



# CHITALU IN POWER STRUGGLE WITH CHITOTELE

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

There is a power struggle between Health Minister Chitalu Chilufya and his National Housing Development counterpart Ronald Chitotela over who will lead Luapula United and take away the leadership of the Patriotic Front from President Edgar Lungu, says Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba

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## ...both want to lead Luapula United, replace Lungu - GBM



Finance Minister Mwanakatwe bursts into celebration after the ConCourt overturned the High Court's decision and declared her duly elected Lusaka Central MP - Picture by Tenson Mkhala. See story 4

## Matibini orders Siliya to explain Chinese articles in Times of Zambia

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## Only 852 foreigners own guns, Kampyongo tells Parliament

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# Mwanakatwe wins petition appeal, celebrates ConCourt ruling

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Constitutional Court has upheld Lusaka Central PF member of parliament Margaret Mwanakatwe's election and declared that she was duly-elected.

Justice Annie Sitali set aside the ruling of the High Court, which nullified Mwanakatwe's seat on account of electoral malpractice, saying the first respondent, UPND candidate Charlotte Scott, had failed to provide supporting evidence linking the appellant to allegations of bribery, violence, corruption, racial discrimination, among others, which could have affected the outcome of the elections.

Judge Sitali said an election could only be nullified when evidence was provided to show that a candidate committed an electoral offence or that an offence was committed with their knowledge, consent or approval and it prevented the electorate from choosing a candidate of their choice.

In this matter, the appellant, Mwanakatwe, was appealing against the decision of the High Court to nullify her election as Lusaka Central PF member of parliament.

The appellant and the first respondent Charlotte Scott contested in the Lusaka Central seat during the 2016 parliamentary election.

When Mwanakatwe was declared duly-elected, Scott petitioned the election, alleging that Mwanakatwe used government resources during her campaign, had engaged in acts of bribery, used racial slurs, implying that Scott was not Zambian, and that her agents used violence against Scott and her supporters at town centre.

However, when Mwanakatwe's seat was nullified by the lower

court, she appealed to the Constitutional Court and advanced 11 grounds for her appeal.

Passing judgement yesterday in a fully-packed court room, judge Sitali ruled that Mwanakatwe had succeeded in 10 of the 11 grounds raised.

She said it was incumbent upon the first respondent, Scott, to prove her allegations against Mwanakatwe with evidence and to demonstrate that any electoral offences proven could have been committed by Mwanakatwe or by her election agents, were widespread and voters may have been prevented from electing their preferred candidate.

Judge Sitali dismissed ground 10 where Mwanakatwe was challenging the lower court's reliance on the recording of the 'Race to Manda Hill' and a Facebook posting attributed to her, for lack of merit.

She ruled that Mwanakatwe cannot, on appeal, challenge the lower court's reliance on that evidence for not being properly authenticated when she had consented to the introduction of the evidence on the lower court's record.

Judge Sitali, however, upheld ground one of appeal dealing with the conduct of the Zambia Police, saying the trial judge misinterpreted the law when he held that all that was required for an election to be nullified was evidence of non-compliance with the law in the conduct of elections by the Zambia Police Service.

She said the role of Zambia Police in the electoral process was restricted to keeping law and order, adding that



the trial judge misdirected himself when he said the police breached electoral laws because the mandate to conduct elections was exclusively vested in ECZ.

"We have examined the first respondent's evidence before the lower court and observed that she did not adduce any evidence to prove the result of the election was affected by the refusal by the police to permit her to carry out door-to-door campaigns in Northmead and Rhodes Park. Ground one, therefore, succeeds," Judge Sitali said.

And on the lower court's findings that the drilling of the boreholes in Bauleni was a corrupt act committed by Mwanakatwe, which in-turn prevented voters from voting for a candidate of their choice, Judge Sitali said after examining the evidence on record, she observed that the drilling of boreholes

was by the Muslim Society to improve the water and sanitation for the benefit of the people and was, therefore, not a corrupt act as found by the lower court.

She, therefore, reversed the trial judge's finding that the allegation was proved.

And on the allegations of bribery regarding the purchase of chitenge materials, Judge Sitali said there was no evidence to support the findings that the purchase of chitenge materials may have influenced the voters from voting for their preferred candidate.

"In the absence of supporting evidence we cannot support the lower court's findings," she added.

Meanwhile, Judge Sitali found ground eight in relation to the appellant uttering racial remarks against the first respondent

meritorious, saying the allegation was not supported by evidence on record.

She further ruled that the first respondent did not adduce any evidence to prove that the appellant used government resources in her campaigns and the allegation was, therefore, not proved.

Judge Sitali added that the finding by the lower court that the appellant used the salary she earned from her position as a Cabinet minister in her campaigns was not supported by any evidence.

She, therefore, set aside the lower court's decision.

"As the appellant has succeeded in 10 of the 11 grounds raised, the appeal succeeds. We set aside the lower court's decision to nullify the election and declare that the appellant was duly elected as MP for

Lusaka Central," Judge Sitali ruled.

And reacting to the judgement, Mwanakatwe, who is also Minister of Finance, expressed delight, saying it had been a long journey.

She argued that the judgement had proved that the PF were the rightful owners of the Lusaka Central seat.

"Awesome! It's been a long journey! We are PF, the rightful owners of Lusaka Central and today has proven that. We will go back and continue working for the people of Lusaka Central. Today is a landmark decision," a relieved-looking Mwanakatwe said.

"Yes it's taken long, but it was important to go through the process and be able to prove to the people of Lusaka Central, people of Zambia, that when somebody wins an election rightfully, they should be allowed to do their work freely. It's a great day today."

And PF secretary general Davies Mwila said the party was "very excited" with the higher court's decision.

"We have waited for this appeal for two years and some months. As a party, we are very excited because the higher court has reversed the decision of the lower court. Justice has prevailed so we want our Minister to now continue with her work of rebuilding the economy," said Mwila, who also spoke to journalists after the ruling. Mwanakatwe was accompanied by several Cabinet ministers and PF officials, who showed up to show solidarity.

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*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced a 22-year-old man of Serenje district to eight months imprisonment with hard labour for forging a school certificate.

Josephat Mpande, who was among the youths who were recently

# Serenje man gets 8 months for forging G12 certificate

recruited by the police service, was charged with forgery and uttering a false document and had pleaded guilty to the charge.

It was alleged that on April 5, 2018, in Serenje,

Mpande allegedly forged an Examinations Council of Zambia school certificate bearing the names of Josephat Mpande.

And in count two, it was alleged that on September 11, 2018, in Lusaka, Mpande uttered a false ECZ school certificate bearing the names Josephat Mpande to a police officer at Geoffrey Mukuma Training School, commonly known as Sondela.

The matter came up yesterday before magistrate Mwandu Sakala for facts and sentencing.

Facts are that on October 10, David Mubelenga, a training officer at Sondela was screening documents for police recruits and while scrutinising the documents, it was discovered that Mpande had forged a Grade 12 certificate.

The alleged forged Grade 12 certificate was from Ibolela Secondary School bearing examination number 1071840003 and indicated that Mpande completed in 2017.

The forged Grade 12 certificate was then submitted to ECZ for further investigations.

"ECZ confirmed that Mpande's Grade 12 certificate was forged and that it was not issued by the commission. The matter was reported to police," read the facts.

In mitigation, Mpande asked the court for forgiveness saying he would do his best to re-write his Grade 12 so that he could have a correct certificate.

And in her ruling, magistrate Sakala said Mpande deserved leniency because he had pleaded guilty and had therefore not wasted the court's time.

She however sentenced him to eight months in the first count and seven months in the second count, to run concurrently.

"In the first count, I sentence you to eight months imprisonment with hard labour and seven months imprisonment with hard labour in count two," ruled magistrate Sakala.



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# GBM lists thieves, insists most criminals are from East, Luapula

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba (GBM) has insisted that a lot of thieves in government come from Luapula and Eastern Provinces, going further to list those from those areas who have previously been convicted or dragged to court for corruption. And GBM says there is a power struggle between Housing Minister Ronald Chitotela and his Health counterpart Dr Chitalu Chilufya as both wish to lead a PF faction dubbed Luapula United.

Meanwhile, GBM says when UPND forms government in 2021, it will wash out corruption with Jik. Recently, PF media deputy director Antonio Mwanza asked GBM to apologize for saying that most thieves in government hailed from Luapula and Eastern Provinces. But speaking when he featured on Pan African Radio's People's Debate programme, Wednesday, GBM refused to apologise, and went further to name some of those who had been convicted or dragged to court for corruption.

"Most of the thieves in government come from Luapula while others come from Eastern Province. Listeners let me tell you, wasn't Rupiah Banda from Eastern Province who was taken to court? Wasn't it late president [Fredrick] Chiluba from Luapula who was taken to court? Sata was from Muchinga, did you hear that he was taken to court for theft? [no]. We come to Dora Siliya, isn't she from Eastern Province? Wasn't she the one facing corruption charges? Maxwell Mwale is from which Province? Is he not from Eastern Province?"

How about this former ZAF commander [Eric] Chimese and they have still failed to arrest him because they were stealing together, isn't he from Luapula?" GBM asked. "Thieves have destroyed this country and so that is why fellow Zambians, when it's time to vote, do not vote for a tribe, vote for someone who is going to bring you food on the table. Come 2021 let me tell you [that] Zambians will toss out PF through the ballot paper." And GBM said there was a power struggle between Chitotela and Dr Chilufya as both wished to lead a PF

faction dubbed Luapula United.

"You said we should remain united but I want to assure you our fellow Zambians that Hakainde, myself and the party at large, I think we are all united. You can see PF has already started cracking. It's cracking not only in two pieces but it's cracking in so many pieces because of the struggle of power [and] leadership. There is the team of the old Sata (loyalists to late Sata), they are also pulling the other side. There is also another team now which is a MMD PF, they are also pulling another side. There is also the Edgar faction also, it is also pulling the other side, just to mention a few," GBM said.

"So there are so many cracks in the PF and I am reliably informed that even as early as last night (Tuesday), there was almost a fight between Chitotela and Dr Chilufya because of power struggle. They are fighting for power struggle. This one says 'I am more Luapula United than you. You were in MMD' that's Chitotela now telling Chilufya. So these are problems which our colleagues are facing but I want to assure the nation that we in UPND are united because we don't want to be fragmented as we know that we are a government in waiting."

Meanwhile, GBM said the UPND would wash corruption out with Jik, warning that those caught stealing would face the boot. "For us once we form government, any minister or permanent secretary who steals will be arrested and prosecuted. We will have no time for such things because me and HH we can survive on our own. So those that will work with us you must know that corruption should

be left with PF, it's dirty. We are going to wash it. Just give us time so that we come and wash it with jik. Those who have gotten other people's money, that money must reach their owners. Those flats you are building you are building them for Zambians because we are going to reposes them. And let me remind that those who are stealing money now, we are living in a global world and where ever you are hiding that money, we shall trace it because there is a paper trial on how money moves. So we shall get back that money and the law will deal with you because you have 'suffered' many Zambians. But you see, I don't blame Edgar because he told you that 'I don't have a vision,' GBM said.

He also promised that a UPND-led government would repossess all land owned by the Chinese.

"Today [even] if you want to buy land, you buy from a Chinese, come on that's foolish guys, those of you in government, that is foolish. How do you allow a China man to be seeing land to indigenous Zambians? What has gone wrong? The government is not serious, they have no priorities, they don't mean well for the Zambians. So they must stop what they are doing now, otherwise you China man let me tell you [that] we will get back the land and give it back to Zambians. And me when I say [something] I mean it. The first week in office, all the land will go back to Zambians and we will reduce the price so that every Zambian can have a piece of land," he said.

GBM further promised that under UPND, the President would address the nation on the state of affairs every six weeks.

"Can you see what Magufuli in Tanzania has done, he has reduced corruption. You may not wipe it completely but you can reduce it. They say charity begins at home, if we see our president stealing, we as minister will do the same. Why were we not stealing during Sata days? It is because we never saw Sata steal. In our time, the president will be able to address the nation every six months to tell the Zambians the state of the nation, where we are and where we are going, which does not happen in this government," said GBM.



Higher education Minister Nkandu Luo with Lands Minister Jean Kapata (r) at Lusaka High Court shortly after showing solidarity to Lusaka Central Member of Parliament and Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe who returning her seat which was nullified by the High Court on October 31, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

## Kafue parents raise alarm over RE GCE results

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
Some Kafue residents, whose children wrote the 2018 Grade 12 GCE exams, have complained that there was something amiss about the Religious Education (RE) results which were marked 'mal-practice case.' Speaking to News Diggers! anonymously, the parents said three schools in the district had so far proven to have the same problem. "The problem was that the

school discovered that almost everyone who wrote RE, no one has received the results! The [statement of results] were just written 'mal-practice case' now we don't know, almost everyone who wrote RE. In Kafue, there are about three schools and that Nangogwe, Kafue Day and another one in Chiyawa; and we were there on Monday although we were told that we should give chance to the school so that they can know what to do and maybe

try to follow up [the matter]," the parents said. They said that after complaining to the school, they were assured that the matter would be forwarded to the relevant authorities. "They wrote a letter to the DEBs (District Education Board) and so they were told to wait so that the letter can be forwarded to ECZ. So, we are waiting for that response. So, it's everyone in the school; as long as you wrote RE 2046 syllabus, the results are not

there," the parents added.

And when contacted for comment, Chilala referred the query to the Ministry of General Education.

"The problem is that one, I do not give interviews on phone and then, two, the best you could do is to contact the Ministry of [General] Education Spokesperson. The exams are managed by ECZ, yes, it's true, but we can only speak with authority from the Ministry," said Chilala.

**By Abraham Kalito**  
 Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini has directed Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya to render a ministerial statement explaining the editorial policy of the Times of Zambia newspaper on the use of languages other than English. Dr Matibini was ruling on a point of order raised by leader of the Opposition Jack Mwiimbu who alleged that Times of Zambia newspaper had discriminated against him and other Zambians following the publication of

# Matibini orders Dora Siliya to explain Chinese articles in *Times of Zambia*

an article in Chinese. "I'm my immediate response I reserved my ruling to enable me investigate the matter and render a measured ruling. I have since studied the matter and I now proceed to render my ruling. The honourable member's point of order raises the rolling issues; one, whether Chinese had become one of Zambia's official languages

since the Times of Zambia newspaper had published an article in Chinese. And two, alleged discrimination against the people of Zambia by the Times of Zambia newspaper publication of an article in Chinese when there has been no such publication in any local language of Zambia contrary to Article 23 of the Constitution of Zambia. Honourable

Members, I wish to confirm from the outset that, the Times of Zambia did in fact publish an article entitled and I quote again: 'SADC mutes DRC peace' in its edition number 18197 dated 9th October, 2018. The article was the headline on the front page and was repeated in Chinese on the second page of the newspaper. Having given the background, let me now

address the issues raised in the point of order," said Dr Matibini. "One, whether Chinese had become one of Zambia's official languages since the Times of Zambia newspaper had published an article in Chinese. Honourable members; investigations by my office revealed that the Times of Zambia newspaper is published by Times Print Pack Zambia

Limited, which is owned by the government through the Industrial Development Corporation and, therefore, publicly-funded. In this regard, the newspaper is superintended by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Honourable member, indeed, as indicated by honourable Mwiimbu MP, the official language of Zambia is English. And this is provided for in Article L258 (1) of the Constitution of Zambia, which stated and I quote, 'the official language in Zambia is English.' End of quote. Honourable members, the constitutional provision, confirms that English is the official language of Zambia. Therefore, in light of this constitutional provision, I direct Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting to render a Ministerial statement on Tuesday 6 November, 2018, outlining the editorial policy of the Times of Zambia newspaper on the use of languages other than English. Two, alleged discrimination against the people of Zambia by the Times of Zambia newspapers publication of an article in Chinese when there has been no such publication in any local language of Zambians contrary to Article 23 of the Constitution of Zambia."

# ZCM laments lack of transparency in electricity tariff setting

**By Mirriam Chabala**  
 Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM) president Nathan Chishimba says the country's failure to determine the exact cost of energy production is a national problem that can discourage potential investors in the sector. Delivering a presentation at the ongoing CEC sponsored capacity building workshop for media practitioners in Kitwe, Chishimba noted that would-be investors were discouraged to invest in Zambia because there was no possible way to determine their returns. "We haven't determined the exact cost of producing energy in Zambia and that is a national problem. The investors we are encouraging to come and invest in electricity have no basis for determining their returns because no one knows how tariffs are set. I want to emphasise a point the former Minister of Finance, Mr Felix Mutati made in his 2017 budget speech, 'in the last few years, there has been a cry for Zesco to charge cost reflective tariffs. Under line that statement has been a certain push that these cost reflective tariffs must be higher'. But this statement in my view sounds damn. [Because] cost reflective tariffs does not mean that consumers should end up paying for inefficiency... And talking of the cost of service study, the last cost of service study we know was done in 2007, so you and I don't know how Zesco is operating by global standards. We cannot benchmark them, we have certain informal information but we have not been given the information as to how they are operating," Chishimba said. Chishimba observed that there was lack of transparency in the manner in which electricity tariffs were set in Zambia. "There is a complete lack of

transparency about tariffs in Zambia. It's basically a black horse, so we don't know how tariffs are arrived at. They will just tell you 'you will pay 10.3 cents; they will even convince politicians that 'we need 10.3 cents to survive' and that's what you will be charged. We don't have a formal basis for which we can determine that electricity actually does cost 10.3 cents. Zesco will just announce a number and all the politicians will be singing that number without verifying whether it's an objective number or if it conforms to global standards and that is what our problem is. In the mining industry we sign agreements with our utilities. So you would sign with Zesco but next thing you find the Minister of Energy calling you and asking you to revise the tariffs. But how does he come in? We have not been shown any numbers. If we are showed numbers of how much it costs to provide a certain service and we compare it with international benchmarks and it's verified, why would we not comply? But the reason why we get these differences is that we are not privy to how Zesco arrives at their costs of providing reserves. This unfortunately affects other utilities like CEC. So this is the source of the friction that you see everyday," Chishimba said. Meanwhile, Chishimba observed that mining companies seemed to be taking up a larger proportion of energy consumption as compared to households because the country has failed to invest in the electricity generation sector. "There is a perception that Zambians are deprived

of electricity by mining companies. But it's not necessarily that Zambian mines use more power, but what causes that is that the installed capacity is very small. The fact that we haven't invested in our electricity generation sector for a very long time is what has caused this proportion to be much larger than otherwise would be the case if Zambia was to double its capacity. Load shedding also came in a couple of years ago because we had not been investing as the economy was growing. We were not investing in more generating capacity. So as the economy was growing, we suddenly found that we

didn't have enough power. But even as we did realise that, we invested very hastily in some new projects but our own research, according to the energy industry shows that these new projects are excessively priced. They are coming in about 20 per cent plus, above global benchmarks. That's the problem for the country, because going forward, those projects will need to pay back. And then they need the revenue that will give them that pay back at 20 per cent premium to the global benchmark, which is sad for the country. This is the elephant in the room, which is very active," said Chishimba. "Therefore, the logical way

forward is that we need to conclude the cost of service study tomorrow. Then on the basis of that, we can efficiently cost the price of power. Based on that, we can formulate tariffs that are transparent even when they have to be adjusted, it would be clear and based on those tariffs, we can be able to formulate what manner reforms we do in the electricity industry. And that way, there will be no quarrels, no debates, no unnecessary arguments about tariffs costs because then, everybody will know how the cost of power is being derived. But right now, it's an elephant in the room which we don't know."



**Labour Minister Joyce Simukoko flashes a PF symbol at Lusaka High Court shortly after showing solidarity to Lusaka Central Member of Parliament and Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe who returning her seat which was nullified by the High Court on October 31, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala**

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Teaching Council of Zambia (TCZ) has warned teachers involved in examination malpractice that they risk being de-registered if found wanting at the conclusion of the on-going investigations.

In a statement, Wednesday, TCZ spokesperson Ngoza Malonga stated that the council regretted the alleged involvement of some teachers in the leakage of examinations.

"TCZ greatly regrets the alleged involvement of some teachers in the leakage of examinations. Teachers who shall be found wanting at the conclusion of the on-going investigations of examination malpractice risk being deregistered by the Council as they shall be in breach of the Code of Ethics for the Teaching Profession and the Teaching Profession Act No. 5 of 2013," she stated.

"Pursuant to regulation 9 (1), (2) and (3) of the Code of Ethics for the teaching

# Teachers involved in leakages will be de-registered, warns TCZ

profession;- (1) A teacher shall treat examination records and information at the teacher's disposal confidentiality; (2) A teacher shall not aid or abet a person in an examination malpractice; (3) A teacher shall report to an appropriate authority, without delay, cases of examination malpractice that come to the teacher's knowledge."

She further listed teachers professional misconduct pursuant to section 46 (a), (b) (c), (d) and (e) of the Teaching Profession Act No. 5 of 2013.

"Furthermore, pursuant to section 46 (a), (b) (c), (d) and (e) of the Teaching Profession Act No. 5 of 2013, this would be professional misconduct.

Under this section, a teacher commits professional misconduct if the teacher:-(a) contravenes the provisions of this Act; (b) engages in conduct that is dishonest, fraudulent or deceitful; (c) commits an offence under this Act or any other law and sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding six months without the option of a fine; (d) engages in any conduct that is prejudicial to the teaching profession or is likely to bring it into disrepute or (e) breaches the Code of Ethics or encourages another teacher to breach or disregard the principles of the Code of Ethics," stated Ngoza. "It is clear that examination malpractice tends to

confer undue advantage or underserved grade to the perpetrators of the malpractice. It should be noted that examination malpractice may be committed by not only the candidates but also by teachers charged with the responsibility of examination management as evidenced in the current examination where \*some\* teachers are allegedly involved in this vice which is a very sad development. Such revelations provide tangible evidence of the urgent need for the Teaching Council of Zambia to keep up the pace in regulating the teaching profession."

And Ngoza stated that the occurrence of examination

malpractice posed a great threat to the validity and authenticity of credentials. She added that TCZ remained committed to bringing sanity to the profession.

"The occurrence of examination malpractice at any level of education possess a great threat to the validity and authenticity of credentials. The TCZ therefore, remains committed to bringing sanity to the profession with the focus to protect the interests of parents, society and the nation at large. It is for this reason that TCZ strongly condemns the act of examination malpractice and we further wish to make it crystal clear that anyone in the profession

with such unprofessional intentions shall be dealt with in order to preserve the integrity and the image of the teaching profession and the good efforts of Government," stated Ngoza.

"We also wish to remind all teachers and school administrators to be alert at all times and to report any examination malpractice, failure to which shall be tantamount to professional misconduct. The TCZ pledges total support to uplifting the education standards by ensuring that only teachers who are morally upright and well qualified remain employed in both public and private schools including Colleges of Educatio

## Govt working hard to win back donor confidence - Wina

By Abraham Kalito

Vice-President Inonge Wina says government is exploring a more comprehensive, cost reflective, transparent and more financially secure system of tracking social cash transfer in a bid to win back confidence and support from cooperating partners.

And Vice-President Wina says government has so far interviewed 56 officers, including two Permanent Secretaries, six directors, and three former directors as part of the investigations into misappropriation of funds meant for the social cash transfer.

Delivering a ministerial statement to Parliament, Tuesday, Vice-President Wina said the development of a good payment tracking system would bring back public confidence and support from co-operating partners for the social cash transfer program.

"In addition to that, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services in close

collaboration with the Smart Zambia Institute are exploring a more comprehensive, cost reflective and transparent and more financially secure system to track social cash transfer payments to beneficiaries across the country. The development of a good payment tracking system will bring back public confidence and support from co-operating partners for the social cash transfer program. Mr Speaker, regarding the issue of how the funds from DFID were used, I wish to state that £2,599,049 from DFID was a part of the funds used for the payment of the social cash transfer beneficiaries in Eastern, Lusaka, Central, Southern and Copper belt provinces," Vice-President Wina said.

"While £2,762,196 has since been paid back to DFID, Mr Speaker, the government deeply regrets the alleged malpractices in the administration of the Social Cash Transfer funds meant for the vulnerable

people in Zambia. I wish to assure the public, the co-operating partners and other stakeholders that appropriate action will be taken on whosoever will be found wanting."

And Vice-President Wina revealed that government had so far interviewed a total of 56 officers, including two Permanent Secretaries, six directors, and three former directors as part of the investigations into misappropriation money meant for Social cash transfer.

"Mr Speaker, action taken by government to date is as follows; one, on the 20th September 2018, the board of ZAMPOST suspended top management to pave way for a forensic audit. Two, [the] Office of the Auditor General has initiated a forensic audit of social cash transfer program and will provide government with a preliminary report after their visit to ZAMPOST headquarters in Ndola. Three, the Drug Enforcement

Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission and Office of the President are presently still carrying out investigations. Four, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services suspended eight key officers to allow for a speedy administrative investigation. And five, the administrative investigation committee instituted by the ministry and Public Service Management Division has since concluded its sitting," she said.

"The committee sat for 17 days and interviewed a total of 56 officers among them, two Permanent Secretaries, six directors, and three former directors, provincial and district social welfare officers. It was generally observed that most of the issues that called for the unsuccessful implementation of the contract between ZAMPOST and the Ministry of Community Development were mainly due to poor human interaction, poor communication, and general

disregard for the laid down government procedures.

It was also observed that ZAMPOST failed to adhere to the provisions of the contract signed with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services on the 21 August 2017 such as the failure to submit reports and returns, failure to implement an electronic payment system, failure to conduct entrepreneurship training."

She said the main concern from cooperating partners had been the unavailability of audit reports into the use of funds meant for social cash transfer.

"Mr Speaker, between the months of March and April 2018, officials from the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, ZAMPOST officials and cooperating partners conducted a few spot checks to selected districts after complaints were received from the beneficiaries in the communities that ZAMPOST was hiding social

cash transfer payments. It was during these spot checks that the complaint of the beneficiaries were verified. In order to further address the issues surrounding the implementation of the social cash transfer program, a number of meetings were held at Cabinet Office on the 6th, 13th and 14th of June 2018. Mr Speaker, of the 2nd of August 2018, the contract between Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and ZAMPOST was prematurely terminated due to breach of contractual obligations. However, on the 8th of August 2018, a week later, the decision to terminate the contract was rescinded to allow for further investigations," Vice-President Wina said.

"Resulting from these events, the release of funds to pay social cash transfer beneficiaries through ZAMPOST was withheld by the cooperating partners awaiting the outcome of the Auditor General's report.

The forensic audit and other investigations. Following this decision to withhold funds, a meeting was held on the 5th of September 2018 at Cabinet office with cooperating partners. During this meeting, government assured the cooperating partners that it was doing everything possible to safeguard the public resources. The main issue with the cooperating partners was the release of the 2017 Auditor General's report on funds meant for social cash transfer beneficiaries as agreed to in the joint financing agreement."

## Cargill shuts Lusaka oilseed refinery, 260 jobs lost

By Stuart Lisulo

Cargill, an agro-processing company, has ceased to run all operations at its soybean crush and vegetable oil refinery in Lusaka effective end of October, 2018, rendering 260 staff unemployed.

In a statement, the company stated that the decision to shut down its operations in the capital city was made in view of the growth of illegal imports of vegetable oil from neighbouring countries.

"Cargill has announced it will cease all operations at its soybean crush and vegetable oil refinery in Lusaka effective at the end of October, 2018.

The difficult decision was made as the growth of illegal imports of vegetable oil from neighbouring countries continues to have a significant negative impact on the Zambian crush and vegetable oil industry," reads a news release issued via PR agency, Cutting Edge.

"Alongside a smaller than anticipated Zambian soybean crop this year, these factors make it no longer possible for Cargill to operate the business in an economically viable way. Unfortunately, the closure means approximately 260 employees will be impacted, as their roles are no longer required.

Cargill is committed to working to minimize the impact for employees in line with the country's labour laws and all affected employees have been notified."

According to the statement, Cargill will begin mothballing the Lusaka-based facility from November this year in a "safe and responsible way."

"Approximately 45 employees will be retained in essential roles to ensure the safety, maintenance and operational integrity of the site. In line with the decision to cease its crush and refinery operations, Cargill is exploring options for the future of its business in Zambia,"

read the statement.

Cargill has a total of around 155,000 professionals in 70 countries drawing together the worlds of food, agriculture, nutrition and risk management, and have helped farmers grow, connecting them to broader markets for more than 150 years.

Last September, the company reached an agreement with Parrogate Ginnery Ltd. to purchase Cargill's cotton gin and maize mill, among others, in a landmark development that secured a future for cotton and maize operations in Chipata.

By Mirriam Chabala

The Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) has observed that solar energy can be a workable solution for the country's electricity crisis if all stakeholders put their efforts in growing the sector. Speaking to journalists during a tour of the Corporation's solar panel plant in Kitwe's Riverside area, as part of the ongoing capacity building workshop for media practitioners, Tuesday, CEC Solar Project Development Engineer Hilton Fulele explained that Zambia's energy sector had capacity to grow if the country decided to diversify into other sources of energy. Fulele regretted that the country's over dependence on hydro energy would become disastrous for citizens in an event that Zambia experienced poor rains or

# Solar energy workable solution to Zambia's energy needs – CEC

droughts. "The solar technology is actually workable for Zambia. During the 2014/15 rainy season, we had poor rainfall at that period. If you remember after that season we actually had to experience a lot of load shedding because we had to manage our water in our dams and stuff like that. From that period, government called for a diversified energy production. Sources of power had to be diversified. One source of power that we've hardly used as a country is solar. We have a lot of hydro potential, but what happens if

we have got droughts or poor rainfalls like it happened last time? Then we are going to suffer again and go into load shedding, which is essentially just trying to manage and ration that small amount of energy to everyone. But there is solar which is free, as long as you make that initial investment. Once the initial investment is done, it's free power and we can utilise it," Fulele said. "Zambia is in a region where we have so much solar potential. In a square meter area, you can get more than 1800 units in year. But how

many of us use even 1800 units at home? Probably we use about 300 units each. So 1800 would take me six months to consume, but that is the amount of sunlight we receive in a square meter in Zambia. So there is a lot of potential that we have in terms of solar energy, it's just the issue of making that investment. And with this government, the critical part is that government is also pushing for that. Let's just diversify our sources of energy. We've also been looking at core, there are other people who have been

producing power from coal within country and that too is something workable but the majority of free energy that we have is the sun and we are making use of it right here." During the tour of the the Riverside Solar one megawatt plant, Fulele explained how the Corporation generated its solar energy as well as how the energy was distributed to clients. "So what we do is that we collect the energy that comes from the sun using the solar panels and the inverters. We then condition the energy from the sun, and by using

the solar panels we get what is called as DC [Direct Current power]. We then convert it to alternating current power, which people typically use in homes for cooking, lighting and such kind of things. So at this location, we have 3,864 solar panels and each one of them gives you 270 watts. From the 3,864 solar panels, what we are getting is 1043 watts. The power that we get from here is simply added to the network. But in the network, it's endless where it goes," said Fulele. "Essentially we say we are connecting to the CEC grid, but CEC is connected to Zesco and it supplies to the mines. CEC is also connected to the DRC, so where it goes is endless. But primarily, where we are connecting from, we have loads there. We have loads for CE itself because it's connected to our sub stations where we operate from. Then we also have a few loads that go to CEC village, so the power generated here is consumed within before it is actually transmitted. But in an event that we don't have loads there (at the solar panels), then it will go throughout the network, it may even reach people's homes."

## Only 852 foreigners in Zambia own guns, says Kampyongo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says BOUT 852 foreign nationals living in Zambia own firearms. Speaking when he was responding to a written question from Kabwe PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube in parliament Wednesday, Kampyongo said government has no immediate plans to restrict the use of firearms in public places. "Yes indeed some foreign nationals living in Zambia with established residents own firearms. The total number of foreign nationals living with licensed firearms was 852 as at 30th September 2018. Government has no immediate plans of issuing a statutory instrument restricting the use of firearms in public places because such restrictions are already provided for under the Firearms Act Cap 110 of the Laws of Zambia. The fire firearms that do not discriminate between foreign and Zambian nationals with regard to the terms of procedures of acquiring firearms, all applicants for firearm licenses are therefore subjected to background and security checks regardless of their nationality," Kampyongo responded. The minister observed that some Zambians were abusing their firearms despite being licensed. "This does not only apply to those foreign nationals who are residents in Zambia,

we have seen also Zambian citizens who have abused the licensed firearms. In some cases we have seen couples mishandling the firearms but when someone is applying to be a firearm owner,

procedures are followed and the assessments are done and before someone gets a license, they are assessed and they are told and they are oriented to see how competent they are in terms of using the

firearm. So where someone becomes reckless, it doesn't matter whether they have got a licensed firearm, the law applies without looking at the status or the nationality of this particular individual. And

the firearms are withdrawn in addition to these people being subjected to the courts of law. So to assure the honourable member, the act I cited is adequate and the restrictions are enough," said Kampyongo.

## Arrested pastors, CTPD officials didn't digress from budget - Mundia

By Abraham Kalito

Center for Trade Policy and Development Board Chairperson Isaac Mundia has charged that the Zambia Police acted out of paranoia and suspicion when they arrested pastors and CTPD officials who convened in Ndola to discuss the 2019 budget. On Monday, Copperbelt Province Police Commissioner Charity Katanga said police arrested pastors and CTPD officials who gathered to discuss the national budget because they digressed from the topic and started talking about politics, which incensed other discussants. But at a press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, Mundia said there was no illegality or any malice in hosting a 2019 budget meeting in Ndola. "Detention of CTPD Staff and five Pastors was uncalled for. The Board of the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) condemns police action towards its members of staff and 5 Ndola faith leaders on the 19th of October, 2018 when they detained the 8 for hosting a meeting whose agenda focused on the proposed 2019 National Budget. It is unacceptable that after 54 years of independence citizens' rights to assemble, associate and express continue to be threatened and abused under the guise of an archaic

piece of legislation called the Public Order Act. It is very unfortunate that a meeting organized at the request of church leaders who are looking for positive ways to contribute to the resolution of some of the challenges that this country is facing, inter alia illicit financial flows through tax avoidance and evasion could be construed as illegal or an intention on our part and the church leaders to commit a crime," Mundia said. "At a time that our country is facing financial challenges, citizen's interest and commitment to support domestic resource mobilization needs to be appreciated and encouraged by all well-meaning Zambians. We understand that the police action may have been out of paranoia and suspicion which is totally unfounded given the nature of work that CTPD undertakes. The aforesaid is well known and a quick search on the internet would have confirmed this. What is more worrying is the continued misinformation from the Copperbelt Province Police Command that the meeting was a political meeting? We have also read a number of untrue and misconstrued statements from the Copperbelt Province Police Command which include, inter-

alia, an assertion that we had gone to beg the Copperbelt Provincial Minister for forgiveness." And Mundia insisted that discussants did not digress from discussing the budget as Katanga claimed. "We would like to make it very clear that at no point did any member of the CTPD Board or staff meet either the Minister or the Copperbelt or the Copperbelt police commissioner to beg for lenience. On the other hand, the decision to accept paying a fine alluded to by Mrs. Katanga in her statement issued to the News Diggers on the 29th of October, 2019 for a lesser charge of conduct likely to cause the breach of peace as opposed to the initial charge of unlawful assembly with intent to commit a crime under section 174 of the Penal Code was arrived at following consultations we had with the church leaders and families of the affected staff from CTPD. In the premise, the decision to allow our staff to accept the charge of conduct standing was arrived at after taking into consideration their concerns and the trauma that their families endured during their incarceration for simply discussing a public document," said Mundia. "...the presentation that was to be made at meeting in issue was the

same presentation CTPD recently presented and submitted to the expanded parliamentary committee for budget estimates on the 8th of October, 2018. It is the same presentation CTPD shared at a public forum it hosted focusing on Public Investments towards Children's rights held at Southern Sun Hotel on the 5th of October, 2018. The question that begs is why were these meetings not deemed political in all these forums? If the police command say they were tipped off by one of the participants who became uncomfortable with what was being discussed, why didn't they come to sit in through the meeting as provided for in the same law they were citing when dispersing the meeting? The police command claim that the meeting had started digressing from discussing the budget to other things, since when did the police become moderators of public discussions for them to determine specific direction a conversation should take? For this reason, the Board stands with management and staff of CTPD and will continue to support them and the Ndola faith leaders to ensure that we work towards building a society where the rights of citizens to assemble, associate and express are respected."





# Reader's feedback

## Kitwe pupils' riot over suspended exams

Editor,

"Young rioters will eventually graduate into big ones. One day, they will start damaging innocent people's property soon along major roads." - Rodgers Chikuse

"Govt needs to manage expectation in these kids; the suspension should have had a specific period within which the Ministry was going to come up with a way forward, what happened to smart decisions?" - Lwendo Ka

"This is the only regime that has downgraded education in our country; a government that decides to give more money in the public order & defence than investing in education; a government in whose tenure our universities have been reduced to colleges." - Gabriel Samunyina

"Communication is very important; it settles everyone's mind. These leakages are a national scar." - Wanosha Wanosha

"Whilst I understand the pupils' frustrations, that is not the way to go. I, therefore, urge all fellow parents and teachers to have talks with these children and make them understand that the valuable time they are wasting could be costly on their part. Let those in charge of exams do their job, and to them, keeping on studying is their duty.

As a parent, I really sympathize with the pupils." - Solomon H Phiri

"Take note that the same pupils will be voting in 2021; please handle them with caution." - Christopher J Sianchapa

## 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.



## ZRA's \$600m VAT refunds debt to mines

Dear Editor,

"Why ZRA? VAT refund is ready cash. Where do you take the money, ba ZRA? Someone deposits in the bank, the following day, the manager says, 'there's no money.' Can you understand that?" - Boyd Mwale

"Give us our money; we have a lot of capital projects going on." - Tholosi Mike

"Give us our money. You contributed in closing The Post. Where do you take the money? Can the mines stop paying so that

the money is recovered?" - Angel Kabumbu

"When The Post owed them money, they were heartless. Can the mines stop paying taxes until their money is recovered!" - Marcus Adriano Houston

"The Sales Tax will cost this economy more than the \$600 million we owe the mines. Aren't we just burying our dull heads in the sand? The \$600m is and will still be OWED to the mines. In our quest to fix the mines, we are going to fix ourselves." - Christopher Kalima

## UPND's insistence on choosing HH as 2021 presidential candidate

Editor,

"Do we really have intra-party elections in Zambia or we have intra-party 'selections'? How can you say, 'you are having an election, but you already have a winner before the election?' There is no difference between them and those they condemn! Those they condemn were last week telling KBF he's free to challenge ECL and he won't be stopped or intimidated, but he should be aware that the Central Committee has already endorsed ECL as presidential candidate for 2021? If candidates are as popular as they claim, why not subject themselves to elections?" - Mpundu Chups Kabaso

"Let him compete with other members of the party as that will be preparation for 2021." - Happy Robson

"Is there no other person in the party who can stand?" - Chibwe Isaac

"If you have someone at the helm of the party who has failed to win an election for five times consecutively, and the party keeps losing its members and grip on its strongholds, it's only prudent that that party goes for a convention, review their strategies, manifestos and give some leaders shake-off so that they add value to the party. Convention is not just changing the president and vice president of the party but for the all structures of the party." - Lawrence Chimukway

# India deploys huge security for inauguration of world's biggest statue

Thousands of police guarded the world's biggest statue ahead of its inauguration by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday with local people threatening protests over the enormous figure.

Activists said about a dozen of their leaders had been detained ahead of the spectacular opening of the 182-metre (600-foot) tall tribute to Indian independence hero Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with air force jets and helicopters to shower flowers on the statue during a flypast.

Anand Mazgaonkar, a community group leader in Narmada district of Gujarat state where the statue has been built over the past four years, said plain clothes police took away 12 people late Tuesday to the local police headquarters.

Police denied they had made any detentions. But authorities are taking no chances in case community groups stage protests to demand compensation for land taken to erect the Statue of Unity, which cost 29.9 billion rupees (\$400 million).

"More than 5,000 police personnel have been deployed at various points in the 10 kilometre radius of the statue site," said Narmada police inspector general Abhay Chudasama.

"Police patrolling has been intensified in the wake of protests by the local tribal community and leaders. Drones and helicopters will be keeping watch on the entire area," he told reporters.

Posters of Modi with Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani were torn down or had their faces

blackened at the weekend. The chiefs of 22 villages around the statue signed an open letter calling on

Modi to stay away from the inauguration. Police guards kept watch on posters put in place of the

torn ones.

Local legislator and community group leader Chotu Vasava reaffirmed a

threat to stage protests on the eve of the ceremonies around the statue of Sardar Patel, who played a key role in unifying India after its independence in 1947.

"Tribals have been exploited by different governments, the ruling BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) is repeating it again," Vasava said, vowing to continue protests.

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"Tribals have been exploited by different governments, the ruling BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) is repeating it again," Vasava said, vowing to continue protests. **AFP**



A suicide bomber targeting a bus carrying employees of Afghanistan's biggest prison killed at least seven people on Wednesday, officials said, in the latest militant attack in the war-torn country.

Another five were wounded in the blast near the facility in Kabul, which police spokesman Basir Mujahid said had hit a vehicle that staff of Pul-e-Charkhi prison were travelling in.

The attacker was on foot, interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said. He struck as the bus was entering the jail in the east of the Afghan capital.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion, but the Islamic State group (IS)

## Seven killed in suicide attack near Kabul prison

has claimed most suicide attacks in Kabul in recent months.

The attack comes days after a suicide bomber blew himself up near the entrance of Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission in Kabul, killing at least one person and wounding six.

A wave of election-related violence has killed or wounded hundreds across the country in recent

months as the Taliban and IS step up attacks on Afghan security forces and government workers.

Afghanistan's long-delayed parliamentary election, which was held over three days this month, was marred by chaos and deadly attacks.

Two days before voting began on October 20, a Taliban-claimed shooting killed a powerful police chief in the southern

province of Kandahar.

General Abdul Raziq was among three people killed in the brazen insider attack on a high-level security meeting in the provincial capital that was attended by General Scott Miller, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan.

Miller escaped unhurt, but US Brigadier General Jeffrey Smiley was among 13 people wounded in the shooting, which the

Taliban said had targeted Miller and Raziq.

US officials and NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan were adamant that Miller had not been a target.

Several days later another Taliban-claimed assault killed a NATO soldier and wounded two others -- all from the Czech Republic -- in the western province of Herat.

The attacks came amid a flurry of US-led diplomatic activity to convince the Taliban, Afghanistan's largest militant group, to negotiate an end to the 17-year war.

Earlier this month, newly appointed US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with Taliban representatives in Qatar.

Less than two weeks later a top Taliban commander held in Pakistani detention for more than eight years was freed.

A senior Taliban leader told AFP the group had requested the release of Abdul Ghani Baradar and several others at the meeting with Khalilzad. **AFP**

## Machar returns to South Sudan to seal peace deal

South Sudan's opposition leader Riek Machar has arrived in the capital, Juba, for the first time since he fled into exile in 2016.

Mr Machar who has been leading a rebellion against President Salva Kiir signed a peace deal in August.

Under the agreement he will be one of five vice-presidents.

Mr Machar will be attending the country's Peace Day celebrations.

Last week, Mr Machar declined President Kiir's invitation to return but his spokesman said that both sides needed to trust each other if there was to be peace.

South Sudan seceded from Sudan in 2011 but plunged into conflict in December 2013 following

a power struggle between Mr Kiir and Mr Machar.

Previous attempts to find a solution to the conflict have failed.

Mr Machar returned to Juba once before, in 2016, but was forced out of the country after fighting broke out.

Hundreds of thousands have been killed in the civil war which has also displaced millions. **BBC**

# Pakistan Islamists protest as Christian woman freed in blasphemy case

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday freed a Christian woman from a death sentence for blasphemy against Islam and overturned her conviction, sparking angry protests and death threats from an ultra-religious party and cheers from human rights advocates.

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conviction, sparking angry protests and death threats from an ultra-religious party and cheers from human rights advocates.

The case outraged Christians worldwide and been a source of division within Pakistan, where two politicians who sought to help Bibi were

assassinated. Chief Justice Saqib Nasir, who headed a special three-person bench set up for the appeal, cited the Koran in his ruling,

writing "Tolerance is the basic principle of Islam" and noting the religion condemns injustice and oppression. **REUTERS**

Thailand is rolling out plans to legalise medical marijuana, an official told AFP Wednesday, as the country hopes to cash in on a multi-billion dollar industry with a product its supporters hail as some of the world's best.

Several nations have embraced the use of medicinal cannabis, including Canada, Australia, Israel, and more than half the states in the US.

# Thailand blazes ahead with push to legalise medical marijuana use

But Thailand would be the first country in Asia to do so, tapping into a market that US-based Grand View Research has estimated could reach US\$55.8 billion

by 2025. A draft bill to permit its limited use has been sent to the military junta's National Legislative Assembly (NLA). "We have submitted the

bill to the speaker," Jet Sirathraanon, chairman of the NLA's standing committee of public health, told AFP, adding that it will have its first reading in

the junta's rubber-stamp parliament in less than one month. The cannabis would be "for medication only, not for recreation," he added.

Marijuana remains illegal in Thailand, with stiff penalties for drug trafficking even though the country remains a key regional transit hub and producer of narcotics.

But the idea of medical marijuana has long been more acceptable to broad swathes of society in the Buddhist-majority country and junta officials have previously mooted the need to reform drug laws.

Jet said Thailand has delayed making the change for far too long while other countries such as Canada and Australia have seized the moment, including legalising exports.

He cited the revenue-generating possibilities that amending the laws would provide for Thailand as well as the beneficial effects it could have on patients in

pain. He also praised the quality of the Southeast Asian country's plants, which thrive particularly well in the Golden Triangle borderlands of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar.

"I'm doing this because it's an opportunity for Thai people," he said. "Thailand has the best marijuana in the world." Experts agree and see similar potential.

"Today, Thailand can produce awesome cannabis at a fraction of the cost of Western growers," said Jim Plamondon, VP of Marketing at the Thai Cannabis Corporation, described as the country's first legal marijuana firm.

"Tomorrow, Thailand will reclaim its cultural legacy, by becoming the world's leading grower, processor, and manufacturer of cannabis products," he said.

"Any company that is serious about cannabis should start moving its supply chain to Thailand." **AFP**



Protesters denounced US President Donald Trump's visit to the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 people were shot dead during Shabbat services

## Sudan and Somalia leaders arrive in S. Sudan

Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and Sudan President Omar al-Bashir have arrived in South Sudan's capital, Juba, coinciding with the return of rebel leader Riek Machar after his two years in exile.

South Sudan is celebrating Peace Day today, two months after President Salva Kiir and Mr Machar agreed to a ceasefire deal to end a five-year civil war.

A UN-run radio station has tweeted a picture of the arrival of Somalia's leader. **BBC**



Denmark has recalled its ambassador to Iran following an alleged assassination plot foiled in late September that forced the shut down of bridges and ferries to Sweden. **AFP**

## 13-year-old Princess Leonor, heir to Spanish throne, makes first public address

The heir to the Spanish throne, 13-year-old Princess Leonor, has made her first public address at an official event marking the 40th anniversary of Spain's Constitution.

Leonor de Borbon, the elder of two daughters of King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, read out the first of 169 articles of Spain's Carta Magna, which was approved by the Spanish Parliament on Oct. 31, 1978.

King Felipe read the law's preamble and was then joined on stage by his daughter at the Cervantes Institute in Madrid.

With a firm voice, Leonor read the article, which states that Spain follows the political system of a parliamentary monarchy.

Felipe was also 13 when he read his first speech publicly in 1981. *USATODAY*



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex talk to staff as they look at kiwi chicks during a visit to the National Kiwi Hatchery at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua, New Zealand, Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018. *timesenterprise*

# Beyonce channels R&B legend Toni Braxton in epic Halloween tribute, and Braxton loves it

Beyonce's musical Halloween shout-outs are legendary.

Last year, she paid tribute with not one, but five iconic Lil' Kim looks. In years past, she's taken on Janet Jackson and a full-family Salt-N-Pepa.

This year, Queen Bey is channeling '90s R&B icon Toni Braxton in a dead-on look shared to her Instagram.

In a pixie wig, white tank, jeans, leather jacket and chain belt, Beyonce faithfully

re-creates Braxton's 1993 eponymous debut album for her cheeky tribute, Phoni Braxton.

And even though this look is from 25 years ago, it still manages to look fresh today,

especially in the skilled hands of the "Lemonade" singer.

The final look takes things one step further, calling out Braxton's single "Another Sad Love Song." And Beyonce adds her own words of

appreciation: "Sending love and adoration to one of our talented legends. Thank you for the countless bops."

Braxton loved the look, tweeting her own appreciation right back to

Beyonce: "How do you look better than me on MY album cover? I LOVE IT, Such a superstar! Thanks for the love sis! Happy Halloween Who run the world...GIRLS! GIRLS!" *USATODAY*

Kanye West says he's "distancing" himself from politics.

On Twitter the rapper claims he's being "used to spread messages I don't believe in."

He has been a vocal supporter of President Trump but this decision appears to centre around a campaign he was linked to known as Blexit.

Run by Conservative commentator Candace Owens it encourages black Americans to quit the Democratic party.

She claimed the musician had designed clothing for the campaign, something which the rapper has now denied.

The rapper tweeted: "My eyes are now wide open. I am distancing myself from politics and completely focusing on being creative." It seems Kanye West intends to step away from politics altogether now.

Writing to his 28.7 million followers the musician said: "I support creating jobs and opportunities for people who need them the most.

"I support prison reform, I support common-sense gun laws that will make our world safer.

"I support those who risk their lives to serve and protect us and I support holding people who misuse

# Kanye West announces he's distancing himself from politics

their power accountable."

It's not the first time, the rapper, who wants to be referred to as Ye, has had to clear up his political beliefs. Earlier this year he came under fire for for saying that the 13th amendment of the US Constitution, which brought an end to slavery, should be abolished - a statement that he later clarified. Apparently he meant to write "amend".

And his performance on the American comedy show Saturday Night Live a few weeks ago sparked outrage and amusement in equal measure.

The 49-year-old, who is married to Kim Kardashian, wore a hat with Donald Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again" and apparently gave an unscripted, off-air rant in support of the president.

Excerpts filmed by the audience and shared on social media show the rapper discussing his support for President Trump, his pledge to run for president in 2020

and the need for a "dialogue not a diatribe".

"So many times I talk to a white person and [they] say, 'How could you like Trump, he's racist?'" he said.

"Well, if I was concerned about racism I would've moved out of America a

long time ago."

Kanye West has been very upfront about his support for President Trump.

The pair have met several times discussing issues including employment and criminal justice reform.

However stars including

Snoop Dogg, T.I. and John Legend have criticised Kanye West for meeting the US leader.

Kanye West ended this latest series of messages saying: "I believe in love and compassion for people seeking asylum and parents

who are fighting to protect their children from violence and war."

"I would like to thank my family, loved ones, and community for supporting my ACTUAL beliefs and my vision for a better world."

*BBC*

# Tyler Perry reveals he is killing off Madea

Madea's days of crude language and criminal offenses are coming to an end.

Tyler Perry, 49, revealed Monday that he's killing off the iconic character next year, nearly two decades after everyone was introduced to the gun-toting grandmother.

"This is it," Perry told host Bevy Smith Monday on her SiriusXM radio show, "Bevelations." "It's time for me to kill that old (expletive). I'm tired!"

Don't fret. Madea will make a final cameo in a farewell stage tour and in 2019's "Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral," but based on Perry's admission, it may be the

profane matriarch being laid to rest.

"We're gonna say goodbye in (2019)," Perry said.

His reasoning? "I just don't want to be her age, playing her." Perry has portrayed Madea since 1999, debuting the infamous character onstage during, "I Can Do Bad All by Myself."

Despite retiring the makeup and wig forever, Perry will likely hold Madea close to his heart. The character - based on his own mother, aunt and Eddie Murphy's performance in "Nutty Professor II: The Klumps" - has grossed more than \$500 million worldwide at the box office from 10 films. *USATODAY*

# Disney tells a different 'Nutcracker' story on the big screen

"The Nutcracker," the beloved holiday season tale of toys that come to life, moves from the ballet stage to the big screen in an action-adventure story being released by the Walt Disney Co on Friday.

In Disney's "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms," Mackenzie Foy stars as 14-year-old Clara, a girl who is fascinated by engineering and is trying to figure out how to unlock a Christmas gift left behind by her recently

deceased mother. Clara soon finds herself in a beautiful but troubled parallel universe where she encounters a nutcracker soldier, and the pair embark on a dangerous search for the key to Clara's gift. "I think it really truly captures that spirit, that feeling of the

holiday season, but it also has action and adventure and excitement," Foy, best known for playing the daughter of Edward and Bella in "The Twilight Saga," told Reuters at the film's world premiere in Hollywood.

The film is based on E.T.A. Hoffman's short story written

in 1816 and Alexandre Dumas' retelling in the 1892 Tchaikovsky ballet "The Nutcracker," which is now performed on stages around the world during the Christmas season.

Disney's film includes just a fraction of the ballet of a typical stage production of

"The Nutcracker." In the movie, American Ballet Theater star Misty Copeland and Ukrainian dancer Sergei Polunin perform in a pageant for Clara after she arrives in the Land of Sweets.

Keira Knightley plays the Sugar Plum Fairy, who in the film does not dance but welcomes

Clara to the Four Realms with her over-the-top sweetness and pink cotton candy hair. Knightley, known for historical dramas such as "Pride & Prejudice," said she enjoyed taking on a different type of role.

"I've been doing work that the subject matters are quite serious," she said, "and it was very nice doing something that was totally silly and not an ounce of subtlety in it."

REUTERS

Actress Kerry Washington, best known for her Emmy-nominated role over seven seasons on television drama "Scandal," returns to the Broadway stage this month in the new play "American Son."

The four-character story, which opens on Sunday for a limited engagement, is set in a Florida police station where a mother and father are seeking information about their missing son.

The 90-minute production was written by Christopher Demos-Brown, who works as a trial attorney in Southern Florida. Brown said he used that experience to help shape the story, but said the emotional impetus was police shootings of African-Americans.

"I wrote it around the time of the Tamir Rice incident and the Eric Garner incident. Those - the Tamir Rice, Eric Garner and Philando Castile incident - really, kind of were the ones that were in the back of my

## TV star Kerry Washington returns to Broadway in 'American Son'

mind" and are mentioned in the play, Demos-Brown said in an interview.

Cast members said they hope "American Son" sparks meaningful conversations about race, identity and love.

"I think it gives you a lot of perspectives," Washington said. "One of my hopes is that when people leave the theater, not only that they're talking about the play with each other, but that they find themselves walking in somebody else's shoes."

Washington previously appeared on Broadway in 2009 in the David Mamet play "Race." She starred in "Scandal" on the ABC broadcast network for seven seasons as political fixer Olivia Pope. The show ended its run in April. REUTERS



### Ariana Grande hurt her hand in a haunted escape room while filming 'Carpool Karaoke'

On The Late Late Show with James Corden, fans finally found out how Ariana Grande hurt her hand while filming "Carpool Karaoke" back in August. Grande's injury made headlines at the time, but the pop star played coy, tweeting "but i LOVE my bandage it looks sick @JKCorden I'll be ok one day" and leaving it at that. But after Tuesday night, there was no more guessing.

While filming "Carpool Karaoke," Grande and Corden began talking about escape rooms and haunted houses, and how much she likes them. They decided to go to a haunted escape room, and it's a good thing Grande likes being scared, because she seemed plenty scared.

At the end of their adventure, Grande and Corden found themselves in a small, dark room when a man crawled in through the same opening they just had come through. As they scrambled to get away from him, Grande tripped on his leg and hit the ground hard. YAHOO

## Los Angeles prosecutors decline to charge Stallone after sexual assault allegation

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office has decided there is not enough evidence to prosecute "Rocky" actor Sylvester Stallone over allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman in 1987 and 1990, according to an agency document released on Tuesday.

The allegations from a woman in Santa Monica, California, also are outside of the statute of limitations, officials said in a charge evaluation worksheet by the district attorney's office seen by Reuters. The

document said the victim, whose name was blacked out, stated that she and Stallone had a consensual relationship in 1987. The complainant's name has never been publicly released.

The victim alleged Stallone then sexually assaulted her in 1987 and 1990 and provided witnesses, the document said. "However, none of the fresh complaint witnesses corroborated victim's allegations," the document said. "Additional investigation did not provide

any further corroboration."

The complaint was made in November 2017, and Stallone consistently denied the accusations.

"Mr. Stallone has continually disputed the charges," Michelle Bega, a representative for Stallone, said on Tuesday.

The 72-year-old actor skyrocketed to fame in 1976 with his Oscar-winning boxing movie "Rocky" and went on to become one of Hollywood's biggest action stars through the "Rambo"

and "Rocky" film franchises. California has a complex statute of limitations for criminal prosecutions of sexual abuse but offenses must generally be prosecuted within 10 years.

Hollywood has been roiled in the past eight months by accusations of sexual assault against dozens of actors, directors and filmmakers, leading to many major figures being forced to step down or dropped from creative projects. REUTERS

# Neymar risks prison over Barca move - Spanish magistrate

A Spanish magistrate leading an investigation into alleged irregularities in Neymar's move to Barcelona in 2013 said on Wednesday the Brazilian superstar could face up to six years in prison.

"The term imposed, in principle, could be between four and six years," said a decree issued by judge Jose Maria Vazquez Honrubia, a copy of which was seen by AFP.

Neymar, his parents, Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu and his predecessor Sandro Rosell are all awaiting trial over alleged corruption concerning Neymar's move to the Spanish La Liga giants in 2013.

The Brazilian international forward is now with Paris Saint-Germain in France's Ligue 1.

The case, which follows a complaint by DIS, a Brazilian group which part-owned the rights to Neymar, surrounds allegations of "corruption" and "fraud" in the player's move to Barcelona.

Neymar moved to the Spanish La Liga giants in May 2013 for a reported fee of 57.1m euros. Although no financial details of the deal were revealed by either Barcelona or his Brazilian club FC Santos, Neymar's parents were said to have received receive 40m euros and FC Santos 17.1m.

In January 2014, prosecutors in Madrid began investigating the transfer because documents requested by the authorities contained contradictory information. Rosell resigned from

his post as president a week later and Barcelona subsequently revealed they had actually paid 86.2m euros for the Brazilian star. DIS, who received 6m euros of the 17.1m given to FC Santos, alleges

that Barcelona and the Brazilian club colluded to mask the true cost of the deal.

Bartomeu, Rosell, Barcelona, FC Santos and its former president, Odilio Rodrigues Filho, are now

expected to answer charges of fraud, according to the decree.

Because the prison term involved exceeds five years, three judges are set to preside over Neymar's trial which is expected to

be heard at the Audiencia Nacional, a high court with jurisdiction over Spanish territory as well as over international crimes which come under the jurisdiction of Spanish courts.

Whether Neymar faces a prison term remains to be seen, however.

In May 2017 the Spanish authorities said Neymar should stand trial but no date has yet been set. **SUPERSPORT**

## Ali Abdelaziz discusses the possibility of a rematch with Conor McGregor

Just as it seems the Khabib Nurmagomedov and Conor McGregor feud may cool down, the tension could soon arise again.

Ever since McGregor and Nurmagomedov were announced to meet in the main-event of UFC 229 for the lightweight world title,

things became personal. The feud began years prior, as Nurmagomedov called 'The Notorious' a 'chicken' in an attempt to goad the

Irishman into a fight. Someone who didn't take too kindly to these comments from Nurmagomedov was McGregor's teammate

Artem Lobov, who outed his countrymen to Russian media.

These comments made by Lobov stuck with Nurmagomedov, who would then go onto confront McGregor's teammate prior to UFC 223, the night 'The Eagle' captured the lightweight title.

Nurmagomedov's confrontation with Lobov caused McGregor to take action as the 30-year-old flew over to New York in defence of his close friend, and this is how the infamous bus incident took place.

Logically, a fight between the two rivals was announced for October 6 in Las Vegas, and the build-up to the showdown was dominated by McGregor's verbal attacks on Nurmagomedov and his team-most notably the champions manager Ali Abdelaziz. **givesport**



## Lionel Messi back in Barcelona training after arm injury

Lionel Messi has returned to training with Barcelona only 11 days after fracturing his arm against Sevilla.

The Argentine star was forced off the La Liga game after 15 minutes following a nasty fall which saw him awkwardly bend his arm.

Reports after the game suggested he would be sidelined for about three weeks, and he missed El Clasico against Real Madrid on Sunday night, a 5-1 thrashing which saw the end of Julen Lopetegui's reign as Madrid coach.

However, pictures on Barcelona's official Twitter account on Wednesday morning certified Messi was back at the Joan Gamper training complex for a training session with the rest of the squad.

Although he will not take part in the team's Copa del Rey fixture against Cultural Leonesa on Wednesday, he could make a return on the bench for their league clash against Rayo Vallecano on Saturday.

Barcelona will resume their Champions League campaign when they travel to face Inter Milan at San Siro next Wednesday. **SKYSPORTS**

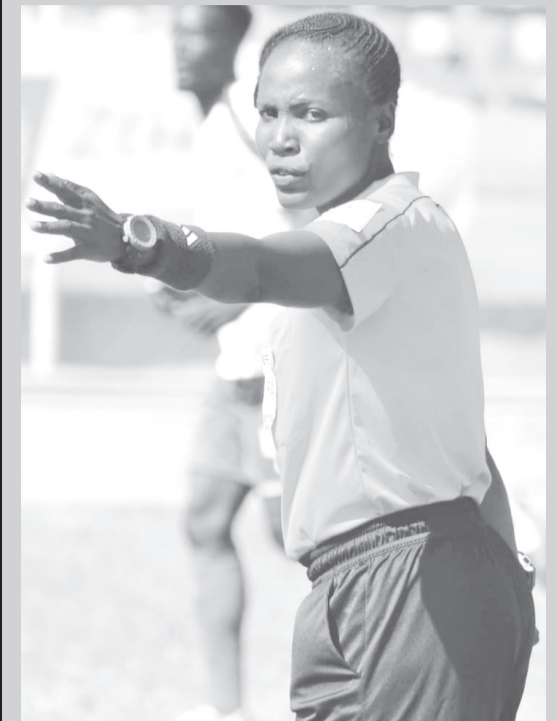


Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates winning match point during his second round match against Joao Sousa. **MSN**



Ghana Women's soccer team arrive at KK International airport ahead of Saturday's friendly game against Shepolopolo

## FIFA Referee Leah Namukonda dies



By Alex Chilumbwe

FIFA referee Leah Namukonda died yesterday morning at Ndola Central Hospital after having been involved in a road traffic accident on Saturday in Luanshya. Namukonda was the fourth official in Saturday's Week 38 Super League match involving Buildcon and Power Dynamos that ended 1-0 in favour of Power Dynamos. She had been in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) since being transferred to Ndola Central Hospital from Luanshya Hospital where her condition had been declared critical. She had been one of the leading lights in refereeing and was part of the 2018 COSAFA Women Championship match officials where Shepolopolo finished fourth.

# Nkana will miss Ilunga Mbombo – Sate Sate

By Alex Chilumbwe

Nkana striker Ronald 'Sate Sate' Kampamba says he is saddened that macho defender Idriss Ilunga Mbombo has left the club adding that his absence will be greatly felt by everyone at the club. The 2012 and 2013 super league top scorer also described his former club mate as an inspirational player and a fighter that could give up in a game after the final whistle. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kampamba noted that it would be difficult to find an ultimate replacement for Mbombo saying the Congolese had an intact team spirit and undoubted endurance on the pitch. "The guy was just amazing, although those that were not close to him think otherwise. He was able to push us to our full potential and actually

revive our winning morale. He has so much passion for the game and always wanted to ensure that everyone do performed better in the team," said Kampamba. The Congolese striker

on 27th October, 2018 signed a 2-year deal with Al-Hilal Omdurman of Sudan and is expected to be instrumental in the side's CAF Champions league campaign. Mbombo, who is former

Zesco United goal poacher and one of Zambian Super league leading goal scorer joins the club from Zambian giants Nkana where he was on a loan deal from a Saudi club.

# Army dangles military jobs to Young Green Buffaloes

By Alex Chilumbwe

Young Green Buffaloes may have a greener future if they win the Barclays final against Nkana on 10th November according to the command's Regimental Sergeants Major, Andrew Chungu. Speaking to the team during

their Tuesday morning devotion, Chungu said there was a huge chance that the command would resort to awarding them command jobs in the army. Chungu also urged the team to work extra hard and not forsake Christ in both victories and losses.

"In normal situations, all sportsmen and women for the army are supposed to be employed by it but because slots for recruitment are limited, some of you are not yet employed. Good performance on either the pitch or court can help you get employed

quickly. For example, you will see how quickly Young Green Buffaloes players will be employed if they win the Barclays final," Chungu warned. "I therefore urge the players to work hard and grab those job slots waiting for them. They are not for the

losers because as Zambia army, we fight and conquer. All in all, put Christ first in all you do, be it winning or losing," summed Chungu. Young Buffaloes qualified to the Barclays final after beating their seniors, Green Buffaloes 4-3 on penalties.

# Ghana Queens dares Shepolopolo

By Alex Chilumbwe

Ghanaian Women national team vice captain Gifty Appiah says she is confident that Ghana will win the 2018 Africa Women Cup of Nations that the country will host next month. The West Africans are in Zambia to test Shepolopolo and their own preparedness ahead of the Women Africa Cup of Nations

which will be hosted by that country. The Black Queens of Ghana have not won the championship before despite being considered the top women football nations on the continent. The last time they won a major tournament was 26 years ago and it was a regional one that attracted only five West African participants. Goal Diggers! caught up with the

vice skipper at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport when the team touched down in Lusaka ahead of their friendly match against Shepolopolo. "We will host and win the women AFCON and this friendly against Zambia will determine how prepared we are for the championship. We are not in Zambia for exposure or mere fun

but to weigh our progress in preparing for the championship," said Appiah. And Black Queens head coach Bashir Hayford said the ladies had learnt all they needed to learn ahead of the championship. Hayford also said that he was not bothered by the pressure surrounding the hosing of the tournament

**Nkana will miss  
Ilunga Mbombo**  
– Sate Sate *Story page 15*

# GHANA TESTS SHEPOLOPOLO

*Story page 15*



River Plate celebrate reaching the Copa Libertadores final as riot police shield the referee from Gremio's. Skysports



Former Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, seen here presenting the trophy for the 2018 Best FIFA Men's Coach award, wants to return to football management. AFP

**Winning title  
will be harder  
than last year,  
says Silva**

Manchester City's Bernardo Silva claims winning the title this season would be an even better achievement than their record-breaking triumph last term.

Pep Guardiola's side smashed a host of Premier League milestones as they finished 19 points clear of second-placed Manchester United.

And, while they haven't hit those heights so far this season, City are firmly in the hunt to win the title again.

A 1-0 win at Tottenham on Monday lifted them back to the top of the table, above Liverpool on goal difference.

It was their eighth win from 10 games and their sixth successive clean sheet, but Silva has the feeling it will be much tougher for City to remain on top this season.

"I think it will be harder because last season nobody was expecting us to win as many games and to reach that level of points, so this season the teams know they have to do better to beat us," Silva said.

"Of course it will be very hard, but we will work every game to get the three points and at the end of it try and celebrate winning one more Premier League.

"I think either Chelsea and Liverpool are contenders, they are very strong, Arsenal as well.

"Even Tottenham, even though they lost, they're still contenders."

What makes City's quest slightly easier is the fact they have already visited Liverpool, Arsenal and Tottenham and have come away unscathed, with seven points.

Portugal midfielder Silva says it could be important to have picked up points in these games ahead of the return fixtures, which will come over the title run-in.

AFP