



MAYOR REFUSES TO PAY FOOD BILL

The lunch was nice but, service was bad - Miles

By Joseph Mwenda

In this verbatim, Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa says he refused to pay the bill after eating lunch at a restaurant because the waitress took so long to bring him a takeaway pack in which to carry what he left over.

Sampa insists that he had money in the pocket but refused to pay for a bad service, adding that other restaurant owners must watch out for him.

He also says his mental faculties are on top of the game and those alleging that he is now running mad are attacking him from a point of ignorance.

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Indunas from Basoli Royal Establishment led by Her Royal Highness Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya's daughter Princess Ncholwe move to petition Water Development Minister Dennis Wanchinga to stop the Kingsland Project in Twinpalm Lusaka, and protect the forest reserve - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Deputy Speaker chases Kambwili from Parley over Digital Migration comment

By Mukosha Funga

Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mwimba Malama

yesterday chased Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili from the House after the latter

warned that all those who were involved in the digital migration scandal would go to jail. To page 6

Shakas breaks silence, says he can't be loyal to rotten, corrupt govt

By Mukosha Funga

Former Katuba UPND member of parliament Jonas Shakafuswa says he can never idolize people who count their power by stealing from the poor.

In an uncharacteristic Facebook posting, Wednesday, Shakafuswa said his loyalty was with the nation. To page 4

Police arrest 16 teachers, pupils over exam leakages

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Police in Lusaka, Copperbelt and Southern Provinces have so far arrested 16 people among them teachers and pupils, in connection with the leaked grade seven, nine and 12 examination papers.

In a statement issued, Thursday, police public relations officer Esther Mwaata Katongo stated that in Lusaka, police arrested five people, among them; a 25 year-old teacher at Islamic Orphanage Secondary School. To page 3

Lungu to visit Russia "at Putin's invitation"

Story page 4



By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka lawyer John Sangwa says only the High Court has the authority to determine whether or not the Bill of Rights has been violated by any court, including the Constitutional Court.

And Sangwa says the petitioners are not asking the High Court to reopen the decision of the Constitutional Court in the presidential petition, but simply want the lower court to look at what the ConCourt did and whether it was in line with article 18(9) of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, Solicitor General Abraham Mwansa has argued that the High Court has no jurisdiction to hear a case relating to the interpretation of the Constitution as only the Constitutional Court has such power.

Mwansa has, therefore, urged the High Court to dismiss with

HH, GBM push on right to be heard case

costs the petitioner's petition as it was misconceived at law. This is in a case in which UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his Vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba have asked the High Court to determine whether their right to be heard in a Presidential election petition was violated when the Constitutional Court dismissed it on September 5, 2016, for want of prosecution. When the matter came up, Thursday, before High Court Judge Mwila Chitabo, Mwansa

raised preliminary issues on whether the High Court could interpret otherwise, in respect to the timeframe in which a Presidential petition election should be heard and whether the determination of the petition was a civil right as to bring it under Article 18 of the Constitution.

And Mwansa urged Judge Chitabo to dismiss Hichilema's petition with costs, saying it was misconceived at law as the High Court had no jurisdiction to hear such an

application.

He argued that the Constitutional Court had the original and final power to hear a matter relating to the interpretation of the Constitution and not the High Court, adding that according to the provisions of the law, the interpretation or reviewing of the Constitution was based in the Constitutional Court and not the High Court.

Mwansa said the determination of any matter before the Constitutional

Court or any other court would not constitute or give rise to the existence of any violation of civil rights or obligation.

He submitted that had the Presidential petition election been heard by a lower court, the petitioners could have been entitled to the right to appeal to a superior court, adding that since it was heard by ConCourt, which was of final jurisdiction, it was not appealable hence the same judgement could not be reviewed by the lower court.

"If the matter was being determined by the lower court, the petitioners could have been entitled to a right to appeal to a superior court. However, the petitioners' matter was determined by the Constitutional Court exercising its final jurisdiction. The judgement delivered on September 5, 2016, by ConCourt is not appealable and the same judgement cannot be reviewed by this court," Mwansa insisted.

"The proceedings before you emanate from the majority judgement from the Constitutional Court dismissing the petitioners' election for want of prosecution. And these proceedings have nothing to do with the determination of any civil rights or obligations, or indeed, the violation of any of the articles, 11 to 26 inclusive. The proceedings before you have nothing to do

with the violation of part three of the Constitution."

He said petitioners should abide by court rules in order to ensure that matters like the Presidential election petition were heard within the stipulated period of 14 days.

But in his submissions, Sangwa said they were not asking the High Court to reopen the decision of the Constitutional Court in the Presidential petition, but simply wanted the lower court to look at what the ConCourt did and whether it was in line with article 18(9) of the Constitution.

He said it was only the High Court, which had the authority to determine whether or not the Bill of Rights had been violated by any court.

He said the High Court had powers to control the three arms of government and that nobody was above the Constitution.

"We are not asking this court to reopen the decision of the Constitutional Court; it has done its work. We are not asking for review (either) because the Constitutional Court is factio officio. But we want it to determine whether what the Constitutional Court did was consistent with Article 18(9) of the Constitution," said Sangwa.

The matter has been adjourned to November 5, 2018.

This matter was sent back to the High Court following the Supreme Court's decision to dismiss with costs an appeal by the petitioners in which they wanted Judge Chitabo to recuse himself from handling the matter on account of perceived bias

Chongwe Municipal Council stops construction of Chinese cemetery

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Chongwe Municipal Council has ordered an immediate stop to the construction of a Chinese run cemetery in Silverest area.

In a press statement issued and signed by Council assistant public relations manager Musonda Mino, the council has also instructed the site contractor Messr China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Zambia Limited to restore the land to its original state. Mino stated that the developer had been stopped from continuing with the works because he did not follow the procedure as the land in question was designated for agricultural purposes and not for cemetery.

He stated that the named construction company was sub-contracted by the Chinese Embassy in Zambia to construct a cemetery.

"Chongwe Municipal Council has with immediate effect ordered the developer of the Chinese Martyr's Memorial facility, Messr China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Zambia Limited to stop all construction activities at Silverest area of Chongwe District. This move comes after the developer's failure to follow procedure before commencing with development activities. The council has further instructed the developer to restore the land to its original state. Matters at hand are that Messr China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Zambia Limited, by the time of construction, did not obtain planning permission for Change of use of Land

and Planning Permission for Development provided for under the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015 from the Local Authority. According to records at the council, Plot LN-4034/1 is designated for agricultural use and not as a cemetery," stated Mino.

"As a council, we are very much aware that the land in question is private property and also on title but will not allow any development at

the site before the developer acquires Developmental Permission from the Local Authority. Chongwe Municipal Council has since advised the developer to follow the right procedure by applying for planning permission and change of land use. Furthermore, it is our desire as a Council to facilitate various infrastructure development in numerous categories throughout the district.

Therefore, in doing so, there are requirements as provided by the laws of Zambia that developers must adhere to before commencing any development. Messr China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Zambia Limited is a construction company which was sub-contracted by the Chinese Embassy in Zambia to construct the Chinese Martyr's Memorial Facility."

Discussing politics isn't a crime - CiSCA

By Thomas Mulenga

The Civil Society Constitution Agenda (CiSCA) says discussing politics is not a crime to warrant people getting arrested for it.

And CiSCA has maintained its stance that the Church must lead the dialogue and reconciliation process.

At a press briefing held at the Zambia Civic Education Association yesterday, CiSCA president Bishop John Mambo observed that those in government had continued abusing the Public Order Act.

"It has been some time since President Edgar Lungu mentioned the need to review the Public Order Act, undoubtedly one of the most draconian pieces of legislation in our statute books, which is also one of the most abused. While we appreciate the recent announcement by the Ministry of Justice on the roll out of public provincial consultation on the review of the Public Order Act, we ask, what is the status of the review of the Public Order Act? In the meantime,

while the President and government continue to give lip service about this important assignment, the Public Order Act continues to be used as a weapon to silence any dissenting voices including that of NGOs, as it happened in Ndola where NGO representatives and pastors were arrested on account that they wanted to discuss a political topic. When did discussing politics become outlawed in Zambia?" Bishop Mambo asked.

"Further this call for the review of the Public Order Act will be meaningless if the Constitution remains unattended to. So let government give us the refined draft constitution before heading to the review of the Public Order Act, as starting with the review of the Act may suggest revisiting the Act once the constitution is finally enacted."

And CiSCA insisted that unlike ZCID, the church had a track record for brokering peace.

"On national dialogue and reconciliation, we reiterate

our earlier suggestion and call that all stakeholders must allow the Church to handle this key national process. We are surprised that the Church's leadership in this processes is being contested and yet, just a few weeks ago, the country was observing the day of national prayers, fasting and reconciliation led not by the ZCID but by the Church and attended by political party leaders. This puts the Church on an advantage to facilitate, lead and chair the entire processes like it did during the day of prayer, fasting and reconciliation. Therefore, we call on the ZCID and those supporting them to allow the Church to play its prophetic role and realise that the church is best positioned to handle such a process as its track record does show," said Bishop Mambo.

"We respect all the eminent people who have been chosen by ZCID to lead the dialogue process, one of them is my lawyer, representing me in the Supreme Court case, Chifumu Banda, we respect all of them, there are also

royal highnesses, all of them are qualified and we respect all of them. But we are simply saying they should be part of the dialogue and reconciliation process, led by the Church. If they asked me, I would have said, 'since Archbishop Teresphore Mpundu started it, let's give him chance to continue.'

It's like we are buying time, 2021 is around the corner, we Zambians know where we went wrong, we need to quickly deal with issues of the Public Order Act, the judicial reforms, the electoral reforms, and all outstanding issues that have caused the problems we are experiencing."

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

Police in Lusaka, Copperbelt and Southern Provinces have so far arrested 16 people among them teachers and pupils, in connection with the leaked grade seven, nine and 12 examination papers.

In a statement issued, Thursday, police public relations officer Esther Mwaata Katongo stated that in Lusaka, police arrested five people, among them; a 25 year-old teacher at Islamic Orphanage Secondary School; a 43 year-old Director at CS Christian Private School; a 29 year-old businessman of Kabanana Compound; a 40 year-old teacher at Ellensdale Primary School and a lady who was in charge of a strong room at the School.

"In Lusaka Province, Police have arrested five people

Police arrest 16 teachers, pupils over exam leakage

identified as Ishmael Manda aged 25 of John Laing Compound also a teacher at Islamic Orphanage Secondary School in Makeni. He was found with copies of grade nine Mathematics, English, Religious Education, Art and Design and Business Science examination papers on his mobile phone. Christopher Sampa aged 43 who is Director at CS Christian Private School

in Chipata Compound in Lusaka, Alphate Kabamba aged 29, a businessman of Kabanana Compound who was found with hard copies of Art and Design, Religious Education and Social Studies, Alphonso Milambo aged 40, a teacher at Ellensdale Primary School and Angela Mumba Mulenga who was in charge of the strong room at Ellensdale School in Ngwerere," she stated.

"Further investigations at Ellensdale Strong room revealed that Examination papers for Art and Design, Religious Education and Social Studies were tempered with."

And Katongo stated that three people were arrested on the Copperbelt, aged 33, 25 and 22 years-old.

"Investigations conducted on the Copperbelt led to the arrest of three people

identified as Humphrey Kamfwa Tembo aged 33 who was found with grade nine Mathematics paper one and two, Collins Solochi aged 25 who was found with Social studies Paper one and two and a paper for Business Studies and also Andrew Banda aged 22 who was found in possession of English paper two for grade 12 and a hard copy of answers for Mathematics

paper," she stated.

Katongo further stated that in Mazabuka, Southern Province, a 24 year-old woman was arrested and further investigations led to the arrest of an 18 year-old grade nine pupil of Ndeke School.

She stated that two other grade nine pupils at Maneila Open Community School were also arrested in Mazabuka district.

"In Mazabuka of Southern Province, Police arrested Given Kanyeleti aged 24 of Nakambala Compound who was found photocopying a handwritten leaked Science paper two for grade nine. Further investigations led to the arrest of a grade nine pupil of Ndeke School aged 18 of Nakambala Compound. Others arrested in Mazabuka are two grade nine pupils at Maneila Open Community School who were found with grade nine Computer Studies paper one and two, Integrated Science Practical and both paper one and two, English Language papers paper one and two for grade nine and Social Studies examination papers," she stated.

Meanwhile, Katongo stated that investigations conducted in Mazabuka further revealed that examination paper packs at Namaila Primary School had been tempered with and copies of Mathematics paper two, Social studies and Chitonga were missing.

She added that four teachers, among them a head teacher of that school, were arrested.

"Investigations conducted in Mazabuka further revealed that examination paper packs at Namaila Primary School had been tempered with and copies of Mathematics paper two, Social studies and Chitonga were missing. Four teachers namely; Augustine Musenga aged 46 who is a Head Teacher at Namaila Primary School, Hedson Machila aged 42, Simon Sikombe aged 40 and Oliver Hauma aged 42 all teachers at the above mentioned school were arrested and investigations in the matter have continued," stated Katongo.

Katongo revealed that the suspects had been charged with unauthorized possession of examination paper or information.

She added that police had continued with investigations and members of the public would be updated on any new development.



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Zambian student dies in India



By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Zambian Student has died while another is in a critical condition after a road traffic accident in India.

This is according to a statement issued by First Secretary Press and Tourism at the Zambian Mission in New Delhi, India, Bangwe Naviley.

“The Mission in New Delhi, India, has received with deep sorrow the demise of a Zambian national, Peter Mwamba, a 3rd year Civil Engineering Student, in a tragic road traffic accident. The High Commissioner said the deceased was in the the company of his colleague, Dennis Musukwa, a 3rd yr Pharmacy Student, who is in a critical condition,” Zambia’s High Commissioner to India Judith Kapijimpanga said.

“The two students are all from Parul University in Vadodara, Gujarat State, India.”

She said the accident occurred around 19:00 hours Indian time (15:30 hours Zambian time) on October 31, 2018.

“Information shows that they were hit by a truck in a hit and run tragedy as they were on a motorcycle,” The High Commissioner said.

Kapijimpanga said a good Samaritan by the name of Ishy took the accident victims to the hospital.

“I have dispatched an officer from the Embassy to get more information in Gujarat State, about 1087 kilometres away from the Indian capital New Delhi, and help in anyway necessary,” said Kapijimpanga.

Kapijimpanga said the Zambian Mission in New Delhi and the students populace in India were deeply saddened by the untimely accident and urged the families to remain strong in the trying moment of difficulty as the students were promising.



UN Resident Coordinator Janet Rogan and Minister for National Guidance and Religious Affairs Godfridah Sumaili make a toast during the UN Day reception held in Lusaka on 31st October 2018 - picture by Jonathan Ngoma

Lungu to visit Russia in 2019

By Diggers Reporter

Zambia’s Ambassador to Russia Shadreck Luwita has revealed that President Edgar Lungu is expected to make an official state visit to Russia in 2019.

The state visit is at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin and will happen as soon as all the details of his trip are harmonized.

Ambassador Luwita said this in an interview with Russian news

agency Sputnik following the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Investment Forum in Moscow.

“[The visit’s organization] is now incumbent upon the technocrats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zambia, [they] started working on the modalities to concretize when President Lungu can

undertake the state visit to Russia,” Ambassador Luwita said.

“We are working flat out to ensure that this is realized as quickly as possible. The year is already almost ending so definitely we anticipate that in the course of next year, as early as possible, this state visit should be realized.”

He said Russia was a great friend of Africa, adding that the countries of the

continent were interested in developing relations for the benefit of their economies.

“There is enormous potential in this country in terms of technology, there are enormous resources, which, once partnered with the African continent in various economic sectors, will transform into the development of the African continent so that Africa is no longer dependent on aid,” Ambassador Luwita indicated.

The Zambian envoy to Russia welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the SADC and Russia that took place within the forum’s framework on Tuesday.

“This has come at an optimal time... It is a panacea to opening up investment opportunities in the SADC countries. As you are aware, it has been the considered view of the heads of state of the African continent on the need of the Russian government, on one hand, and indeed of Russian investors... to transform these excellent political relations into economic benefits, which are going to benefit both the African people as well as the Russian people,” said Ambassador Luwita.

In July, Mr. Putin invited President Lungu to visit Russia during a bilateral meeting that was held on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in South Africa.

Shakas breaks silence, lambasts loyalty-seeking rotten regime

By Mukosha Funga

Former Katuba UPND member of parliament Jonas Shakafuswa says he can never idolize people who count their power by stealing from the poor.

In an uncharacteristic Facebook posting, Wednesday, Shakafuswa said his loyalty was with the nation. “I love my self. I don’t idolize men. Because they tend to succumb to human greed and selfishness. I have only fear of the Lord. So for these semi Gods just know that I will show that in fact you are the wrong Chaps. People count their power by stealing from the poor and want us to idolize them. Rubbish. Teshi chishi cha Ba manyina wanu. They want Loyalty when they are rotten Corrupt ! Not from me. I owe it to the nation,” Shakafuswa, who defected to the PF in 2016, stated.

His posting sparked an interesting discourse, with some of his followers congratulating him for being blunt to which he responded; “There has to be a time when we call a spade a spade. We can’t be cowed by thugs

and you say we have a Nation. Thugs place in in Prison.”

Among those who supported his posting were former Sinda MMD member of parliament Levy Ngoma, who is now UPND chairman for agriculture.

“Jonas my friend. That’s the original you!! Fearless Zambian!! Let’s work together to redeem mother land! Well spoken!!” wrote Ngoma.

However, Martin Chikondi attacked Ngoma saying, “yes, but you Levy are just as bad as those PF thugs. May God never allow you back into Parliament,” to which Shakafuswa responded, “Martin Chikondi are you sure you can decide my fate? No you can’t. People earn Loyalty and respect. I left UPND because leader wanted to be treated like a God. What do you call morality. Supporting something you don’t believe in.”

Another follower, Melvin Banda, however, charged that Shakafuswa was politically unstable and could therefore not be trusted.

“Shaka, you are not somebody

anybody can trust, even yourself you know that, as you are right now you can’t proudly associate with the PF and even the UPND because you are considered rotten in both camps, teshi chish chabanyinawabo just like you, be honest, realistic and stable politically,” Banda charged.

In response, Shakafuswa lamented that politics had become about tribe in Zambia.

“Experience is the best teacher. Are you sure I need a political Party for a platform. I have no political ambition. But talk for Zambia I will. And for your information, I have a big Constituency in Zambia. Zambian Politics has no Ideological orientation. It is anchored on tribe. This is what has killed the Nation. A tribe in power wanting to keep power over other tribes. Opposition wanting power to replace a certain tribe. You call that politics? You say I thought I could swim in money for supporting PF. No. If I wanted I could. There are so many opportunities. I wasn’t raised that way. I am very comfortable as I am.

I supported PF because I believe at that time HH was not ripe enough to be President. Not the money. But what [if] I took a chance, HH could have won. But I took my support base to ECL,” Shakafuswa wrote.

Meanwhile, a UPND sympathizer Enock Seith warned Shakafuswa not to return to the opposition party.

“Dance to their tune becous you have no morality where politics is concerned. You are no different from a headless chicken. Dont even try to come to upnd becous judas’ can never trusted at all,” wrote Seith.

But Shakafuswa told him that he did not believe UPND was the solution. “Enock Seith you think UPND is the solution . No I don’t need to be soiled by tribal division. Zambia will find a voice. Not through tribal politics but Zambian solution. Don’t subscribe to Politics which align itself with tribe. Talk of pay. Don’t you think I could have been idolizing someone? Not me. Most political leaders want to be treated like Gods. No they are human,” wrote Shakafuswa.

Don't be selfish, increase salaries for public service workers - CK

By Zondiwe Mbewe
NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says government should stop being selfish and have mercy on the suffering masses by giving public service workers salaries that they can



Pumulo Green Situmbeko
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survive on. And Kambwili says there is too much corruption in the employment of teachers as people are paying as much as K10,000 to get employed.

Meanwhile, Choma UPND member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa has observed that PF cadres have become stronger than civil servants.

Debating Head 27 – Public Service Management Division (PSMD) in Parliament, Wednesday, Kambwili noted that PSMD was responsible for negotiating salaries for public service workers.

He however questioned whether PSMD and government were being fair to civil servants and public workers by giving them meagre salaries.

“It is interesting to note that this department we are discussing today is responsible for negotiating salaries for public service workers. And the question I would ask all those in that department and our colleagues on the right, ‘are you really being fair to the salaries being paid to the civil servants and public workers?’ And if by some coincidence, your salaries were changed,

you start earning a salary of a teacher and a teacher starts earning your salaries, how would you feel? As you have come here, you are with drivers who are driving you, are you worried whether they are able to manage three meals per day? And some of you are so bad hearted that you don't even invite your drivers for lunch and yet you know that these are human beings that also deserve to live better,” Kambwili said.

Kambwili urged government to think of public workers come 2019 saying leadership was about uplifting the living standards of the people, not caring about one's pockets.

“Leadership is about uplifting the living standards of our people, not caring about your pockets. Please, 2019 think of the public workers. I know that you can do it and it can be done but mufulo fye mwakwata (you are just sadists). You are doing it deliberately,” he said.

Kambwili urged government to give public service workers salaries that they could survive on. “It has been done before,

from K700 lowest by the late President Micheal Sata to K3,000 lowest. But what we have seen of late, five percent increment, 6.2 percent, come on! Even those who are negotiating, you must have a heart for the people. As you go for the 2019, look at the salaries of the public service workers in view of the fact that this government has brought in so many taxes to the extent that all the money that President Micheal Sata the late gave the civil servants has been diluted. Today its like the civil servants are earning K0. Please lets have mercy, lets feel pity for the suffering masses and not to be selfish and only advance our personal gains,” he said.

And Kambwili observed that there was too much corruption in the employment of teachers as people were paying as much as K10,000 to get employed.

“I'm told, this department (PSMD) facilitates employment and redeployment in the civil service. There is too much corruption in the employment, particularly teachers. People are paying as much as K10,000 to

be employed as a teacher and let us not pretend that we don't know these things. My nephew came to me and said that ‘I need K10,000 for employment’, I told him ‘you can go to hell because I will not do that’. But how many of the people are paying K10,000 to be employed as teachers? So can we sort out this corruption in the employment of teachers,” he said.

Debating the same Head, Choma UPND member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa observed that PF cadres had become stronger than civil servants.

“Not too long ago, a Permanent Secretary for Northern Province (Elias Kamanga) purportedly disciplined his deputy and recordings are in public domain where calls were being made to the Permanent Secretary PSMD to apologise to PF cadres so that they can push in a word. This is a civil service we now have under PF where cadres have become stronger than professionals. PF cadres have become stronger than civil servants under PF, no wonder sometimes certain decisions are made which are bad,” he said.

Meanwhile, Mweetwa charged that PF was no longer a credible government one could look up to deliver through PSMD and the civil service as they were a group of political con men who wanted to continue to hold on to power at all costs.

“PF is mismanaging the civil service, not because they are deliberate but because they lack capacity. In fact they are no longer in the true sense, a credible government one should look up to deliver through PSMD and the civil service, they are just a group of political con men who want to continue to hold on to power at all costs,” he said before he was guided to withdraw the word ‘con men’.

He added that PSMD should know that they had a greater task than “the incompetent, inept and incapable PF which was an accident to the people of Zambia.”

Poor management controls encouraging theft among civil servants, says Sachika

By Abraham Kalito

Former Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sachika says there is a breakdown of management controls and systems in government which he says have created many opportunities for civil servants to abuse and misappropriate public funds.

And Sachika says the Patriotic Front style of management is like a person who has never driven a car but in given the keys to learn while on the High Way.

Reacting to the continuously increase in abuse of funds in government ministries as revealed in the auditor generals report, Sachika said there were many unqualified individuals in charge of government departments who were failing to deliver services as expected.

“The problem as I see it is that there is a breakdown of management controls and systems

in government. This breakdown has created many opportunities for civil servants to misuse resources and it's all because they think they can get away with it. The problem of breakdown of management controls is that unqualified people are appointed to manage your ministries, your departments and parastatal organisations among other departments. When you appoint people, who are not qualified to management positions, you cannot expect them to deliver services to the expectations of the public. Most of these appointments, wrong appointments are made for political reasons. You have people occupy positions as government secretaries who are not qualified for those positions in terms of management capabilities. But they nevertheless occupy those positions as government secretaries because they are party

members and they are friends with those who are in power,” he said. And Sachika said PF was like an inexperienced driver learning on the road.

“And in the current regime, we are in a situation which is similar to a situation where someone gives car keys to an individual who is not trained as a driver, does not know how to drive, has never driven before and you say here is the car can you drive. What do you expect will happen? Do you expect that person to drive properly or normally? No! They will only wreck your car. That is an analogy of the life today and that is what is happening today. We have unqualified individuals who are running ministries and people expect them to deliver services to the expected standards. And because these people are not qualified they cannot manage an institution or a ministry. Lastly the

problem is not only about misuse [of public resources as revealed in the auditor generals report] or stealing of public funds, the problem goes beyond that,” said Sachika.

“Our ministries or government departments are not functioning. They are not functioning, they are not providing the services that we expect them to provide. There is a breakdown of government institutions like the Local government for example. You have parastatal organisations that have stopped functioning because they are not being properly managed. So, you have a problem that is at two levels; abuse and misuse of public funds and breakdown or the disfunction of government institutions and department. So, for me I think that is why there is an increase in abuse of resources as reported in the auditor generals report.”

By Joseph Mwenda

In this verbatim, Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa says he refused to pay the bill after eating lunch at a restaurant because the waitress took so long to bring him a takeaway pack in which to carry what he left over.

Sampa insists that he had money in the pocket but refused to pay for a bad service, adding that other restaurant owners must watch out for him.

He also says his mental faculties are on top of the game and those alleging that he is now running mad are attacking him from a point of ignorance.

Below is the interview:

Question: we have seen a complaint that you went to a restaurant, ate food worth K700 and refused to pay, what happened?

Answer: That happened at the Restaurant called Roan and Sable. I have been going there for months, that is my hangout place for lunch or dinner for the last one year. So I have seen service go down just like it happens to many other restaurants, they come up with good service, they attract customers and after a while when there are too many customers, service goes down. So one of the things that attracted me there was the service other than that I live a stone throw from there. But I have seen service go down there. Sometimes you sit for ten minutes before you are attended to, even when you make an order it

Mayor Sampa explains why he ate food, refused to pay bill

takes longer. I have verbally complained to the manager before but the service hasn't been improved.

So that particular day actually I was having lunch with my uncle Frank Mutubila, my driver and my ADC. Then I had an emergency and I had to leave and I wanted them to pack the rest of the food, but the waiter was nowhere to be seen. And that has happened many times and so that is when I left that note. Let me make it clear that as mayor, I am not looking for popularity, I am looking to have work done and change the culture in Lusaka because when you go to a restaurant, you are paying for the service. So if the service is not good, there is nothing to pay for. I have gone to many restaurants around the world and one of the most prestigious jobs is being a waiter or waitress, people should enjoy their work. You even feel obliged to give them a tip. But in Lusaka it's like they are doing you a favour and then afterwards they bring you a huge bill. So if nobody has ever complained, as long as I am Mayor, I am going to change that attitude.

Q: But don't you have a task force at the council that is supposed to handle such cases, where people can complain and they go to investigate, rather than you implementing when you have personal interest in the matter?

A: I am not going to be a mayor of a theorist in the office, I am going to be on the ground. Where Lusaka residents are complaining, I will be there and get involved. It is me that they saved badly and as an individual I have the right to complain. We have rights as consumers, so the complaint there was more as a consumer not having a good service. I didn't refuse to pay but I am bringing it to the attention that for the service that we pay for, the service has to be there. So I have told them that I will pay after a month and if anything I will even add interest calculated at my bank which is Barclays Bank. But the waiter who service me, I will not pay him a tip. So I am happy that it has received the attention that it has so that the other restaurant owners know that I am watching and as long as I am the Mayor I will ensure that service

is good to customers. It's different if I go to each nsima at the market or Matebeto. That that is why the prices are cheap there because there is no good service. YI can eat lunch for K200, but there it was K700 you expect a service.

Q: But why did you eat the food if the service was bad. Why not protest by refusing to eat the food and also not paying?

A: Remember I didn't say the food was bad, the food was good, it was the service that was bad. The service is from the point that you arrive at a restaurant, how you are welcomed, how the workers treat you during the time of the meal and how they treat you afterwards. My complaint is about the service not about the food. So the bad service was towards the end of the food and after I had finished eating. If anything I was trying to get a package for take away and the service was nowhere to be seen. They were elsewhere lost. So it ought to be a quick service. It's not the food that I am complaining about, I even ate the food and it was okay.

Q: Are you advising Lusaka

residents that if the service at a restaurant is not good they must eat the food and refuse to pay the bill, just as their Mayor has led by example?

A: No really. If they refuse to pay, the restaurant owners will report them to the police. So they should pay but they should report the restaurant for bad service.

Q: But you didn't pay, and not everyone is privileged to be Mayor to get away without paying a bill.

A: If they want the restaurant owners can also report me to the police. But remember that I have not refused to pay, I am saying I will only pay after a month. I had the money in my pocket. Even now I have the K700 in the pocket, but I refused to pay because of the bad service. So I can report them and they can also report me. But in this case, I didn't report them, I acted myself because I am the Mayor and it happened to me.

Q: You have suddenly become a controversial Mayor, Your Worship, people are wondering what is happening to you because something seems to have changed.

Nothing has changed [with

me] and those who know me will actually tell that I am action oriented and I want things to be done. So I want people to be efficient and effective. So everywhere whether it's within the council or everywhere, I just want action. I am not a theorist and I don't condone output that is below standard. I am not here for popularity in this job. If I wanted popularity I was going to be making ice cream and distributing to people because that is what everyone seems to like, but I am not here to please people. But remember, in any job, there are those who are happy [that] you got the job and those who are not happy. There are those among the 35 [in the PF] that wanted this position who think they are better than me, but I can't help it. It's posterity that will judge me.

Q: At one point people were questioning your sanity because of some of the decisions you making and the things you say on social media, in response you said you are not mad yet, are you now finally going mad your Worship?

A: If trying to get word done is being mad, maybe I am. But I am just trying to get efficient work done. I am not going to open my ears to negativity otherwise, I won't work. So now I am closing my ears to all negatives. I have people who advise me that I respect and if I am wrong, they do tell me and I listen to them.

Q: On the National Day of Prayer you were wearing a very wrinkled suit, and people were making fun of you saying your were now so confused in the head that you could not even take a suit to the laundry. There is even a circulating picture that I can send you on WhatsApp. What is going on? Are you okay Your Worship?

A: I have remembered the suit that you are talking about. That was a pure cotton suit, and pure cotton suit anyone who knows will tell you that it is crisp in nature. You can actually fold it like a paper, so when you sit it folds like a paper until you take it to the laundry. That's is just the way it is, it's part of fashion. So if someone doesn't know that type of suit, how can I defend myself if they are attacking me from a point of ignorance?

Q: I can only imagine. Well, thank you very much for the interview Your Worship.

A: You are welcome Joseph.

Deputy Speaker chases Kambwili from Parley over digital migration comment

By Mukosha Funga

Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mwimba Malama yesterday chased Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili from the House after the latter warned that all those who were involved in the digital migration scandal would go to jail. Debating Head 26 on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting services, Kambwili, who is also NDC leader, observed that Information Minister Dora Siliya and ZNBC board chairperson Mulenga Kapwepwe were not being sincere on the digital migration deal.

When asked for a comment over what transpired in Parliament, Kambwili expressed hesitance to talk, saying he did not want the House to accuse him of falsifying the record.

"What you say in Parliament, it's good you have a verbatim because they can take advantage and say that I went to tell lies...but basically, what I was saying was that Dora and Mulenga Kapwepwe are telling lies on the digital migration that it was not single sourced and that there were 12 competitors. And also that StarTimes have brought in extra money to do the studios and that the government program was to end within the line of rail and that StarTimes brought in extra money, that's why they made that joint venture. She actually even said that the money was lent to the joint venture and not the government, so I was telling her that the money was lent to the Republic of Zambia and not the joint venture. And they have been changing stories because this is a scandal and they will never run away from the fact

that this is a scandal. I told them that to migrate four provinces, we spent US\$9 million but to migrate six, they got a loan of \$273 million, what mathematics did they use?" Kambwili asked, in an interview after being chased from the House. "I also told them that how can you bring in StarTimes as a contractor, they deliver the project and you pay them \$273 million, then they come to you and say we want to run this program by us having 60 per cent and you 40 per cent...How can you pay someone and then allow them to get 60 per cent (shares)? That is corruption. At least if you didn't pay them anything and you want them to recover their money for construction...above all, the Zambian people are paying TV levy and then in that bouquet, you are only giving the Zambians two free channels, the rest they have to pay

so why should Zambians continue paying TV levy and pay monthly subscription to this joint venture?" Kambwili said he was chased for stating the truth.

"I told them that if they wanted this thing to end, they should call for an inquiry into this matter and I will be the first witness because I know all the details. Then I ended by saying 'otherwise, mukaya ku jele, mukaya ku chi fungo'. And I sat down then the Speaker told me to withdraw the statement 'mukaya ku jele', I said no, I cannot withdraw it, I can only translate it, it means 'you will go to jail'. Then he insisted that I should withdraw but I refused because it's not unparliamentary. That's when he told me that 'go out of the House'. I said 'thank you very much. I was chased for stating the fact on Topstar deal,' said Kambwili.



Busoli Royal Establishment petition Wanchinga to stop Kingsland City Project

By Tenson Mkhala

Busoli Royal Establishment and Chalimbana River Headwater Conservation Trust have petitioned Water Development Minister Dennis Wanchinga to stop all illegal developments in Lusaka East's local forest reserve.

The group of Busoli Royal Establishment Senior indunas were accompanied by Her Royal Highness Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II's daughter Princess Ncholwe and her principal advisor John Luputa.

Speaking on behalf of Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II, Princess Ncholwe asked the Minister to order the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) to enforce the stop order on Kingsland City Project in the forest.

"We are crying with what is happening in forestry 27. Chalimbana River, as you know, is the source of our water, our livelihood and so, we are here to cry in regards this concern that is affecting our people; not just in the water they drink, but in being there. Minister, we are asking you, as we plead with you that, you hear with your heart our cry! That our people are dying out of what is happening because of what man-made issues have created. The discharge going into our water, the pollution and the fecal matter are a health hazard to the lives of many people in the area. We, therefore, ask you, Minister to order ZEMA to enforce the stop order on Kingsland City Project in the forest because it seems it is being ignored through the issuance of title deeds in the said forest reserve," Princess Ncholwe pleaded.

The Princess said allowing the development to go ahead would mean a lot of lives will be lost due to diseases that would breakout due to pollution and contaminated drinking water.

"If we let those developments go ahead, it will mean a lot of our people will die from diseases caused by pollution and contaminated drinking water. It's not only the Royal Establishment that will be affected, but almost every person in Lusaka. We are, therefore, appealing to you, Minister, to ensure that you critically look into this issue as soon as possible and ensure that you act now before many lives are lost," she appealed.

And Chalimbana River Headwater Conservation Trust board chairperson Robert Chimambo added that the Trust was deeply concerned with the illegal development taking place in Forest Reserve 27.

"We are deeply concerned that the portion of land in the area has been de-gazetted without following procedures. All we want know is to see how you, as the Minister, together with other line Ministry, can

protect the Forest 27, which has currently been given out. We want you to stop and place a moratorium on the issuance of title deeds in the said forest reserve in order to stop speculative land exchanges now taking place," Chimambo said.

Meanwhile, Wanchinga said his Ministry would engage Ministries of Health, Defence, Local Government in a bid to resolve the issue.

"I know that the pressure on land is very high because of the population growth. So, we have a responsibility to ensure that we strike a very good balance between accommodating this growing population and also preserving our environment. That is where us, as a Ministry and our technical people, we have a responsibility to ensure that we put in place laws and regulations that are aimed at striking this balance because without rivers, there will be no people. It's not

just about drinking water, but also we want to make sure that the water people drink is clean. So, I will be meeting with the Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence and all the institutions that we have under our Ministry, which is ZEMA, WEMA, Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company and share our thoughts on this issue," pledged Wanchinga.

The Ministry further thanked the Busoli Royal Establishment and Chalimbana River Headwater Conservation Trust for handling the matter with care.

Among the indunas present were senior headman Maoma, senior headman Nkomeshya, Headwoman Kasolo, and Headwoman Nashinangwa.

Others were Headwoman Chikonkote, Headwoman Lumbansa, Headwoman Kabeleka and Kakubo.

Law firm sues Kazonga over K380,000 debt

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Lusaka law firm, Central Chambers, has sued former Vubwi MMD member of parliament Eustarckio Kazonga in the Lusaka High Court for failing to settle over K300,000 in legal fees.

Dr Kazonga allegedly instructed the law firm in September, 2011, to represent him in an election petition, but has so far only paid K70,000 of the fees, leaving a balance of K380,000.

In a statement of claim filed in Lusaka High Court, Central Chambers stated that in or about September, 2011, Dr Kazonga instructed the firm to represent him in an election petition in which his election as MP for the said Vubwi Constituency was being challenged.

The firm stated that upon receipt of the instructions, the parties proceeded to agree on the fee scale to be applicable and he was represented in the High Court and Supreme Court where the matter was eventually disposed of.

They stated that Dr Kazonga was rendered a bill amounting to K450,000, but that he had only paid K70,000, leaving an outstanding balance of K380,000. The law firm stated that Dr Kazonga had ignored all reminders to pay the remaining amount.

"Despite several written reminders requesting him to liquidate his indebtedness to the plaintiff, the defendant has ignored, neglected or failed to and still continues to ignore, neglect or fail to pay the said sum," read the statement of claim.

They stated that the firm had suffered loss and damage as a result.

The firm is now claiming payment of K380,000 being money due and payable to them as legal fees for the services rendered to Dr Kazonga at his own request and insistence.

They are further claiming for interest on the sum at the short-term bank deposit rate from the date of writ of summons to date of judgement and, thereafter, at the long-term lending rate until final settlement, costs and any other relief that the court may deem fit.



Water and Development Minister Dennis Wanchinga speaks as Her Royal Highness Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II's daughter Princess Ncholwe and other headwomen listen when the Busoli Royal Establishment and Chalimbana River Handwater Conservation Trust handed over a petition on the destruction of Lusaka East Forest Reserve on November 1, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

When we look around and ask ourselves where the help for Zambia will come from, it makes our hearts bleed. Ordinarily, Zambians would have been so certain by now which direction to go, but that is not as straightforward as it seems, at least not to us.

Of course, there is the United Party for National Development (UPND), which many consider as the most feasible alternative government, and apart from Mr Hakainde Hichilema, there is a horde of other contenders who want to take a go at the presidency in 2021. Some of them don't have what it takes and their political parties will worsen the already prevailing lawlessness and corruption in government, but that is just our opinion. Otherwise, it's really up to the people of Zambia and what they want. The least we can do is to wish all these parties good luck as they seek to liberate the country.

Our opinion on Zambia's future looks at this whole matter more pragmatically. We are very alive to the realistic possibilities out there because we don't live in a cocoon. That is why every time we look over the

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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PF needs a Mwanawasa to emerge from within

horizon, we ask this difficult question: What if PF wins again in 2021? Will Zambia survive another five years of Mr Edgar Lungu's regime?

Let's be realistic; PF cannot be ruled out of 2021. Those who think that Zambia is so decided about the fate of the ruling party to the extent that the opposition will have a walkover are merely cheating themselves. Those who think PF is certainly on the way out no matter what happens are flirting with heart attacks and depression because that is far from obvious.

This is the reality that scares us. Like we have said before, we have no personal problem with President Lungu. We harbour no hate feelings in our hearts

against him and we are proud that he is a living testimony of how an ordinary man from the compounds can rise to become Head of State. So, we always pray for his good health and that God should give him the desired strength to deliver the country to the next juncture. But we don't think he must continue thereafter.

As a newspaper, we embrace Mr Lungu, but still regard him as a well-chosen transition leader who should have left the Presidency two years ago. This has nothing to do with his ethnicity, his physical stature, his age or his religious position; it's about leadership skills. In our view, Mr Lungu finished running his transition race in 2016, but Zambians were generous enough

to give him all this "extra time." Our fear is that if PF wins again in 2021, whatever little that is left for this country will completely be destroyed. Zambia can't afford that.

What is worse is that almost all legal minds in this country agree that the Constitution does not allow President Lungu to stand for the third time; but the 'poor' man is surrounded by people who are enjoying power more than him and they cannot allow him to let go of the Presidency. So, they make sure that they push his face onto the ballot, no matter what it takes.

It is for this reason that we encourage those in the PF who have presidential ambitions to come out as soon as

possible and join those who want to liberate Zambia. Apart from the options that are already available out here, some of which are not inspiring enough, there should be a new force that must emerge from within the Patriotic Front so that in an event that the ruling party wins in 2021, that individual can clean up the mess like Levy Mwanawasa did between 2001 and 2008.

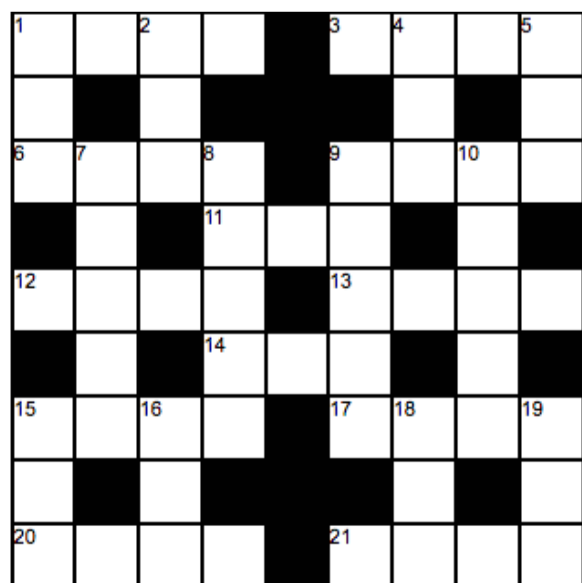
Yes, it is not going to be easy and that person will be fought tooth and nail by President Lungu's inner circle. But as long as that aspirant is a clean contender with no records of corruption or violence, we are certain that they will receive a lot of support from beyond the borders of the Patriotic Front.

We know many Zambians today who are undecided. They are not moved by Mr Hichilema because they don't see how UPND will be different from PF, but at the same time, they want PF to go because of what it has done to Zambia under President Lungu. We share this predicament with these people, but sadly, we can't point them in any direction.

This is the reason why we feel the PF needs to cleanse itself before going to the next general election. That way, if the opposition fails to change government, Zambia will be left in better hands under the same party. There are those who are saying it will be easier to defeat PF if it maintains Lungu as its candidate, but that thinking is lopsided because the incumbent is well-capable of winning again.

All said, we wish to emphasize that we are not here to make a king out of those that are eying the throne; our role is simply to share the information that we have and let the people make their own choice. If Zambians still want Lungu to continue beyond 2021, let them vote for him and we will be here to report about their misery.

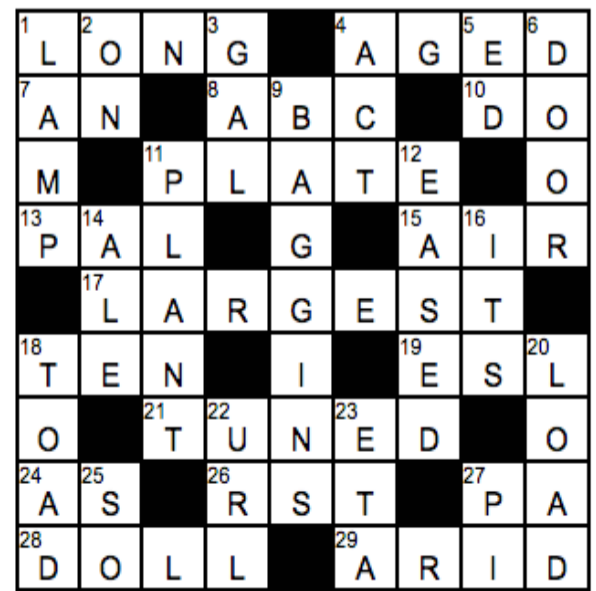
Crossword puzzle 222



*"Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing."
- John Stuart Mill*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Locale 3. Soup containers 6. Nectar gatherers 9. Fries or slaw 11. Household pest 12. Belonging to Ida 13. ___ of Evil 14. Morning riser 15. Lazily 17. Buck or doe 20. Sunrise direction 21. You do this with a book | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long sandwich 2. Casual top 4. ___ Baba 5. Observe 7. Concluded 8. Cheeky 9. Don't sit 10. Tee off 15. "If ___ said it once..." 16. ___ Angeles 18. New Year's ___ 19. Scarlet or Maroon |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 221



Reader's feedback

ND OPINION: ZNBC won't change names, but it's on lease to Chinese

Editor,

"What bothers me is the loan amount that was obtained; colossal sum compared to all countries in the region. And the fact that it was single-sourced raises a lot of questions. This country is big, big trouble." - Roger Ziba

"How long will it take to repay the loan? We don't know. Remember, it's the principle amount plus interest. Was that in the contract that TopStar must come & handle until the loan is totally paid? All this is just digressing, point is: govt denied that TopStar had a stake in DeadNBC. The foolish deal was single-sourced for their benefit. Only dull & Zambia's haters could sign such. I fear for Zesco." - Haggai Gondwe

"ECL has clearly failed and needs to resign honourably and should forget about 2021 based on the level of his performance otherwise independent Zambians and opposition parties need to push for elections. A precedent was set in 1991. Judicial, electoral and police reforms need to be implemented urgently." - Kay Mwenya

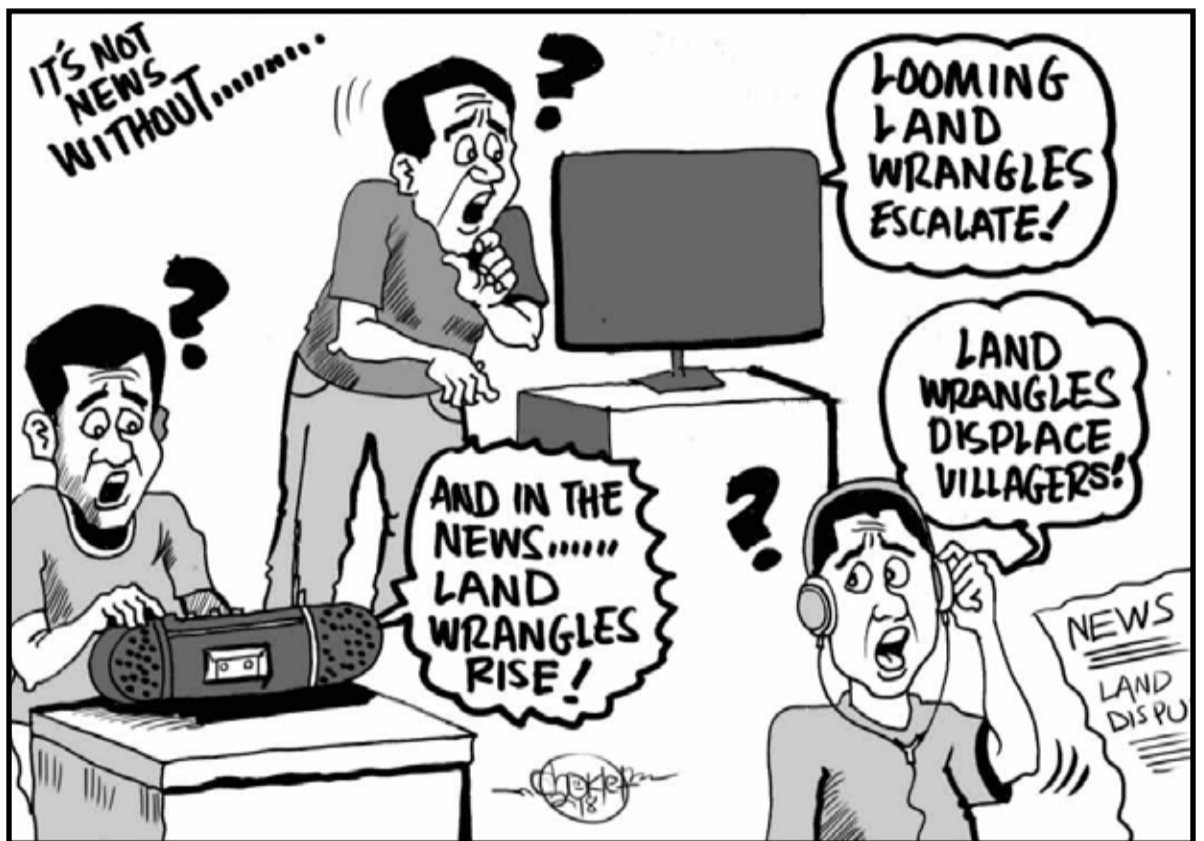
"This is the information the opposition should use to question these spin-doctors. But both the opposition and the Zambian people are mute; watching as if nothing is happening. I remember Kambwili talked about it, no one took him seriously. The only power we have as subjects is to join our hands together and go into the streets.

These people in government can't hear and listen to sound reasoning comments and concerns from us Zambians. They need visible actions and reactions. Enough is enough!!!!!!" - Adams Kambila

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



Katanga's justification of on pastors' arrests

"Someone at Lilayi needs to explain to the police trainees what the word 'politics' means? You cannot discuss the national budget without discussing politics." - Moses Mumba

"Do we have a law that restricts on who speaks on politics?" - Mulenga P. Kaoma

"It's not Charity Katanga's business to monitor a private discussion in a church or a home. And why should Katanga worry if the group 'digressed' during the course of the debate or discussion? Discussing the country's budget is political and there's nothing strange about it. Zambians must join the struggle for regime change!" - Chivunda Samusungwa

"So what? Where is it said that discussing politics is an offence? Some of these cops need to attend court sessions so that they get embarrassed. How does a learned cop think so lowly?" - Mwengo K. Anthony

"She's even exposing her lunacy even more! When did discussing politics become a crime in Zambia? So, if I'm on a bus with fellow passengers and we start discussing politics, Katanga will come and have all of us locked up? The truth of the matter is that all this circus is about 'muzungu anikonde', to please the boss! If Katanga really cared about the law, she'd not have hastened to send a whole battalion, Aikona!" - Terrence Daniel

Maggie's petition appeal win

Dear Editor,

Phiri

"We are not surprised or excited; this country under PF lost integrity a long time ago." - Michael Chisenga

"The grounds were very clear on which the seat was nullified, together with the Munalu one; only the ConCourt can't see." - Davy Sage Mpyundu

"Yesterday I was reading about Mrs Scott's article detailing what the High Court judges based on to declare the seat nullified and void. I then recalled the article of Simeza Sangwa when these judges were appointed. I just felt sorry for Mrs Scott as I contemplated what the outcome would be. But today, I am no longer feeling sorry for her, I am feeling sorry for my country. The rules of justice have evaporated from this country." - Solomon H.

"It was expected considering the fact that Mrs Mwanakatwe is the current Finance Minister, and if she had lost the petition, it could have put the government in an emergency state." - Paul Chrispine Njovu

"What do you expect? This country is like playing soccer with an opponent who is both a ref and player and you are expected to win." - Solomon Ian Simalumba

One black box from the crashed Lion Air jet has been recovered, the head of Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee said Thursday, which could be critical to establishing why the brand new plane fell out of the sky.

The devices record information about the speed, altitude and direction of the plane as well as flight crew conversations and could hold vital clues to the cause of the deadly accident.

"We found one of the black boxes," Soerjanto Tjahjono told AFP.

It was not clear whether it was the flight data recorder or cockpit voice recorder.

The Boeing-737 MAX 8, which went into service just a few months ago, plunged into the Java Sea off Indonesia's northern coast on Monday, killing 189 people, just 12 minutes after taking off from the capital Jakarta en route to Pangkal Pinang city.

The single-aisle Boeing plane is one of the world's newest and most advanced commercial passenger jets.

Images from the crash site showed two divers swim to a support vessel and place an orange-coloured

One 'black box' recovered from crashed Indonesia jet

device into a plastic tub. Despite the name, black boxes are in fact bright orange with reflective stripes, and all commercial

planes are obliged to have them on board.

They're built to survive at vast depths and in extreme heat, and are fitted with a

beacon which can emit a signal for one month.

Black box data help explain nearly 90 percent of all crashes, according to

aviation experts.

"Data from the plane -- the engine, all the instruments -- are recorded there," aviation analyst Dudi

Sudibyo told AFP.

"If there is an anomaly, some technical problem, it is recorded there too."

Dozens of divers are taking part in the massive recovery effort along with helicopters and ships, but authorities have all but ruled out finding any survivors.

Searchers are still looking for the plane's fuselage and only body parts have been found so far, possibly from passengers seated in parts of the jet that were decimated on impact.

"I assume that there will be a lot of bodies still strapped into the seats," Sudibyo said.

On a Jakarta dockside, Boeing and US National Transportation Safety Board officials joined the Indonesian team in sifting through twisted metal plane parts and a pile of personal effects plucked from the sea, from torn clothing and shoes to wallets and mobile phones. *AFP*



Divers retrieved one of the plane's two black boxes, which could hold vital clues to the cause of the deadly accident

S. Korean court allows conscientious objection to military service

South Korea's supreme court ruled Thursday that moral and religious beliefs are valid reasons to refuse the country's mandatory military service, in a case that has implications for hundreds of conscientious objectors.

Some 65 years after the end of the Korean War, nearly every able-bodied South Korean male between the ages of 18 and 35 must still complete around two years of military service.

Anyone refusing the call-up has usually ended up in prison for 18 months, and more than 19,000 conscientious objectors have been jailed since 1950, most of them Jehovah's Witnesses. But the Supreme Court overturned the conviction of a conscientious objector on Thursday, months after a landmark constitutional court ruling that authorities had to provide an alternative to joining the military.

At the centre of Thursday's case is Jehovah's Witness Oh Seung-hun, who was called up in 2013 but refused, was

found guilty, and lost an initial appeal to the high court.

"It is the majority opinion of the supreme court that conscientious objection is... a valid reason (to refuse conscription)," said Supreme Court chief justice Kim Myeong-su.

Punishing conscientious objectors "for refusing conscription on grounds of religious faith, in other words, freedom of conscience, is deemed an excessive constraint to an individual's freedom of conscience", he added.

The decision, by a majority of nine votes to four, overturned a previous Supreme Court ruling 14 years ago.

Oh, 34, said he had refused to join the military as doing so went against biblical teaching.

"The bible says that everyone

who uses a sword will be killed by a sword," Oh told AFP.

"I expected to suffer for objecting to conscription but I thought the pain I would feel by not listening to my

inner voice would be far worse," he added.

Jehovah's Witnesses welcomed the ruling, calling it a "huge step forward in ending this policy of imprisoning our fellow

believers".

"Today the Supreme Court has brought South Korea more in line with international norms," said spokesman Paul Gillies.

According to the Jehovah's

Witnesses, more than 900 similar cases are pending in the South Korean justice system, with another 96 people currently serving prison terms for not fulfilling their duties. *AFP*

Body of missing Nigeria general found in well

The body of a retired Nigerian army general, who mysteriously disappeared on 3 September, has been found in a well.

Gen Idris Alkali went missing while travelling alone from the capital, Abuja, to his hometown in Bauchi state. His car was found a month ago in an abandoned mining pit on the outskirts of the central city of Jos.

Last week the army discovered a shallow grave where the body of the general had been buried before being moved. A military spokesperson said that on Wednesday, one

of the people who moved the body led them to an abandoned well south of Jos, where they were able to recover the general's remains.

Gen Alkali was the Nigerian army's former chief of administration.

He had just retired after 35 years of service when he disappeared.

In previous statements, the army said it believed the general was killed by local youth, protesting a recent attack by gunmen in their community. *BBC*

Breakthrough treatment helps paralysed patients walk

A breakthrough treatment involving electrical stimulation of the spine has enabled paralysed patients to walk again, apparently reactivating nerve connections and providing hope for people even years after accidents.

A team including neurosurgeons and engineers used targeted electrical pulses to achieve the results, triggering individual muscles in a sequence, the way the brain would. The pulses are produced by an implant placed over the spine in careful alignment with areas that control the muscles in the lower body.

And so far, the results are promising.

"This clinical trial has given me hope," said Gert-Jan Oskam, 35, who was told he would never walk again after a traffic accident in 2011. After five months of treatment, he can now walk short distances even without the help of electrical stimulation.

It's the culmination of "more than a decade of careful research,"

Gregoire Courtine, a neuroscientist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology who helped lead the research, told AFP.

Previous trials have used so-called continuous electrical stimulation of the spine, which worked well in rats, but produced less impressive results in

humans.

After several months of training with the targeted pulses however, "our three participants were able to activate their previously paralysed muscles without electrical stimulation," said Courtine.

"The result was completely unexpected,"

he added, in a video released with the publication of the research in the journal Nature Thursday.

"They could even take a few steps overground without any support, hands-free. For me seeing this recovery was amazing."

Footage from the study

shows clearly the way the targeted stimulation differs from the continuous pulses.

With the targeted stimulation, a patient walks in an almost ordinary fashion, his feet rolling down and up as he steps.

The continuous stimulation, by

contrast, produces jerkier movement, with his feet dragging and unbalancing him.

And the targeted pulsing, combined with a programme of extensive physiotherapy, was apparently able to reactivate nerve connections that became dormant when patients were injured.

David Mzee, 28, suffered full paralysis of his left leg after an accident in 2010, but after the five-month programme, he can walk for up to two hours with a walker using electrical stimulation, or take steps over shorter distances by himself.

The stimulation begins with a pulse directed at a muscle to prompt the patient to begin movement, for example a step.

Sensors at the feet detect the movement as the initial phase of a step and send additional targeted pulses to trigger the muscle movements required to complete the step, and repeat it.

At the same time, patients think about moving those muscles and stepping.

Because the neurons in the brain fire at almost the exact same time as the electrical pulses stimulate the muscles, the technique appears to eventually "reconnect" the brain and the muscles.

Patients can then command the muscle movement even without the electrical triggers.. **AFP**



An Afghan National Army soldier keeps watch near the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan October 31, 2018. REUTERS

Woman elected head of Ethiopia's top court

Prominent Ethiopian human rights lawyer Meaza Ashenafi has been elected as the first woman to head the country's federal supreme court.

Her name was put forward by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and MPs unanimously approved the appointment.

It's the latest in a series of appointments in Ethiopia that has seen the promotion of women to top jobs.

Last week, Sahle-Work Zewde became the country's first president - a ceremonial position. The week before, Prime Minister Abiy appointed

a cabinet with half the posts taken up by women.

Ms Meaza founded the Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association in

1995. Before that she was a judge at the high court and helped advise the team drawing up the new constitution in the early 1990s.

She has also worked at the UN Economic Commission for Africa and helped develop the country's first bank for women, state-affiliated

Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) reports.

FBC has tweeted a picture of Ms Meaza being sworn in. **BBC**

N. Korean women face rampant sexual abuse by officials: HRW

North Korean police and other officials prey on women with near-total impunity, a rights group said Thursday, in a rare report on sex abuse in the isolated nation.

US-based Human Rights Watch drew on interviews with more than 50 North Korean escapees to chronicle gruesome details of rape and other abuses perpetrated

by security officers such as border guards, but also civilian officials. The nuclear-armed North, which is accused of widespread rights abuses by the United Nations

and other critics, is a deeply hierarchical and patriarchal society where traditional values of deference to authority still hold sway. **AFP**



Late musician Mac Miller was remembered Wednesday night with a benefit concert called "Mac Miller: A Celebration of Life." at Los Angeles' Greek Theatre to literally sing Miller's praises. Chance the Rapper choked up while thanking Miller "for the friendships that you built through your music and through your artistry." USATODAY

Chris Pine puts on Scottish accent for historical drama "Outlaw King"

"Star Trek" actor Chris Pine swaps space for medieval Scotland in Netflix action drama "Outlaw King" in which he plays 14th century rebel warrior Robert the Bruce who fought the English to regain control of his homeland.

The American actor, best known for playing Captain Kirk in the sci-fi saga, dons armour and puts on a Scottish accent for the role, which follows the man deemed an outlaw by the English king as he pursues the bloody quest for independence.

Deemed a national hero in Scotland, Robert the Bruce

was King of Scots from 1306 until he died in 1329.

"It's certainly about Scottish independence," Pine told Reuters about the film. "But I think ... it's about love, it's about relationships, it's about violence, it's about the cost of the violence, it's about man's will to power and be in power and what one is willing to do to get it."

The historical film, which first premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in September and is released next week, is Netflix's latest major movie offering featuring a Hollywood star.

Lily Allen 'so sorry' after cancelling US shows in Chicago and Minneapolis

Lily Allen has posted a video apology to fans after cancelling two US shows due to illness and after receiving "devastating news".

The singer, 33, said she had been "battling" illness for two weeks and that her gigs in Chicago and Minneapolis had been called off.

In a Twitter post on Wednesday, she said: "I have no choice but to cancel tonight and tomorrow's shows, my throat and vocal

chords are so inflamed and angry.

"Working on rescheduling and will have more info for you as soon as I get it. I am so sorry, I was so looking forward to seeing y'all."

After receiving messages of support, she said: "Overwhelmed by all the well wishers and how understanding everyone is being, thank you all so much. I will make it up to you all I promise. I have the

best fans. Love lily x"

However, some Twitter users were quick to criticise the singer, who responded to the backlash by tweeting earlier in the day: "I am really quite sick, and I've just had some truly devastating news. Can you trolls just allow me for today? Thanks I'm (sic) advance."

Allen's next show after Thursday's cancelled Minneapolis date is due to take place in Denver on

Saturday.

Chicago's The Vic Theatre posted a message which said: "We're sorry to say that tonight's show has been cancelled. Tickets purchased online will be refunded automatically.

"Due to illness, @lilyallen performance scheduled for tonight, October 31, at The Vic Theatre has been cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience."

SKYNEWS



For her second look in 2018, the singer channeled the three-time Olympic gold medalist. Jay-Z, meanwhile, dressed up as fellow gold medalist sprinter Tommie Smith. eonline

Katy Perry knew the Justin Bieber burrito stunt was an imposter: 'The hair was too clean'

Katy Perry wasn't thrilled with this band of Justin Bieber lookalikes' latest front.

Perry commented on several Instagram photos

of Bieber shading him this week, particularly for his hair, which had, prior

to this, week grown out into a shaggy bob before he chopped it off.

Responding to a picture of his hair Tuesday, Perry posted a photo of her in a

similar pose as Timothee Chalamet, who also just Instagrammed a shot of

his new 'do, suggesting that she had a role in him choosing to cut it.

"I knew it wasn't the hair was too clean," Perry commented on Bieber's manager Scooter Braun's Instagram shared Sunday, throwing some shade at Bieber's former long locks.

In Braun's post, he congratulated the pranksters from Yes Theory, the guys behind that supposed Bieber video with his long hair while eating a burrito from the middle section out to the ends.

"Well done to the @yestheory guys... but you can never prank a prankster... as for everyone else...#itisnotjustin,"

Braun captioned the video, reposting it.

USATODAY

Netflix to release three films in theaters ahead of online debut

Netflix Inc will debut three of its upcoming original films in a limited number of theaters before the movies appear on the streaming service, the company said on Wednesday.

The move for "Roma," "Bird Box" and "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" is a change from the company's traditional practice of releasing movies in theaters and on Netflix on the same day.

"Roma," a black-and-white, Spanish-language film about a housekeeper in Mexico, will start playing in cinemas in Los Angeles, New York and Mexico on Nov. 21 and later expand to other cities and countries.

Directed by Oscar winner Alfonso Cuaron, "Roma" will debut on Netflix and in additional

theaters on Dec. 14.

At the end of September, Netflix had 137 million subscribers to its movie and TV streaming service. It began stocking its library with original films just three years ago.

Netflix had been insisting that any movies it sent to theaters be available to its streaming membership on the same day. Most large theater chains remain opposed to Netflix films, and some prominent directors have objected to the idea that their movies would be seen mostly on the small screen.

Now, Netflix's strategy is evolving.

"Netflix's priority is our members and our filmmakers, and we are constantly innovating to

serve them," Scott Stuber, head of Netflix's film group, said in a statement.

"Roma" is a likely contender for best picture, according to Hollywood awards experts, and Netflix's release plan for the film is similar to ones used by traditional studios to promote their arthouse movies ahead of awards voting.

"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," a new movie from " Fargo" filmmakers Ethan and Joel Coen, will start a limited theatrical run on Nov. 8, eight days before its debut on Netflix.

"Bird Box," a thriller starring Sandra Bullock and Sarah Paulson, will begin playing in some theaters on Dec. 13 before hitting Netflix on Dec. 21. REUTERS



Heidi Klum shows up dressed as Princess Fiona from "Shrek" to her 19th Annual Halloween Party at Lavo on October 31, 2018 in New York City. (Photo: Michael Loccisano, Getty Images)

'Mummy' film poster, expected to fetch record, fails to sell at auction

A rare, original poster from the Boris Karloff horror classic "The Mummy" that was predicted to set a record price for a film poster at auction went unsold on Wednesday when no one bid the \$950,000 minimum in the online sale.

Sotheby's had predicted that the work, one of only three known surviving examples of the original lithographic poster from the 1932 film, would fetch up to \$1.5 million.

"Unfortunately, the work did not find a buyer in our online auction that concluded today, but that does not in

any way detract from its importance," Sotheby's said in a statement.

The auction house described the piece as "one of the rarest and most celebrated film posters in existence, and a seminal example of the graphic design pioneered by Hollywood studios during their 'Golden Age of Horror.'"

The poster set a record more than 20 years ago when it fetched \$453,500, a price exceeded last year when a poster from "Dracula," the 1931 horror film starring Karloff rival Bela Lugosi, sold for \$525,800 at auction. **REUTERS**



Three Nigerian-born sisters pregnant at the same time and decided to do a joint photoshoot with their baby bumps when they found out that the youngest sister would be visiting California where they grew up. From left, Onyeka Ufere, Chika Okafor, and Ogechi Babalola. (Photo: Cynthia Onyejiji)

In 2014, Madonna made international headlines by turning her attention back to Detroit and the roots she once left behind as she headed off for fame.

Four years later, the Michigan-born pop superstar still seems committed to the cause: Madonna is announcing a \$100,000 matching-grant challenge for the Detroit Prep charter school as it seeks to move into an abandoned public school building on the city's east side. The progressive elementary school is now housed in a church basement in Indian Village and is

Madonna pledges up to \$100,000 for Detroit Prep charter school

quickly outgrowing the space. Madonna is asking fans and others to contribute to the campaign, and she'll match their collective donations up to \$100,000 through her Ray of Light Foundation.

"Detroit has such a special place in my heart," Madonna wrote in a statement. "Kids in Detroit deserve access to great

schools and I am happy to do my part to give them one!"

Detroit Prep, founded in 2016, is a sister school of Detroit Achievement Academy (DAA), one of the organizations Madonna visited and chose to financially support during a philanthropic tour of the city in summer 2014. At the

time, Madonna funded art supplies for the charter school, while also contributing to the Empowerment Plan and Downtown Youth Boxing Gym.

She has continued to back DAA, including funding for that school's permanent site on West Outer Drive. She also gave teachers 50 front-row

tickets to her Joe Louis Arena show in 2015.

Detroit Prep serves students from kindergarten to third grade, with plans to expand to eighth grade. Like DAA, the school follows the Expeditionary Learning model, which emphasizes principles such as self-discovery, collaboration and

diversity.

Detroit Prep, co-founded by DAA's Kyle Smitley, purchased the abandoned Joyce Elementary School this summer. It has launched a \$2 million capital campaign to rehabilitate the three-story, 44,000-square-foot facility, which has sat unused for about a decade. **USATODAY**

Oprah to shine star power on Democrat Abrams in Georgia governor's race

Oprah Winfrey is lending her star power on Thursday to Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams, who is vying to become the first female black governor in the United States.

The media mogul has long championed Democratic Party causes, and some fans earlier this year tried to encourage her to run against Republican President Donald Trump in 2020.

Winfrey is slated to appear alongside Abrams at two town halls, in Cobb and DeKalb counties, that the Abrams campaign described as "get-out-the-vote" events.

"Oprah will share why she believes Stacey Abrams is the best candidate to represent all of Georgia," a statement from her campaign said.

A representative for Winfrey, 64, declined to comment further on Wednesday.

Winfrey endorsed Democrat Barack Obama before his 2008 White House run, and campaigned for the two-term president.

The contentious gubernatorial race between Abrams, a former leader in the state House of Representatives, and

her Republican opponent, Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp, has been marred by accusations of voter suppression. Last month, former voting rights advocacy groups sued Kemp, whose role makes him Georgia's top election official, accusing the Republican of placing voter registrations on hold to boost his campaign.

Former U.S. President and Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter asked Kemp to resign his position as Georgia's secretary of state, saying his role in state government imperilled popular confidence in the election. **REUTERS**



AC Milan's team-players congratulate AC Milan's Italian defender Alessio Romagnoli (unseen) after scoring a goal during the Italian Serie A football match between AC Milan and Genoa at the San Siro stadium in Milan, on October 31, 2018. (Photo by Miguel MEDINA / AFP)

Juventus officially sever CEO Giuseppe Marotta's contract

Serie A champions Juventus have officially severed the contract of chief executive Giuseppe Marotta after eight years with the Turin giants.

The club announced the "termination of the employment contracts" of Marotta, 61, and chief financial officer director Aldo Mazza, 62.

Marotta will receive 361,775 euros (\$409,000) in compensation, with Mazza getting 278,000 euros, as well as 309,000 euros as settlement compensation and redundancy incentive.

The figures given by Juventus relate to liquidation and indemnity in lieu of notice, but Marotta is reported to have a final payoff of several million, which will also include premiums accrued on the basis of an incentive plan signed years ago.

Marotta was one of the architects of the club's recent successes, with seven Serie A titles, four Italian Cups and two runners-up finishes in the Champions League.

He has been linked with a management role at Chinese-owned Serie A rivals Inter Milan. *AFP*

South African track star Caster Semenya said on Thursday that controversial new rules on female testosterone levels risked "killing" the passion of the next generation of female athletes.

New IAAF rules on female athletes' testosterone levels were due to begin on Thursday, but were put on hold for five months to avoid further delaying proceedings brought by Semenya challenging their legality.

IAAF gender rules 'killing' next generation - Semenya

"This is not about me. I've achieved everything I want in life -- I'm world champion, Commonwealth champion, African champion," she

said when asked why she was challenging the rules at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). "If I let this thing go on, what

about the next generation? It's killing them. What about those young girls who want to run and are maybe in the same situation as mine.

"Someone has to do something... enough is enough, it's been a long time I let these people command." Semenya, with the backing of

the South African Athletics federation (ASA), has turned to the Lausanne-based CAS in her challenge of IAAF rules. *AFP*

La Liga seek fan support for Miami match

La Liga launched a petition on Thursday to prove supporters are behind its plan to stage a league game between Girona and Barcelona in the United States.

Both clubs have signed a formal request submitted by La Liga to the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to allow the fixture to be played at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami on January 26.

Key organisations, however, have objected to the idea, prompting La Liga to seek the approval of fans as part of a #BringUStheGame campaign.

The petition, initiated by La Liga North America, reads: "Imagine watching Luis Suarez, Philippe Coutinho, Cristhian Stuani, Portu, and others competing right here at home. A real league match, with points on the line...There's only one problem.

"Some of the key decision makers are falsely claiming it won't be good for the game in the US. So we, the

fans, need to fight for this match by telling them: It's good for the fans. It's good for the game.

"Are you in? The more support we have, the harder we'll be to ignore."

The targeted fixture is scheduled as a home game for Girona at their Estadi Montilivi, where theoretically they would hold a greater advantage.

Fans have been offered a compensation package, including free flights to the match, but even one game abroad would arguably disturb the balance and integrity of the competition. RFEF president Luis Rubiales has been vocal in his opposition to the idea while the Spanish players' association (AFE) has maintained players will have the final say.

La Liga must be granted permission by the RFEF and US Soccer Federation, as well as UEFA and CONCACAF, the governing bodies in charge of European and North American football respectively.

FIFA's approval is not mandatory but its president Gianni Infantino said last week that world football's governing body would

forbid the proposal. "FIFA will not authorise the playing of a match either in the United States or in any other location that isn't

the stadium of Girona," Infantino said. "As FIFA president, I announce that the organisation is against La

Liga's idea and will forbid Girona-Barca to be held in the United States or any other country that isn't Spain." *AFP*



LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers dribbles past Dallas Mavericks Harrison Barnes en route to a 29-point performance. *AFP*

16-year old Zambian prospect signs for Cagliari

By Alex Chilumbwe

A sixteen year old Zambian midfielder Abel Kanyamuna has been snapped up by top Italian side Cagliari. Kanyamuna, born on 17th June 2002, has been capped once

by the Zambia U-17 having played against Sudan in 2016 in a U-17 Africa Cup qualifier. The midfieder has been on the Italian sides radar for a while and could now make his debut as soon as the weekend

with Cagliari's under -18 who will play Bologna. He is on scholarship in Italy that is owed to his academic excellence. Meanwhile, Footballers and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (FAWUZ) has cautioned all

footballers in the country not to fall for deals that would land them into problems during the transfer window. Union president Linos Chalwe noted that players in different parts of the continent had

suffered contractual challenges owed to failure of understanding the contract. He said this in an interview with Goal Diggers! "This is the time for players to be very alert especially if they do not

understand terms of their deals during the transfer window. Involve agents or informed football experts so that you are not caught in something you did not even understand in the first place," advised Chalwe.

By Alex Chilumbwe

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and Eden University have unveiled a one million and ninety nine thousand Kwacha historic sponsorship deal for Division One. During the unveiling of the first ever sponsorship for Division One in Lusaka yesterday, FAZ president Andrew Kamanga said the deal was for a five year period and would be reviewed annually. Kamanga said that the sponsorship marked a delivery on one of the highlights of his pledges to the Zambian game. "I am happy that we have started this journey of Division One with an education partner. We hope to have a banking partner and a broadcast partner. We are opening up our sponsorship to have as many corporates as possible," Kamanga said. Kamanga further said that every penny in the deal would be accounted for. "Football is evolving now, so when it comes to administration even at FIFA itself, transparency is key so we expect that all those who aspire to run football should be made to account for the way they are running the game," he said. "Going forward through our club licensing we will tighten the screws for our clubs so we expect everyone to be very compliant. All those who may not comply we will not take kindly, the rules have to be enforced. Football is a rule based game," Kamanga added. The football chief further pondered on the possible heights that the association aspired to reach in terms of transparency and consistency. "We hope that with this partnership that we are signing, we should be able to take it to the next level. We do not want people who have failed elsewhere to find a way into football because it is the only place where they can do whatever they want. I will give you an example I

FAZ nails a million kwacha sponsorship deal for Division one

am a chartered accountant, you can take me to ZICA and CIMA. When somebody comes into FAZ, they think they cannot account to anyone," summed Kamanga. And Eden University Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kelvin Kaunda said his organization was happy to sponsor the local football mother body. And FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala explained that the Division One sponsorship would also speed up the national structure proposed under League Restructuring. He added that FAZ was in talks with a broadcast partner that will see Division One matches beamed on television.



FAZ president Andrew Kamanga and Eden University official unveil the cheque for the Division One Sponsorship deal at Football House

By Alex Chilumbwe

Confederation of African Football (CAF) has appointed two Zambian referees that will be among the 2018 African Women Championship (AWC) match officials in Ghana that kicks off on November 17. FIFA referee Gladys Lengwe and assistant

CAF appoints 2 Zambian refs for 2018 AWC

referee Diana Chikotesha officials comprising and 12 assistants. are part of the 25 match 13 centre referees FAZ general secretary

Adrain Kashala called on all Zambians to support the two officials during CAF's announcement of the selection. The announcement was made through a press statement availed to the media in Lusaka yesterday. "Take note of all the achievements that women are making in a male dominated sport. It is important that every Zambian supports them as they are now role models to a number of young girls," said Kashala. Zambian referees have been making the grade on the international front with the ultimate success embodied in Janny Sikazwe officiating at the 2018 FIFA World Cup while Gladys Lengwe was at the 2018 FIFA U20 Women World Cup.



Diana Chitoshi with CAF officials after the appointment for African Women Football Championship assignment.



Nadal pulls out of Paris, Djokovic takes world number one spot

Rafael Nadal pulled out of the Paris Masters on Wednesday guaranteeing Novak Djokovic's return to the world number one spot. Announcing his withdrawal

at a hastily arranged press conference Nadal said: "My abdominal muscles haven't felt good for the past few days, especially on serve, doctors recommended that

I didn't play."

Djokovic arrived in Paris knowing that he would regain the top spot he relinquished two years ago if he bettered the Spaniard's performance at the indoor event he has won four times.

The Wimbledon and US Open champion becomes the first player to start the season outside the top 20 and end up top of the ATP rankings since Marat Safin in 2000.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion had begun his pursuit of the top spot in encouraging fashion with a 7-5, 6-1 defeat of Joao Sousa on Tuesday, his 19th consecutive win.

For Nadal it means delaying his long awaited comeback from injury which has kept him sidelined since the US Open.

Nadal was forced to withdraw from his US Open semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro in early September with a knee injury.

The problem also sidelined him for Spain's Davis Cup semi-final against France,

and also from tournaments in Beijing and Shanghai.

"It's been a difficult year for me in terms of injuries, and so I'd prefer to avoid doing anything drastic," he told the media minutes before his intended match against compatriot Fernando Verdasco who instead faced -- and lost to -- Tunisian lucky loser Malek Jaziri.

"It wouldn't have been good for me nor anyone to return to the court knowing that I wouldn't be able to play my best.

During his enforced time out Nadal joined in the clean-up operation after flash floods killed 12 people on the Spanish holiday island of Majorca where he lives.

After Paris the ATP tour's eight top-ranked players congregate in London from November 11 for the season's Finals.

The 32-year-old Nadal has enjoyed a successful year, clinching his 17th Grand Slam title by winning an 11th French Open in June, after triumphs in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Rome. **AFP**



Dario Benedetto (left) celebrates scoring a goal against Palmeiras that helped Boca Juniors secure their Copa Libertadores final spot against bitter rivals River Plate - AFP

FAZ DIVISION 1 LANDS IN EDEN

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ and Eden University have unveiled a historic sponsorship deal for Division One. **To page 15**

...as University dangles K1m for clubs

