arrangement were deemed to have resigned despite the years served under FBZ and a lot more staff who were on contract were terminated. The Bank was bought cheaply on understanding that the new employer will pay everyone their dues. Kindly help deal with the injustices and also dig out more. Good day, thank you and God bless you.

VJ mourns Mama Kankasa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Freedom fighter Mama Chibesa Kankasa has died after an illness. And veteran politician Vernon Mwaanga says

he has learnt of Mama Kankasa's death with great sorrow, describing her as a vibrant woman who contributed to the immense promotion of

the 'one Zambia, one nation' motto. Mama Kankasa died, Monday, in South Africa where she was evacuated by

government for medical specialized treatment about two weeks ago. Both Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya and Health

Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya confirmed the development to ZNBC News in Lusaka. And Mwaanga said he has learnt of mama

Kankasa's death with great sorrow, describing her as a vibrant woman who contributed to the immense promotion of the 'one Zambia, one nation' motto.

"I learnt about her death with a sense of regret because we worked together as members of the Central Committee of UNIP when she was in charge of women affairs and she was also Foreign [Affairs] Minister of Zambia during the 1973 Cabinet. She was a very active organizer of the women's league of UNIP, which when she took over that leadership after Independence, and of course, she was the wife of a fellow freedom fighter by the name of Timothy Kankasa, her late husband, who was with us during the struggle for independence," Mwaanga recalled in an interview with News Diggers! on Monday.

He also described Mama Kankasa as one who was regarded as a great example of hard work.

"She was a very dedicated woman to the cause of emancipation of women and she was regarded as an example in terms of hard work and in terms of dedication to the national motto of 'one Zambia, one nation.' Her children and grandchildren are married to different people who come from different parts of Zambia just to underline that that belief in one Zambia, one nation [motto]. And she inspired a lot of women not only in Zambia, but also to those who worked with her in the region. And I hope that her selfless spirit will be emulated by women not only in Zambia, but also on the African continent. I can only ask that the angels open the gates of heaven so that the good Lord can receive her and grant her everlasting peace. Her contribution in Zambia will forever be remembered," said Mwaanga.



Special offer on plots

1. MEANWOOD IBEX HILL PROJECT

1/4 ACRE (1,000m²)

1/2 ACRE (2,000m²)

5 ACRE (20,000m²)

LIMITED NUMBER OF PLOTS AVAILABLE

2. NKOSI HOUSING PROJECT

Located along Chaminuka Road and close to the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA)

5 ACRE (20,000m²)

3. MEANWOOD PARK PROJECT - KITWE

Located next to Riverside residential area across Mufuchani Bridge

5 ACRE (20,000m²)

Prices and payment terms negotiable

4. NDEKE VILLAGE

5. VORNA VALLEY

6. KWAMWENA VALLEY

NON-RESIDENTIAL PLOTS STILL AVAILABLE

For Commercial, Education, Places of Worship etc.

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT TERMS - OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Contact our Sales staff to secure your plot today

Lusaka: +260 972 002 656 / 0956 344 585

Kitwe: +260 955 814 013 / 0966 814 014

www.meanwoodproperty.com

sales@meanwoodproperty.co.zm

'Tropical Trump' Bolsonaro elected Brazil president

Former army captain Jair Bolsonaro was elected president of Brazil on Sunday, promising a fundamental change in direction for the giant Latin American country, the latest to take a turn to the far-right.

Despite repulsing many with his open support of the torture used by Brazil's former military regime, as well as remarks deemed misogynist, racist and homophobic, Bolsonaro managed to tap voters' deep anger with corruption, crime and economic malaise.

Official results gave the controversial president-elect 55.13 percent of the vote in the run-off election, to 44.87 for leftist opponent Fernando Haddad, with 99.99 percent of the ballots counted.

Bolsonaro, 63, will take office on January 1

"We will change Brazil's destiny together," he said in his victory speech -- broadcast live from his home on Facebook, the platform he has used to campaign since an attacker stabbed him in the stomach at a rally on September 6. Sitting next to his wife and wearing a dark blazer, the longtime congressman delivered his speech in a stern voice.

He pledged to govern "following the Bible and the constitution," and said: "We cannot continue

flirting with socialism, communism, populism and the extremism of the left."

But he promised to defend "the constitution, democracy and freedom," fending off opponents' warnings he would try to veer toward authoritarianism after openly expressing his admiration for Brazil's brutal military dictatorship (1964-1985).

Thousands of supporters flooded the streets outside his home in Rio de Janeiro, waving Brazilian flags and lighting up the sky with fireworks.

"All these people here are outraged, upset about corruption and crime, and we are with Bolsonaro. The people have spoken. For the first time I feel represented," said Andre Luiz Lobo, 38, a businessman who -- not incidentally, given the accusations of racism



Supporters of far-right presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro celebrated in front of the National Congress in Brasilia

against his candidate -- is black. The White House said US President Donald Trump had called Bolsonaro to

congratulate him. "Both expressed a strong commitment to work side-by-side to improve the lives of the people of the

United States and Brazil, and as regional leaders, of the Americas," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said.

Dubbed the "Tropical Trump" by some, Bolsonaro publicly admires the American leader. **AFP**

Angela Merkel 'to step down' as leader of Christian Democratic party after 20 years

Angela Merkel is reportedly set to give up the leadership of her party.

The German Chancellor told leaders of her Christian Democrats (CDU) that she

will not seek re-election as party chairwoman, a senior party source told Reuters.

It is understood she will remain Chancellor. Her predecessor Gerhard Schroeder stepped down as leader of his party in 2004 but remained Chancellor.

Mrs Merkel has been CDU chairman since 2000 and has held the post of Chancellor for 13 years.

As the leader of the largest

economy in the European Union, Mrs Merkel is widely respected around the world.

However she has come under mounting pressure in recent months, culminating in a disastrous result for Germany's ruling parties in state elections this weekend.

Mrs Merkel's conservative CDU party currently rules along with the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SDP).

In the vote for the central Hesse region's state legislature, the CDU managed a lucklustre win, with the SDP running neck-and-neck with the Greens for second place.

As a result, questions are being asked about the viability of the ruling coalition in Berlin.

The embattled leader of the SDP, Andrea Nahles, has given Merkel an ultimatum

to produce the kind of policy results within a year that would start bringing back voters, threatening otherwise to end the alliance.

She said that "the state of the government is unacceptable", demanding a clear and binding timetable for the implementation of projects.

German politics has been marked in recent years by the rise of the far-right AfD party. **YAHOO**

Anonymous 'hacked' Gabon government sites

The Anonymous Group -- a collective of dispersed international hacking activists - says they brought down 70 government and other official websites in Gabon.

Sites run by the civil service and communications ministry were among those hit.

A Twitter account with links to the group said servers and mail systems were offline, adding that as the tweet put it: "the dictators should have been expecting us". There's no independent confirmation of the claim.

The apparent attack came a day after legislative elections in Gabon, with the governing party of the long-entrenched Bongo family looking set to retain power easily. **BBC**

Putin wants to discuss U.S. exit from nuclear pact with Trump in Paris: Kremlin

Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to discuss U.S. plans to exit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) arms treaty with Donald Trump when the two meet in Paris on Nov. 11, the Kremlin

said on Monday.

Trump and Putin plan to hold a bilateral meeting in Paris on the sidelines of events to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One.

"There are still a lot of

questions concerning strategic stability, even more so in the context of the stated U.S. intention to leave the INF. All of

this will of course be on the agenda," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call. **REUTERS**

A long-delayed film version of Martin Amis's novel *London Fields*, starring Amber Heard and her ex-husband Johnny Depp, has flopped at the US box office. The dystopian murder mystery made an estimated \$160,000 (£125,000) over the weekend after opening in 613 cinemas.

That's the worst opening for a "wide" release since a little-known 2008 film called *Proud American* made just \$96,000 (£75,000) in its opening weekend.

London Fields has been the subject of protracted litigation since 2015.

The film was to have had its premiere at that year's Toronto Film Festival but was pulled from the schedule after its director sued its producers.

Director Mathew Cullen claimed Christopher Hanley and Jordan Gertner had added "incendiary imagery" to the film without his approval.

Hanley and Gertner later counter-sued Cullen, accusing him of breaching his contract.

The producers also launched a legal action against Heard, claiming she "participated in a concerted campaign of disinformation" to "damage" the film.

Heard launched her own counter-suit, alleging the producers violated a nudity clause in her contract by secretly filming sex scenes with a body double.

The *Aquaman* actress reached a settlement with the producers last month that allowed *London Fields* to be released on 26 October. Based on Amis's 1989 novel, *London Fields* tells of a clairvoyant named Nicola Six who divines she is to be murdered by one of her two suitors.

Amber Heard film *London Fields* flops at US box office

Depp, to whom Heard was married at the time of shooting, has a cameo as a

gangster in the film, which currently has a 0% rating on reviews aggregator Rotten

Tomatoes.

The New York Times described the film as "a

trashy, tortured misfire," while the Los Angeles Times called it "aggressively awful".

Heard, whose divorce from Depp was finalised last year, was pictured last week next to a London taxi cab at the film's Los Angeles premiere. *London Fields'* belated release was complicated by the fact that two different versions were released on the same day.

The film's distributor, GVN Releasing, supplemented the film's wide release by showing a "director's cut" in 13 "select cinemas".

Mathew Cullen praised the company "for thinking outside the box" by facilitating what he said might be "a cinematic first".

No UK release date has been confirmed for *London Fields*, which has only been seen outside the US in Russia, Lithuania and Estonia. *BBC*



Theo James (left) and Jim Sturgess play the lead character's suitors

Kanye West designs 'Blexit' apparel to urge black voters to leave the Democratic party

Kanye West is combining his loves of fashion and politics.

The controversial rapper, 41, designed a line of shirts and hats for the "Blexit" campaign, which urges black voters to leave the Democratic Party. "Blexit" is short for "Black Exit," mimicking the slogan for Britain's departure from the European Union.

The merchandise, which proudly touts "Design by Kanye West," debuted at the

Turning Point USA's Young Black Leadership Summit in Washington Saturday.

"Blexit is a renaissance and I am blessed to say that this logo, these colors, were created by my dear friend and fellow superhero Kanye West," the group's communication director Candace Owens announced to the crowd.

The "Blexit" movement encourages the black

community and "free thinkers across the country" to abandon "an emotionally abusive relationship" with the Democratic party, in pursuit of "freedom over tyranny."

West previously praised Owens, a fellow supporter of President Donald Trump, and she returned the favor Saturday.

"(West) has taken one of the boldest steps in America to

open a conversation we have needed to have and I cannot tell you how badly he wishes he could be here," she said. West was not at the summit, but Owens said the rap mogul was "here in spirit."

The line of shirts comes in turquoise, coral and purple, and a variety of styles, and costs \$25-\$28. The hats, which come only in light blue denim, are emblazoned with two different slogans:

"Blexit" or "We Free." They're \$25.

Despite West's apparent support of "Blexit," the rapper briefly stumped with Chicago mayoral hopeful Amara Enyia along with Chance the Rapper on the city's South Side last week.

West also donated \$73,540 to Enyia's mayoral campaign. The Democrat is running to replace Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. *USATODAY*

Idris Elba writes stage show about life after Nelson Mandela

Idris Elba has co-written a stage show about life in South Africa after Nelson Mandela, which will have its premiere in Manchester next summer.

The Luther star has written *Tree* with Kwame Kwei-Armah, the new artistic director of London's Young Vic theatre. Elba played the late South African president in the 2013 film *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*.

Tree will combine drama with music, dance and film, and will be part of the 2019 Manchester International Festival. However, Elba won't appear in the show, which is also inspired by the 2014 album *Mi Mandela*, which saw the actor

bring together British and South African musicians.

Elba said he and Kwei-Armah had "both experienced personal moments of healing connected with the country and we're starting to explore that together".

He said: "For me, an interesting part of the process is looking at the next part of the story; the new universe that sprung up after Mandela."

Mr Mandela was president of South Africa from 1994-1999 and died in 2013.

The show will run at Upper Campfield Market Hall from 29 June to 10 July before transferring to the Young Vic.

Tree is one of the first three productions

to be announced from the festival line-up. Mercury Prize-winning rapper Skepta will stage a live show titled *Dystopia987*, combining live performances by him and other artists with DJ sets along with "a wealth of new technology and a cast inhabiting a hidden netherworld".

The three-night run will take place from 17-19 July in a secret location in the city. A statement said it would be "a waking dream that presents Skepta's singular vision of the future: deep, dark, radical and riveting".

It is also described as "a journey into eternity - a future riven with uncertainty and fear but rich in wonder and

possibility".

The festival will kick off on 4 July with an event created by Yoko Ono in which members of the public will be asked to gather in Cathedral Gardens, where a "people's orchestra of bells" will send a message of peace.

Cathedral Gardens is a stone's throw from Manchester Arena, where 22 people died in a bomb attack in May 2017.

Ono said: "The beauty of this piece will break the sky and more. One of the reasons this is very different is the fact that all of us will be making the sound together.

"More than ever, we must come together to heal each other, and the world." *BBC*

Indonesian Lion Air plane crashes into sea with 189 passengers, crew

A brand new Indonesian Lion Air plane carrying 189 passengers and crew crashed into the sea Monday, officials said, moments after it had asked to be allowed to return to Jakarta.

The Boeing-737 MAX, which went into service just months ago, vanished from radar 13 minutes after taking off from the Indonesian capital, plunging into the Java Sea. Video footage apparently filmed at the scene of the crash showed a slick of fuel on the surface of the water. Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho tweeted pictures of debris, including what appeared to be an emergency slide and various parts of a smashed mobile phone.

Authorities were still searching for the remains of the plane, which lost contact with air traffic control around 6.30 am (2330 GMT), en route to Pangkal Pinang city, a jumping off point for beach-and-sun seeking tourists on nearby

Belitung island.

"The plane crashed into water about 30 to 40 metres deep," Search and Rescue Agency spokesman Yusuf

Latif told AFP.

Images filmed at Pangkal Pinang's main airport showed families of passengers crying, talking

frantically on their mobiles phone and hugging each other.

Some were heard saying "Ya Allah" or "Oh God".

Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee (NTSC) said there were 178 adult passengers, one child, two

infants, two pilots and six cabin crew on board flight JT 610.

The transport ministry had initially said there was a total of 188 people on board.

The finance ministry said around 20 of its employees were on the plane.

It was not immediately clear if any foreigners were on the downed plane, which Lion said was a new, airworthy plane that had only gone into service in August.

The pilot and co-pilot had more than 11,000 hours of flying time between them, it added.

"Lion Air is very concerned about this incident and will work with relevant agencies and all parties," said spokesman Danang Mandala Prihantoro.

The Flightradar website tracked the plane and showed it looping south on take-off and then heading north before the flight path ended abruptly over the Java Sea, not far from the coast. *AFP*



Debris apparently from the crashed jet was pulled out of the water

Pressure mounted on Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena to reconvene parliament Monday after his shock dismissal of the prime minister and suspension of the assembly triggered a power struggle and clashes that claimed one life.

The US State Department on Sunday urged Sirisena to "immediately reconvene parliament" to allow legislators to quell the constitutional crisis sparked by his sacking on Friday of prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Sirisena later installed Mahinda Rajapakse, a controversial former strongman with close ties to China, as the new prime minister, unleashing political chaos in the Indian Ocean nation.

Wickremesinghe and his party are expected to ask the courts to have Sirisena's action declared illegal, while neighbour and regional power India is pressuring Sirisena to restore parliament, diplomatic sources told AFP.

Wickremesinghe has refused to vacate the

Pressure mounts on Sri Lankan president as crisis turns violent

prime minister's official residence, barricading himself inside as over 1,000 supporters, including chanting Buddhist monks, rallied outside.

The 69-year-old says his sacking is illegal, and

wants an emergency session of parliament held to prove he still commands a majority.

He received a boost Sunday when Parliamentary Speaker Karu Jayasuriya refused to recognise his

dismissal and asked the president to restore his privileges and security detail until another candidate could prove a majority in parliament.

Tensions remained high across the capital Colombo,

with police leave cancelled and several legislators loyal to Wickremesinghe warning of street violence if the president did not immediately summon parliament.

Police said one man was

killed and two were injured Sunday when bodyguards for Petroleum Minister Arjuna Ranatunga, a Wickremesinghe loyalist, fired at a mob that attempted to take him hostage. *AFP*

A Bangladesh court on Monday sentenced opposition leader and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to another seven years in prison on corruption charges that her supporters say are politically motivated.

Judge Md Akhtaruzaman on Monday found her guilty of misuse of power as prime minister in collecting \$375,000 for the Zia Charitable Trust Fund from unknown sources in a court in Dhaka.

Zia was absent in

Bangladesh court jails ex-PM Zia for seven years for corruption

court as she is currently hospitalised while serving a prison term of five years in a separate case. She was sentenced to five years for embezzling funds for an orphanage.

The judge also sentenced three others to seven years in jail each for collecting the money

from undeclared sources for the trust named after Zia's late husband and former President Ziaur Rahman.

In February, Tarique Rahman, Zia's elder son and heir apparent, and four others were also sentenced to 10 years in the case.

Earlier this month, Rahman was sentenced to life imprisonment over a 2004 deadly attack on current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Rahman, who is the acting chairman of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), has been

living in exile in London since 2008.

BNP has accused the ruling Awami League party of running a political vendetta against BNP leadership in advance of parliamentary elections due at the end of the year.

ALJAZEERA

Real Madrid's failure to bring in a top-class replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo has hurt them, and the Spanish giants must reinforce their squad in January to turn things around, former winger Steve McManaman has told Reuters.

Ronaldo, with 451 goals in 438 games in all competitions, was Real's all-time top scorer before he left to join Serie A's Juventus during the close season.

While there were early signs that Karim Benzema, Gareth Bale and Marco Asensio would shoulder more of the scoring burden that proved short-lived with Real going more than eight hours without a goal at one point.

McManaman, who made 272 league appearances for Liverpool before moving to Real Madrid in 1999, said he had expected Real to bring in a top class replacement for the Portuguese and was stunned when they did not. "Everybody was surprised, weren't they?" McManaman, who works as a La Liga ambassador, told Reuters in an interview. "They took a long, long time to bring in new signings. They didn't bring anyone to replace Cristiano.

"It was a big shock for everybody. Whether they could buy somebody of his quality I don't know. The fact that they didn't bring anybody in and they did slow business in the centre forward area, it surprised everybody."

Ronaldo helped the club to four of the last five Champions League titles, providing the class and the goals when they needed it most.

McManaman said Paris Saint-Germain's 19-year-old Kylian Mbappe, who impressed during France's World Cup-winning run in Russia, would have been the ideal replacement.

"Of course, wanting somebody and trying to buy them are two completely different things," said the 46-year-old, who won two Champions League and Spanish league titles at Real.

"He's an exceptional player, he's very young, so he could have a long, successful career.

"It's impossible that PSG will sell somebody like Mbappe to a rival like Real Madrid."

Real suffered a humiliating 5-1 defeat in Sunday's 'Clasico' against Barcelona and have won just one of their last seven games. They are ninth in the league, trailing leaders Barcelona by seven points after 10

Real's decision to not replace Cristiano Ronaldo surprising - McManaman

matches.

"They probably need to refresh the team a bit more, to be very honest. They have kept the majority of the same team for the last couple of years," said McManaman.

"If you look at the age group of the Real Madrid players now, four or five of them are in the 30s. It's probably the time to start refreshing it and bring in more players and try and replicate the success.

"They have got a hard job on their hands. They are not playing well, the manager is under pressure and the team as well. They need to do something and need to do it quickly."

Speaking ahead of Sunday's game against Barcelona, McManaman said he still had confidence in embattled coach Julen Lopetegui's ability to turn things around.

"I have no problem with the manager. He's a good

manager, it's just that the team is not playing well for a number of reasons," he

added.

"They need to probably buy a couple of more players in

January to refresh the team, to get the quality levels up a little bit further and try and

get someone who can score as many goals as possible." **SUPERSPORT**



Kylian Mbappe burst away from Boubacar Kamara, coming off the bench and scoring the opener as Paris Saint-Germain won 2-0 at Marseille on Sunday to make it 11 wins out of 11 in Ligue 1 this season and match a long-standing European record. Photo credit - YAHOO

Mourinho praises Pogba's penalty courage in much-needed Man Utd win

Jose Mourinho insisted he is happy for Paul Pogba to remain his penalty taker despite the midfielder missing from the spot for the second time this season in Manchester United's 2-1 win over Everton.

Pogba at least netted the rebound after a stunning save from Jordan Pickford appeared to have punished

him for a bizarre, stuttering run-up that featured 26 steps.

Anthony Martial won the penalty, after going down under a challenge from Idrissa Gueye, although Everton manager Marco Silva accused him of diving to gain the decision. And, after Martial had scored a second to continue his recent fine

form, Everton won a penalty of their own, converted by Gylfi Sigurdsson, to ensure United faced an anxious 13 minutes before the final whistle.

But a relieved Mourinho praised Pogba after the game for having the mental strength to take the 27th minute penalty.

"The thing I like is the

desire to take it," said Mourinho.

"I don't like Mickey Mouses, fragile, afraid, who go, 'I don't take penalties.' I like the player that wants to take it.

"Paul wants to take them and that, for me, is fantastic. Can he improve? I think he can.

"The goalkeepers know his running, they don't move

and they are waiting for his decision, so he has to learn from that but for me the most important thing is he wants to go again."

Silva was less pleased with United's French connection, as he accused Martial of diving to win the penalty award from Jon Moss.

"It was not a penalty, clearly the player dived, it leaves a bad sensation. I told the players at half-time it was not a fair result," said the Portuguese coach.

"That moment makes it easy for our opponents. You are more exposed then because you have to take more risks."

There was no dispute about Martial's second goal, after 49 minutes, as he gathered a short pass from Pogba and curled a superb 18-yard shot past Pickford.

But, after Bernard had rounded David de Gea but somehow placed the ball into the side-netting three minutes later, Everton finally claimed a deserved goal after Chris Smalling brought down Richarlison. **AFP**



Roger Federer beats Marius Copil to win 99th career title in Basel on Sunday. DNA INDIA

Shepolopolo coach wants nothing less than win against Ghana

By Alex Chilumbwe

Shepolopolo coach Bruce Mwape has demanded nothing less than a win in a friendly match against the Black Queens of Ghana scheduled for November 3 at Nkoloma stadium. Mwape said the friendly would help assess how

prepared the ladies were for the Women AFCON slated for Ghana next month. Speaking on the sidelines of Shepolopolo training

at Sunset stadium in Lusaka yesterday, Mwape reminded the ladies that they needed to win the fans' hearts by excellently

executing any task that was put ahead of them before leaving for Ghana. "I want to remind the ladies that they should

take this friendly against Ghana very seriously. It will indicate how prepared they are for the bigger challenge in Ghana and

of course how effective the camp is so far. I do not want them to take it for granted because it would be wasting money," said Mwape. And assistant coach Beauty Mwamba appealed to the girls to exhibit the best of their capabilities during the friendly against one of West Africa's formidable teams. "They really should be glad FAZ has organized this friendly. Ghana is one of the female football powerhouses in Africa and there is a lot that they can learn from them," said Mwamba. Mwamba added that the girls were very expectant and in good shape ahead of the friendly against Ghana. She appealed to fans to come in numbers and rally behind the team.

Nkana plots Young Buffaloes downfall

By Alex Chilumbwe

Nkana coach Beston Chambeshi says nothing would be out of the ordinary if his side wins the Barclays Cup final on 10th November against Young Green Buffaloes (YGB) because that winning was normal at the club. He also said the excitement for reaching the cup finals was still fresh among the players and management. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Chambeshi said his outfit was in high spirits and was not bemoaning anything in terms of preparation for the final. "I have no injuries at all, the morale is high and the mood has already been set. We are just waiting for the day and hopefully add another trophy to our cabinet," Chambeshi boasted. Chambeshi also extended his words of

encouragement to YGB for reaching the final of the tournament. He acknowledged that it had not been easy for the Division one side

to navigate through super division teams all the way to the final. "They really should be applauded because it is not easy to find your

way through the senior teams. Their coaches and of course players themselves are doing a great job. It is one of the reasons we are not

going to underrate them," summed Chambeshi. The Barclays final will be on 10th November at the National Heroes stadium in Lusaka.

By Alex Chilumbwe

Kamwala Magic volleyball team on Sunday defended its Zambia Volleyball Association (ZAVA) league title after beating another powerhouse Super Select 3-2 in sets. The title is Magic's seventh consecutive feat since 2012 despite not doing so well in tournaments that had been won by league runners-up and perpetual rival Super Select. The deciding set that saw Magic crowned league champions was played at the University of Zambia sports hall and its highlight was the

Kamwala Magic defends 7th successive league title

presence of a 14 year old setter, Meneni Chanda. Chanda, a grade eleven pupil at Munali Girls secondary school was Magic's saviour during the deciding set of the game as she saved more than eight aces for the side and managed six digs from fierce Select spiker Sally

Chilombo. The deciding set ended 15-13 in favour of Kamwala Magic. Although Magic won the league title, the odds were seemingly in Select's side as they won the first two sets 25-13 and 25-17. The third set however saw coach Enock Malasha's girls make errors repeatedly

and Magic benefitted from them thereby making it 2-1 in set. Magic gained momentum and confidence and made cheap points out of the mistakes Select kept making until it was 2-2 in set. Magic patron Kwasi Masole expressed

happiness that his club successfully defended the league title and hoped for the best in the 2018 season. "We did not start the season on a good note as we failed to win a number of tournaments but am glad we have defended the league title. I look forward to a better start to 2019 season and possibly defend the title one more time," said Masole. Meanwhile, Super Select coach Enock Malasha noted that his girls lost concentration after winning the first two sets. "It was not their toughest game because Magic was not in its best form even in the sets they won. My girls lost concentration and could not pick up. They had bad passes, poor services and poor execution of the set balls. They could have done better," noted Malasha. Super Select are the runners-up while Green Buffaloes are third. Police side Nkwazi finished fourth while UNZA fifth and Spiking Stars on the bottom of the table.

Govt neglecting Olympafrica, complains coach Mwandwe

By Alex Chilumbwe

Olympafrica multi-talented coach Bwalya Mwandwe says he is saddened that it took government the demise of the centre manager George Goma to visit the sports complex after a period of more than two years. Mwandwe noted that the centre had done a tremendous job in mentoring under 20 sportsmen and women in different disciplines and life skills despite being neglected. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Mwandwe called on other coaches under

the centre to continue mentoring children and producing talent against all odds. "As frustrating as it can be, I would urge my fellow coaches to keep doing well to these children because one of our policies is to shape their future and ensure that they contribute positively to society," Mwandwe said. Mwandwe whose under 18 netball girls finished third in last season's Community Netball league further appealed to the corporate world to take

time to visit the centre and possibly adopt teams that they can sponsor. "The performance of our children is really encouraging. Some of them have made the cut to the Handball Under 17 national team, Hockey national team and others. It would be great if the corporate world took time to visit us and see if they can help one or two teams under the centre," said Mwandwe. Hockey, Cricket, Netball, Football, Basketball, Handball and Tennis are the disciplines under the centre.

'I was no longer indispensable' at Madrid - Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo has said he decided to leave Real Madrid for Juventus after sensing that the Spanish club's president, Florentino Perez, no longer saw him as being "indispensable".

"I felt within the club, especially from the president, that I was no longer considered in the same way as I was at the beginning," Ronaldo said in an interview with France Football magazine.

"For the first four or five years, I felt like Cristiano Ronaldo. Less so after.

"The president looked at me in a way that suggested I was no longer indispensable, if you know what I mean. That is what made me think about leaving." *AFP*



Family, players pay tribute to Leicester City owner - AFP

NKANA PLOTS

By Alex Chilumbwe
Nkana coach Beston Chambeshi says nothing would be out of the ordinary if his side wins the Barclays Cup final on 10th November against Young Green Buffaloes (YGB) because that winning was normal at the club. *to page 15*

YGB DOWNFALL



Lewis Hamilton is now second only to Michael Schumacher after winning his fifth Formula One world title - AFP



Bull wrestling has come under fire from critics in China who say it constitutes animal cruelty - AFP