

Criminals have nowhere to hide, we're in 160 countries now - FIC

WE'LL FOLLOW STOLEN MONEY

By Joseph Mwenda

Financial Intelligence Center Director Clement Kapalu says with the FIC's admission to the Egmont group of global financial intelligence units, criminals involved in money laundering practices in Zambia will have nowhere to hide.

Kapalu added that citizens who are on the right side of the law must celebrate the achievement, but criminals have a cause to panic because the center will now follow all proceeds of crime stashed anywhere on earth.

In this verbatim interview, Kapalu outlines the benefits of Zambia's admission to the Egmont group, explains how the center deals with frustrations from critics.

To page 5



Bemba ministers Ronald Chitotela and Chitalu Chilufya pose after their Ngoni cousins poured powder on them during the funeral of Mama Kankasa - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Dora defends 'sale' of ZAFFICO

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says the reported takeover of ZAFFICO by a Chinese entity is not true, saying the government institution plans to float its shares to private buyers,

with majority stake under citizen ownership.

But the minister disclosed that plans are underway for the public listing of the company "with emphasis to reserve majority shares for citizens." *To page 6*



President Lungu confers with Speaker Dr Patrick Matibini during the requiem mass for Mama Chibesa Kankasa at the Anglican Cathedral - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Mushimba predicts below normal rains

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Transport and Communications Brian Mushimba has disclosed that the rainfall forecast indicates that the 2018/2019 rainy season will start by late November

this year and will be characterised by intervals of dry spells.

But Kabwe member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube challenged the accuracy of the minister's information, given the many seasons where the ministry misinformed farmers

To page 2

Be humble like Lungu who eats mangoes by roadside - Mumbi

Story on page 6

Yamba warns thieving PSs

Story on page 6

We won't readopt lazy MPs in 2021, Lungu warns C/Belt

Story on page 7



By Claver Mutinta

The Chamber of Mines has implored mining firms to be innovative and embrace technology to record progress in their operations and mining business.

And government has called on mining companies to employ methods and technologies that guarantee sustainability in the communities.

Zambia Chamber of Mines chief executive officer Sokwani Chilembo has stressed that mining companies need technology to maintain the mining environment safer for business and workforce.

Speaking during the official opening of fourth Health Safety and Environment Conference themed:

Chamber of Mines urges members companies to embrace technology

‘leveraging technology for safety, healthy and environmentally sustainable way for all mining activities’ in Ndola, Chilembo encouraged the mines to mitigate severity on mine incidents.

“There is need for us to work harder to extend the period between incidents in the industry and also to mitigate severity on frequency of incidents. Therefore, we need technology as much as possible to assist them to keep their environment as safe as possible. The

core component of this as businesses, we must innovative and the core business concept is that you are leveraging on human resource by trying to get the best out of them, which naturally implies that you must capacitate them more with knowledge,” Chilembo said.

Chilembo said for continued progress in the mining sector, there is need for an increased and accumulated technological knowledge in the industry. He added that the Zambia Chamber of Mines uses

annual conferences to ensure best practices in the industry among all players. “We come here annually in order that we may increase our knowledge base horizons by sharing best practices, sharing information and experiences, and, therefore, the Chamber has gone to great length to try and have a regional and international pool of contributors to our proceedings. It’s something we hope to use to ensure that there are best standards throughout

the industry,” Chilembo added.

He urged both local and international mining experts to discuss, address and share experiences on typical matters affecting mining operations and safety, among others.

At the same event Ministry of Mines Permanent Secretary Paul Chanda said government’s desire was to ensure a growing mining industry, using technology that generates benefits with zero negative impact on communities.

He said an increase in

mineral production should not be at the expense of human life, adding that government recently expressed serious concerns over high incidents that mine and industrial accidents continued to occur.

“Innovate technology is transforming the way the mining industry operates. Increasing demands for efficient production and workers’ safety are requiring traditional mining companies to embrace innovation,” said Chanda – Suma Systems

Mushimba predicts below normal rainfall as MPs question his data accuracy

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Transport and Communications Brian Mushimba has disclosed that the rainfall forecast indicates that the 2018/2019 rainy season will start by late November this year and will be characterised by intervals of dry spells.

And Mushimba says government has been installing automated weather stations across the country to move away from the manual ones that had been giving some of the inaccurate information.

Giving a ministerial statement in Parliament Friday, Mushimba said the 2018/2019 rainfall forecast indicated that

much of Zambia was likely to receive normal to below normal rainfall during the 2018/2019 rainy season.

“The 2018/2019 rainfall forecast generally indicate that much of Zambia is likely to receive normal to below normal rainfall during the 2018/2019 rainy season. The rainy season is likely to start by late November over most parts of the country and may be characterised by intervals of dry spells. However, the Northern parts of Zambia are likely to start experiencing thunder

storms and showers this month. There is a high chance that most of the rainfall will be received in December, January and February countrywide. There is also a likelihood of below normal rainfall in March 2019 indicating an early ending of the 2018/2019 rainy season especially over the Southern half of the country,” he said. “Lusaka and below will have normal to below normal rainfall. There will be prolonged dry spells and activity such as power generation, we are going

to have challenges because the dams may not fill up as much as we expect.”

He urged farmers and other stakeholders to regularly get in touch with his ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture to access meteorological forecast.

“I wish to urge our farmers and other stakeholders to regularly get in touch with my ministry and Ministry of Agriculture to access meteorological forecast and updates that are made available. The 2018/2019 rainfall season forecast will be categorised into four

periods of three months each. The first period from October, November, December 2018, there is a high likelihood of recording normal to below normal rainfall over much of Zambia, except for North-Eastern parts of the country which is like to receive normal to above normal rainfall during this period,” said Mushimba.

He disclosed that the 2018/2019 season may also experience floods, infrastructure damage, increased chance of disease outbreak like cholera, dysentery and typhoid and occurrence of agricultural pests across the country. Mushimba advised the public to take necessary precautions to avoid loss of lives and property.

“Every season is characterised by wide ranging implications on the social, economic sectors. I wish to inform the nation that the 2018/2019 rainy season, may experience dry spells, insufficient water for domestic consumption, agricultural and also energy production among others, floods, flash floods especially in prone areas, infrastructure damage especially to civil structures such as roads, bridges, increase chance of disease outbreak such as cholera, dysentery and typhoid and occurrence of agricultural pests across the country. Let me advice the

general public to take all the necessary precautions to avoid loss of lives and property until the end of the rainy season,” he said.

He further urged farmers to seek guidance from the Ministry of Agriculture on when to plant, what to plant and crop management.

Asked by Kabwe Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube how credible that information was, given that farmers had been misled in the past by such warnings, Mushimba said government had been installing more automated weather stations, moving away from the manual stations that had been giving some of the inaccurate information alluded to.

He added regular updates were required because they gathered information in quantum.

“Regular updates are required because we gather the information in quantum. When we see that this month is going to have more rain than the next, we will make sure that we provide that information. But the volumes, usually we are very accurate with that. This year we have installed 20 automated weather stations across the country, we are doing eight more before the end of the year, next year we are installing 30 additional automated weather stations,” said Mushimba.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (left) and Millenium Challenge Corporation Vice - President General Counsel and Corporate Secretary Jean Hauch (right) listens to MECB Consulting Limited Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Esau Shawa (centre) at Shaft 5 during the hand over ceremony of the Water Supply Network in Lusaka on Friday, November 2, 2018 - Picture by Salim Henry

By Claver Mutinta

Lumwana Mining Company has scooped the overall best mining company award for 2017 and bagged three other awards in best local content, best social investment and best employer categories. And the Zambia Chamber of Mines also awarded several other mining companies including, Kansanshi Mining Plc at the award presentation gala in Ndola on Friday evening. After receiving the awards, Barrick Lumwana Mining Company sustainability manager Christopher Mukala described the awards as a "tremendous achievement" for the

Lumwana scoops named best mining company of 2017

mining giant.

"This is a tremendous achievement for the mine because it's coming from the time when last year, we only won two awards; one for best social investment and another one for best employer. We've been working very hard as Lumwana Mining Company to build on what we got last year and learnt from our peers in the industry in terms of achievements," Mukala said.

He said Lumwana Mining

Company had upped their game, especially on social investment because of the grassroots investment scope where there was strong impact in the local community.

He attributed Lumwana's triumph in winning the awards to Barrick's scope of social investment

and approach to social responsibility investment.

"In terms of local content, we have a very wide scope, not just in terms of employment, but many other areas that we look at, like women empowerment, alternative livelihoods, and farming. I think without any bias, we've done very

well as a mining company as regards to performance; it is team effort of the members from different departments within the mine, well done to everyone, it's a very good achievement," Mukala added.

He said the awards presentation was important for the mines

to showcase what they were implementing and an opportune time for different stakeholders to see the performance of mining companies.

Lumwana Mine had gone a long way in giving different aspects of local content programmes, which was its key strength in good performance at the awards presentation, according to Mukala.

Mukala further said that investment in the social sector was aimed at complementing government efforts, adding that Lumwana wanted to assist the host community within the available resources.

He also pointed out that Lumwana's plan is to improve and develop the social sector remained very solid.

"We've the Lumwana Community Trust, a viable vehicle for three host chiefdoms surrounding mining operation [Mukumbi, Mumena and Matebo]. The mine provides funding every year for them to select projects of their own choice in their areas to do social investment," said Mukala, who also added that different programmes like scholarships offered by the mine were a milestone and changed lives – Suma Systems

MPs back return of mineral sharing mechanism

By Stuart Lisulo in Siavonga

Parliamentarians from a cross-section of political parties have endorsed a proposal to return the Mineral Revenue Sharing Mechanism (MRSM) back to the Mines and Minerals Development Act.

And the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) told members of parliament that there was need for the mechanism to be included in the Act to benefit local communities who host mining activities.

Meanwhile, the Zambia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (ZEITI) have observed that challenges relating to transparency on how mining tax revenues are utilised by government still persist.

According to the CTPD, under Article 136 of the Mines and Minerals Development Act (2008), government is required to implement the MRSM as a means of enhancing revenue sharing to host communities where mining activities take place following strong concerns that indigenous communities still do not benefit from the mining companies.

However, that particular clause was repealed by the Ministry of Mines in view of a lack of clear-cut guidelines on how the mechanism would be implemented.

But following a one-day meeting with 19 parliamentarians hosted by CTPD, Bwana Mkubwa PF member of parliament Dr Jonas Chanda said parliamentarians roundly endorsed the think-tank's proposals to return the MRSM back to the Mines and Minerals Development Act.

"I think that one is overwhelming! Every one of us agrees. What we may not agree is the mechanism in which things may be done. We have all been complaining of how people are not benefiting from the mineral wealth that we have; it's benefiting the foreign companies; there is externalisation of monies as dividends to those outsiders. We want our communities

to benefit so I think the consensus is there," Dr Chanda told News Diggers! in an interview at Fresh View Homes in Siavonga, Saturday. "So, I think on this issue, all of us agree that we need to bring that back as a clause so that the respective communities benefit and the country has to benefit from the mineral wealth."

He added that the return of the clause would ensure that host communities are not rendered destitute once mining companies pull out their investment.

"Mining is a wasting asset; it's not something that you are going to be with. A good example is in my constituency. The first mine on the Copperbelt was in 1902 – Bwana Mkubwa Mine. But if you come to Bwana Mkubwa today, there's just an open pit, there's no copper, and the water there is contaminated; there's acid. So, what have the people of Bwana Mkubwa benefited from that copper, which has been dug for over a hundred years? Nothing," Dr Chanda added.

"By the way, we are just putting the first tar marc road now after 116 years, not from mining resources, but from the government resource envelope. So, that shows you the disaster that can happen. And what has happened at Bwana Mkubwa is what will consequently happen in all the mining towns; starting from the Copperbelt going to North-Western [Province]. So, to me, we should act urgently, and we shouldn't be timid to act; it's our wealth, so the earlier we act, the better."

Dr Chanda said political will in Parliament was strong to introduce a Bill that would ensure the mineral sharing mechanism was enacted.

"But I have no doubt that once the Ministry of Mines have a buy-in that Bill can be made because we are talking about domestic resource mobilisation and resources benefiting the local communities. That can be done quickly; I cannot put a timeline because there

are many stakeholders involved. But from the side of Parliament, that is something that we can lobby very quickly," he said.

"A Bill is more likely to pass if it's coming from government, then we make sure that it's bipartisan where we all lobby members of parliament irrespective of the side. Right now, we have an opportunity because we are discussing the (2019) budget in Parliament and we haven't yet debated the appropriations towards the Ministry of Mines so it's a huge opportunity when we are debating on mines. We should bring up these issues."

He further expressed gratitude to the CTPD for shedding light on the importance on having the clause returned back to the Act.

"...Very helpful! We have learnt a lot of information on how these resources, which should be benefiting us, as a country, are being externalised out. I think there

are very good proposals on how these mineral royalties should be shared. There are proposals to take them to the local authorities...some of us have issues with most of the local authorities in view of the Auditor General's Report; our local authorities need a lot of capacity-building, systems building and they just need to be put in order. Otherwise, just taking money to them in their current state may be a disaster! But that still does not stop the issue that we need to mobilise those resources for the local communities," explained Dr Chanda.

Earlier, following CTPD presentations focused on the MRSM, MPs roundly endorsed the proposal to bring back the clause, but did express reservations on how the funds generated would be managed at local level.

And CTPD executive director Isaac Mwaipopo told MPs that there was need for the mechanism to be included

in the Act to benefit local communities who host mining activities.

He explained the benefits of the mechanism in terms of revenues retained to respond to pressing developmental needs.

Meanwhile, Zambia EITI secretariat head Siforiano Banda observed that challenges relating to transparency on how mining tax revenues are utilised by government still persist as all funds collected from various sectors of the economy are deposited in Control Account 99 held at the central bank.

He, however, added that the practice was also common in other jurisdictions.

The CTPD meeting was a follow-up to an initial interaction held with another group of MPs last year, with an overall objective to lobby parliamentarians to adopt, legislate and implement the Mineral Revenue Sharing Mechanism.



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema shakes hands with Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka for the requiem mass for late freedom fighter Mama Chibesakunda on November 3, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Escorting Mama Chibesakunda Kankasa



Mama Chibesakunda's relatives arrive at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka for the requiem mass on November 3, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Nkandu Luo at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross – Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Ukusefya pa Ng'wena choir of the Bemba speaking people sing at the funeral - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Pole bearers carry freedom fighter Mama Chibesakunda's casket into the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross – Picture by Tenson Mkhala



UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba signs in Mama Kankasa's book of condolences



Police block UPND leaders HH and GBM from passing between the military parade at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross shortly after attending the requiem mass for Mama Kankasa – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Joseph Mwenda

Financial Intelligence Center Director Clement Kapalu says with the FIC's admission to the Egmont group of global financial intelligence units, criminals involved in money laundering practices in Zambia will have nowhere to hide.

He told News Diggers that citizens who are on the right side of the law will have nothing to worry about, but stressed that criminals have a cause to panic because the center will now follow all proceeds of crime stashed anywhere on earth.

In this verbatim interview, Kapalu outlines the benefits of Zambia's admission to the Egmont group, explains how the center deals with frustrations from critics of interest and warns money launderers to be very afraid. Question: What does this admission to Egmont group mean for Zambia?

Answer: The admission of Zambia to the Egmont groups of FIUs is a significant achievement in terms of development for the Zambian Financial Intelligence Center. To be admitted to the Egmont group takes a rigorous process where a country has to undergo serious assessment. We had three missions of assessors coming to Zambia to look at how the center operates and to satisfy themselves that we comply with the standards that they have set in order to be part of this prestigious group of institutions. They look at, standards of confidentiality, protocols on how you communicate information, the operational capacity and the quality of information that you gather.

Q: Explain what this Egmont group is all about?

Criminals have nowhere to hide, we are now in 160 countries, FIC say

A: It is an organization of FIUs in 160 out of about 200 countries in the world, and therefore if you have partnerships with 160 countries, you have taken a significant portion of the globe working with you.

Q: But what is there to be excited about? What will change in your operations?

A: In gathering Financial Intelligence, you will appreciate that crimes relating to money laundering and financing of terrorism activities have an international aspect. If there are proceeds of crime generated in Zambia, in terms of the money laundering process, they will most of the time find themselves outside the country, either permanently or those funds come back after a process we call layering which means washing the funds so that they are distant from the criminal source. There in now comes the importance of the Egmont group.

What this means now is that we are now going to be able to exchange information across these 160 countries. So if you have sent your fraudulently acquired money to Malaysia, it means from here, we will be able to connect with the data base of the Malaysian FIU

and that gives us access to information. So the world becomes much more small, leaving [criminals with nowhere to hide]. That is going to significantly improve the effectiveness of the center.

Q: How were you working with these countries before this admission to the Egmont group?

A: We had been relying on bilateral arrangements through memoranda of understanding. For example, Zambia has an MoU with South Africa and we exchange information. Before this membership, we had MoUs with 18 countries, but the reach wasn't that good. Other countries would not share the information with us.

Q: Let me simplify these questions for the ordinary person understand. So in other words you are assuring Zambians that with this admission, all these criminals in Zambia who are involved in money laundering will have nowhere to hide their money out there in the world?

A: That is exactly what this means. We will follow the money and report it.

Q: What if I hide my proceeds of Crime in Djibouti which is not a member of Egmont?

A: The MOUs with other countries outside this group will continue and we will have information gateways and still follow the money where ever it goes on earth. Sometimes we use Tax Treaties that Zambia has through the Zambia Revenue Authority and the tax authority of that country. This is good for Zambia, if you are on the right side of the law, you must celebrate this, only when you are not clean should you be very worried.

Q: We have heard critics of your work, including former Finance Minister Alexander Chikwanda say that your Financial Trends reports are full of sensation, why do you add salt and tomato to make your reports exciting to the public?

A: We have heard such sentiments. We are a democratic country and people have divergent views. In a layman's language, we simply follow the money. In following the money, there is no room for sensationalism. There is no room of what they are calling raw and unverified data. If I am giving you my report, I am telling you that the money moved from here to there. Most of the times we have more than just a story, we are able to demonstrate to

you how that money moved. When you see a financial matrix in the Trends Report that is given to the public, that is a very censored depiction of what happened. We do that deliberately so that we don't compromise sources or jeopardise the case.

Q: So what you give the public is not the full story?

A: No it is not. The report that goes to law enforcement is deeper, it will have names of real persons and companies and real transactions. We would not be in business for long if we tried to be sensational. Credibility is everything in what we do.

Q: But who provides oversight over you guys at FIC to make sure that you are not fighting personal battles?

A: The FIC board is appointed by the President, and then the board appoints the Director General. So if the appointment of the board is political and the FIC is doing a bad job, then the board can be dissolved. So there is serious administrative accountability in the governance of the FIC. In terms of operational autonomy, that is guaranteed by the law everywhere else in the world.

Q: But are you autonomous enough here in Zambia.

A: When the first assessment was done on the FIC in Zambia [by the Egmont group], there were concerns that the center was not sufficiently autonomous, and in 2016, there were amendments to the law to specifically deal with those issues. And when the next assessment was done there was an agreement that we now meet the international standards that give us that autonomy.

Q: Which citizens can't the FIC investigate? Can you investigate powerful people like the President?

A: What will be helpful is to understand how we get our subjects for investigations. We have institutions that the law has identified as reporting entities, and then we have institutions that are under law enforcement, such as police, DEC and ACC. Reporting entities file reports of suspicious

activities to the FIC. Once those reports are filed, our obligation is to enquire into them. So we don't pick or choose people who we want to investigate.

Q: But if such a file is about the President receiving suspicious money in his account, can you investigate and add that information in your reports?

A: If a bank thinks such a person has done something suspicious, they report. The obligation we have is to simply investigate and surrender our findings to law enforcement who then decide how to proceed depending on the nature of the suspected crime.

Q: We have seen that sometimes you send over 200 cases to law enforcement but only six or so reach prosecution stage, and that gives credence to the narrative that you people just sit in this board room and concoct figures to appear as though you are working. Doesn't that frustrate you?

A: We try not to be emotional about what we do. Our job is simply to follow the money. We have been capacitated enough to perform our mandate. This institution is well resourced with professionals in terms of financial literacy and the law. We have a diverse portfolio. So once we disseminate the reports, it ends there for us. If you go to law enforcement, they will tell you how they prioritise their case load. They may tell you the challenges in terms of resources, but we can't speak for them. We just do our part.

Q: Just in October, the President's spokesperson Mr Amos Chanda projected that their would be a reduction in the financial crimes incidences in your 2018 Trends report owing to public awareness, how does State House know this, have you submitted the next report to the President which has given them that impression?

A: I can't relate to the specific statement that you have referred to, but commenting on the 2018 report, we have only just started working on it, and what is in there, I am in no position to reveal to the public.

Q: Unless there is anything that you may like to add, I want to thank you for the interview.

A: Just to thank you also for your service to the country, we are very keen followers of your paper and we frankly think that the quality of journalism that is coming out of News Diggers inspires a lot of people.

Q: Thank you very much for the compliment.

A: Thanks



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (left) pays his last respect to Late Freedom Fighter and Member of the Central Committee in UNIP Government Mama Chibesa Kankasa at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka on Saturday, November 3, 2018. - Picture by Salim Henry

By Daniel Chansa

Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says the reported takeover of ZAFFICO by a Chinese entity is not true, saying the government institution plans to float its shares to private buyers, with majority stake under citizen ownership.

"The rumours circulating especially in Kalulushi that ZAFFICO has been sold are false. Plans are underway for the public listing of the company with emphasis to reserve majority shares for citizens. Minister of Lands, Hon Jean Kapata will give more details on the matter," Siliya stated on her official Twitter page.

Police in Lufwanyama, Friday, fought running battles with ZAFFICO workers following the reported decision by Government to list the company on the share market and a possible sale of the institution.

Dora defends sale of ZAFFICO

The ZAFFICO workers and saw millers took to the road and blocked the Lufwanyama-Kalengwa road in protest with burning woods.

Police in full riot gear fought with the workers who were in no compromising mood.

"We won't allow the sale of ZAFFICO. Government is more interested in Chinese money than its own people. They have sold the company and how are we going to survive. We have survived for many years under ZAFFICO. This is bad for us, we won't allow this," a worker said.

Copperbelt Commissioner of Police Charity Katanga was unavailable to comment on the matter by press time. Efforts to get ZAFFICO managing director Frighton

Sichone's phones were switched of.

On October 31, the Saw Millers Association of Zambia president William Bwalya had expressed concern with the developments at ZAFFICO.

"ZAFFICO is a success story of Zambia's parastatal companies and has continued to record profits and has continued to pay dividends. They are replanting trees and are expanding their spheres of influence. Listing of shares for sale at a stock market is selling of shares. It is reaching our offices that government has picked Chinese to come and buy these shares disregarding the ZAFFICO customers who have been taking their money to this company for

more than 20 years making it viable, liquid and flowing. These customers have not been considered in the sale of ZAFFICO," Bwalya had said.

he charged that government was selling ZAFFICO for cash not to reinvest in ZAFFICO but to use the money elsewhere.

"Whose benefit? Zaffico is not under any threat of liquidation, why is the government rushing to sell the company that is doing well? In this investment, the government will remain with minority shares and the Chinese will hold major shares. Who will then control ZAFFICO with a land ownership of 100,000 hectares. Such vast tract of land must be owned by citizens. The 100,000



hectares will soon have title," said Bwalya.

"Let government not hide in the name of listing of ZAFFICO shares to the private sector. Let them say the are giving the shares to

the Chinese. The private sector means, citizens and foreigners alike. As major customers of ZAFFICO, we do not feel this move is to empower the citizens, it is purely a Chinese connection.

We unreservedly ask the members of parliament to look at this issue critically as they discuss this sale. Let Workers Compensation Fund control board also give their position if they have failed to invest in tree plantation with ZAFFICO as earlier planned. We have been singing this song with them and NAPSA for a long time that they invest in trees with ZAFFICO. These institutions have been interested in investing in ZAFFICO. So, Chinese money shouldn't be that sweet."

Be humble like Lungu who can eat Mangoes by roadside, Mumbi tells Sampa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says it is unacceptable for Lusaka mayor Miles Sampa to expect people to be kneeling and clapping for him where ever he goes just because of his status.

Phiri said Sampa should learn to suit the environment just like President Edgar Lungu set an example when he bought and ate mangoes from roadside traders in Chongwe.

Last week, Sampa was at the centre of public discourse after he ate lunch worth K700 in the company of his friends, but refused to pay the bill on grounds that he has received a bad service. He then went ahead to feature on a Hot FM Radio programme where he tried to justify he deeds, saying he was working towards improving the delivery of service at Restaurants in Lusaka.

But Mumbi who is also a nominated member of parliament, called into the programme and castigated the Mayor, saying he was out of order.

"As a leader, no matter what status, you [should] suit in the environment you are in and you don't have to tell people that 'no, I am a deputy secretary general, I am a honourable member of parliament and so give me preference' no, let people discover on their own. I have given an example of what the president did [that] on that trip [to Luangwa] as we were coming back, he stopped [and] was buying Mangoes. He bought

mangoes and even started eating them and those people didn't even know that he was a president and when they discovered, they were shocked. And the Bible is very clear that 'God lifts those who humble themselves and drops those who lift themselves up,' Phiri said.

She said Sampa should not expect people kneeling and clapping for him whenever he visits places.

"It is very unfortunate [what he did], that's my young brother and he shouldn't have done that. Lower yourself so that people can easily mix with you. It's not right that people should

be kneeling down and clapping whenever they see him. Even by tradition [it's not right]. He is my young brother and we both come from Muchinga, we don't do things like that," Phiri said.

And speaking earlier during the radio programme, Sampa said he was only trying to make residents

in Lusaka to have a good service for what they pay for. "Yes I Miles Sampa wrote that note to Roan and Sable restaurant. Listen colleagues, I am just trying to improve or trying to get the residents of Lusaka to have a good service when they go to restaurants," said Sampa.

Yamba warns thieving PSSs on abuse of funds

By Stuart Lisulo

Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba has warned that all erring controlling officers found abusing public resources will sternly be dealt with.

In a statement issued by Ministry of Finance spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta, Yamba cautioned controlling officers in all government ministries against abusing public funds.

He reiterated that controlling officers remained instrumental in actualising President Edgar Lungu's vision of ensuring prudence in the management and utilisation of public resources.

Government has in recent weeks suspended several public officers, such as Ministry of General Education Permanent Secretary Henry Tukombe, among 80 other staff, who were found wanting in the abuse of donor funds.

"Mr. Yamba says the Ministry of

Finance will not hesitate to evoke the sanction provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2018, against erring controlling officers and other public officials when regulations and rules governing the handling and utilisation of public resources are contravened. He has urged controlling officers to ensure that the irregularities pronounced in the Auditor General's Report begin to get reversed in future audit instances," Kandeta stated.

"The Secretary to the Treasury was speaking to controlling officers at Protea Hotel in Chisamba, Friday, 2nd November, 2018, during the official opening of a sensitisation seminar on the New Public Financial Management Act, 2018. Under section 10 of the Act, a controlling officer is responsible and accountable for the proper financial management and expenditure of public resources

appropriated to a public body."

According to Kandeta, Yamba told delegates that the Treasury Single Account had been rolled out to 57 out of 62 targeted public sector institutions.

"He told the delegates that the Treasury Single Account; a unified structure of government bank accounts established under section 25 of the Public Finance Act, No. 1, 2018, has been rolled out to 57 out of 62 targeted public sector institutions. He said the impact of the Treasury Single Account has been phenomenal as the Treasury is now able to effectively manage cash resources at reduced cost," stated Kandeta.

Meanwhile, speaking at the same event, Luapula Province Permanent Secretary Dr Buleti Nsemukila stated that controlling officers needed to build their financial governance team through close collaboration

with accounting, auditing and procurement personnel.

"He warned his fellow controlling officers against disregarding advice on financial management matters. Dr. Nsemukila further cautioned the controlling officers in whose provinces Expos are taking place to be on high alert and assure that all resources, included those donated by the private sector and other well-wishers, are disclosed and properly accounted for," read the statement.

The Controlling Officers Seminar was arranged by the Office of the Accountant-General, Ministry of Finance, to help the delegates to appreciate the overview of the Public Finance Management Act, No. 1, 2018, and review the financial and stores regulations to bring them in conformity with the new Act, and to further strengthen internal control systems in the management of public resources.

By Mirriam Chabala

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) has urged government to create space for private sector participation in the economy if its aspirations for 2019 are to come to fruition. In a post budget analysis conducted by the PMRC research department, with support from the centre executive director Bernadette Deka, it was noted that private sector growth and entrenching of macroeconomic stability through fiscal consolidation needed to be at the centre if Zambia's vision of becoming a prosperous middle-income country by 2030 was to be achieved.

PMRC has also questioned why government was unable to fulfil some of the commitments it made in 2018 like setting up a tractor assembly plant at the Lusaka South MFEZ.

"The 2019 National Budget was formulated against the backdrop of the austerity measures being implemented by government to deliver

PMRC questions govt's failure to meet 2018 budget commitments

fiscal consolidation. It provides a firm foundation for the country to return to moderate debt levels, entrench overall macroeconomic stability and promote sustained and inclusive growth. The budget proposes bold and substantial changes in revenue mobilisation and spending strategies in support of the goal for fiscal consolidation. The proposed measures aim to ensure that domestic revenue as a proportion of GDP increases to 18.7 per cent from 17.7 per cent in 2018. The 2019 Budget also aims to achieve a fiscal deficit of no more than 6.5 per cent of GDP from the projected 7.4 per cent in 2018," the report highlighted.

"The focus of the budget is to promote not only

broad-based sustainable and inclusive growth, but also address the high unemployment and poverty levels among the people. To achieve this, the creation of space for private sector growth and entrenching macroeconomic stability through fiscal consolidation is central to this process. The budget is aligned to the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme, the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP), and the vision of becoming a prosperous middle-income country by 2030. The national budget intends to actualise poverty reduction through proportional investments to sectors as outlined in the 7NDP. The Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme is aimed at fiscal consolidation,

reduction of the budget deficit and management of debt while stimulating growth."

The report also highlighted how agricultural productivity remained low in the country, especially among small scale farmers due to high dependence on rainfall for their agricultural activities as well as low value addition.

"The agriculture sector remains the largest employer and coveted diversification torchbearer. After more than 50 years of independence agricultural productivity remains low especially among small scale farmers largely due to high dependence on rain-fed agriculture, poor mechanisation and low value addition. To address some of these challenges the 2019

Budget seeks to promote all year-round agriculture production as well as climate smart agricultural practices through the development of irrigation infrastructure with a 2019 target of 3,000 additional hectares. Government in the 2018 Budget announced plans to set up a tractor assembly in the Lusaka South Multi Facility Economic Zone and has in the 2019 Budget re-echoed the same pronouncement with a promise of access to cheaper equipment to improve mechanisation and productivity," the report read.

"We continue monitoring why the assembly plant was not established in 2018 as planned. Government also announced plans to revise the Food Reserve Act in 2019

to enhance sustainability and efficient management of national strategic food reserves. However, it must be noted that PMRC made submissions regarding revisions to the Food Reserve Act urging the Zambian government to resist the temptation to get involved in maize marketing through the Food Reserve Agency but focus on investments in key drivers of growth in the agriculture sector that include extension services, disease control, livestock management, research and development."

Meanwhile, PMRC has asked government to focus on attracting independent power producers by setting a conducive governance environment in the sector.

"Given the current fiscal constraints, PMRC urges the government to focus on attracting private investment in the electricity sector by setting a conducive governance environment in the sector. This includes effective planning, competitive procurement and contracting," read the report.

"Effective planning is very important for minimising costs for consumers and making the most of independent power producers while procurement should involve tools such as the Least Cost Power Development Plan. In addition to these measures, Government must ensure credit worthiness of the off-taker and state utility company Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) is achieved coupled with high quality independent regulation. These measures have the potential to increase investments in the electricity sector without increasing the financial burden on the Government."

We won't adopt lazy MPs, Lungu warns

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

President Edgar Lungu says there is a scheme by some members of parliament to manipulate intra-party elections to assure them of adoption in 2021 but it will not work.

And President Lungu says he will ignore opposition leaders who want to spread falsehoods to distract government.

Speaking upon arrival at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe international airport, Sunday, President Lungu warned that lazy MPs would not be re-elected in 2021 despite their maneuvers.

"Let me talk about real issues, democracy in the Patriotic Front. When it comes to choosing [leaders], it is an opportunity to ensure that you sieve for yourselves and put those who can work for the country...the best party at the moment is PF and it will continue being PF by weeding out chaps and bringing out the best. The reason I am saying this, there are people who are plotting if they can engineer democracy, democracy is by the people. The roots decide. It is not by manipulation where you say 'no, let us put this one so that they will vote for us to be adopted in 2021, it will never work," President Lungu said.

"Even though there is a scheme by some ingenious characters in PF who want to position themselves for adoption in 2021 by manipulating the electoral process in the party, it won't work. Just do your work and we will see that you were working and we will adopt you. So because of this, there are queries, quarrels, problems...by

2021 we will know who is going to be our leaders in all these constituencies. Stop lying to yourselves. Why I am saying this is because we have information that there are people who are declaring to be leaders by imposing themselves on the people, it will never work. You are just wasting your time."

He insisted that no matter how many people the lazy MPs bought at lower organs of the party, they would not be re-elected.

"To the MPs, just do your work. MPs on the Copperbelt just focus on your work and when 2021 comes, we will assess you and give you

another mandate if you are deserving it. You buy four people, [you tell them], 'please support me', you buy six people, 'support me', kuti bami supporta but ikeisa luntika (they can support you but when the time comes, things will go south). Going forward as a political party, we will hold a central committee meeting in Lusaka soon, to review the outcomes of these elections that we have and also to demand that our election leaders, especially the MPs give us our mid-term reports on what they have done from the time we elected them. And I am sure by the time, Mr Speaker, the government

is arranging the mid-term gratuities, we will assess you on your mid-term report on whether you deserve a second chance or not. And those who have done little, we will give them a yellow card and say 'please pull up your socks...Because they think they are above the party [but] no one is above the party. Not even Edgar Lungu is above the party. So you have heard, especially [here on the] Copperbelt because Copperbelt is where our power lies. So nga wanenuka ninshi (when you become lazy) you are out!" he warned. And President Lungu said he would ignore opposition

leaders who want to spread falsehoods to distract government.

"Minister you have already said that ignore them, I will ignore them. There is a propensity to elevate falsehood into a topic which becomes talk of the day, or talk of the week, or talk of the month...what they want is to distract us, thank you very much for alerting me," said President Lungu after Copperbelt Minister Japhen Mwakalombe told him that UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema had been in the province telling lies that ZAFFICO had been sold to the Chinese.



UPND choir sings at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka for the requiem mass for late freedom fighter Mama Chibesakunda on November 3, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

You see dear readers; there are just some things in life which require a certain level of madness in order to get done. There are a few societal problems which a normal person can't address. Normal people are always afraid of being embarrassed, they are often too cautious with what they do in public to avoid attracting a negative perception or ruining their reputation. So they just walk away.

But that is not the case with a crazy person. A bonkers fellow will use that craziness to address the matter without worrying about their public image. The rest of beneficial society will quietly be happy that the problem has been sorted, while publicly throwing aspersions at the goon who did the dirty work.

Our opinion on the conduct of Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa at Roan and Sable, where he went to eat lunch and refused to pay on account of bad service, is a little different from what almost everyone has observed. We have seen the public outrage that this scandal has caused, but we are concerned that there is one aspect of this story which is being ignored.

Everyone is talking about the craziness of the Lusaka Mayor. People are mocking

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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

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

Mayor's madness will make restaurants sit up

him and alleging that his insanity is slowly getting beyond redemption. But no one seems to be looking at the societal benefits of the Mayor's madness.

We agree with those who are supporting the Mayor's protest but condemning his methods. In fact, when we interviewed him after the incident, we made it clear to him that he was wrong to eat an expensive meal served under 'poor service' then later refuse to pay. We told him that despite being Mayor, he had no legal right to do as he pleased against someone's business.

The right thing for him to do was to report such a bad service to the relevant authority and let the law enforcers investigate and deal with the problem, other than taking the law

into his own hands as an interested party. Even a Republican President; despite all his powers, there is no way he can order that a hotel he slept in be shut down because a bedbug bit him. There are procedures he is expected to follow.

So without getting things twisted, the Mayor was wrong. He acted emotionally and in the processes abused his authority, for which he can easily be sued. But we are here to talk about the benefits of this Mayor's madness. Roan and Sable Restaurant will never be the same again; they now have a point to prove because they have been in the news for the wrong reasons.

The ripple effect of the Mayor's craziness is already showing across the country. People are

posting images from various restaurant and takeaway joints, joking that they would not pay for a bad service. We are very sure that this incident will make restaurant operators sit up. They shouldn't worry about the Mayor eating their free food, but they must worry about being singled out as a restaurant with pathetic service.

Let's face it; Lusaka has plenty of restaurants which actually deserve to be shut down. You are lucky if they just delay to bring you a takeaway pack in which to carry your leftovers, as the case was with the Mayor. Sometimes they literally serve you bad food and demand that you pay, weather you eat it or not. Other restaurants are simply

racist and discriminatory on face value. If you go to such a restaurant dressed like drab, you will not get the same service as a person who walks in dangling Range Rover keys. Individual waiters and waitresses feel they are likely to get a considerable tip from the baller and they will give him preferential treatment.

This is what the Mayor's madness is trying to fix. A normal person will be concerned that refusing to pay because of bad service at a restaurant may be interpreted as simply failing to settle a bill. But the Mayor has done it, and thousands will benefit from this crazy son of a gun.

That said, we now need another crazy fellow with the right measure of madness to give the

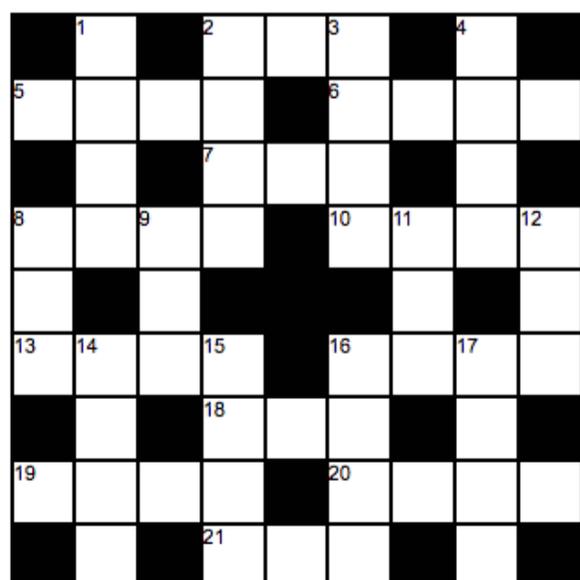
Mayor's council a challenge. There are plenty of rotten services that the Lusaka City Council is providing to the population and no one has stood up to challenge it. Everyone has been too normal and tolerating the nonsense.

What single public service can the Mayor point at and say the council is efficient in this area? His own promise of providing free WiFi to the residents has failed. Even the Civic Center itself doesn't have free Internet for guests. So we need a crazy person to cause a serious seen at the council or any other government department. It seems this government functions better when a little madness is involved.

We are reminded of a common joke among journalists. The joke suggests that one reporter asked Poor People's party president if it was true that he was a mad man. And his answer was; "how can I be normal when everything in the country is mad?"

Similarly, we are constrained from questioning the Mayor's insanity, because how can he be normal in a political party where everyone is mad?

Crossword puzzle 223



*"We are healthy only to the extent that our ideas are humane."
- Kurt Vonnegut*

- | Across | Down |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. Light brown | 1. Duet plus one |
| 5. Let loose | 2. Midterm or final |
| 6. Repulsive to look at | 3. In the buff |
| 7. Unhappy | 4. Take off |
| 8. Praise highly | 8. Muscle spasm |
| 10. Level | 9. Half of bi- |
| 13. Baby bed | 11. Profess |
| 16. Hit hard | 12. Mesh fabric |
| 18. Bread type | 14. Breadbasket item |
| 19. ___ mater | 15. Show off |
| 20. Red Sesame St. puppet | 16. Give the impression |
| 21. Wrigley product | 17. Shirt parts |

Solutions to puzzle 222



Reader's feedback

ZICTA's revelation that fraudsters now using unsolicited messages to swindle consumers

Editor,
"I received one this morning. ZICTA should up their game." - Patrick Mbewe

"What are you doing to help with this situation? The criminals have penetrated in the information system of our communication providers." - Cora Crif

"ZICTA is not helping the situation. They demanded for our personal information only to be accessed by crooks. Are we safe with this ZICTA?" - Mufwambi Mubita

"When people resisted giving personal information to ZICTA, they insisted. Now, they can't keep the data and people are being swindled. Useless ZICTA!" - John Chimba

"ZICTA, you have disappointed us. How can you surely allow criminals to rob us ordinary people? You are having our information, but at the same time you are giving our details to criminals." - Sunday Kayelu

"We've been submitting a whole lot of personal data to you, ZICTA, with the understanding that this information is safe. Are you now saying that you can no longer guarantee the safety of our personal information?? If is the case give

me just one reason why I shouldn't sue you for exposing the information I have entrusted to you to criminals??!" - Khupe Leonid Franz Kafunda

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



TCZ's warning that teachers involved in exam leakage will be de-registered

Editor,

"TCZ should also work with ECZ officials to investigate the sources of the leakages and those involved otherwise de-registering teachers only is not the lasting solution. I believe there are a lot of people involved in such vices; teachers are just disseminators." - Chricious Chongo

"Let us know them first, please. Transparency

demands that we know who is at it and where." - Matakala Musialela

"I am now failing to understand our system; our employer is the teaching service and one is deregistered by teaching council." - Takondwa Chikondi

"Cage ECZ officials and workers; they're the source of leakage. Stop blaming teachers." - Ashford Hamanyanga

ND OPINION: If PF can rig intra-party polls, what more general elections?

Dear Editor,

"I just love News Diggers! period!!!" - Moses Mulenga

"Forever with News Diggers!" - Kashweka Kash Kashweka

"It's a fool's paradise where you go for elections knowing a leader already!" - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"It will be incumbent upon ALL citizens, civil society and political stakeholders to guard the 2021 vote and ensure its credibility. The PF will attempt to break every rule available in the 90-day election period before voting day. Govt resources will be abused prior to election day. I would advise the opposition to get a team of lawyers together in order to attempt to minimize the pending abuse!" - Kwa Mwamba

"Opposition parties must be united to counter PF rigging in 2021." - Chanda Emmanuel

"ECZ needs transformation & restructuring. Criminal elements must be fished out to allow for functional democracy." - Kool Int

N. Korea warns of returning to nuclear policy

North Korea has warned the United States it will "seriously" consider returning to a state policy aimed at building nuclear weapons if Washington does not end tough economic sanctions against the impoverished regime. For years, the North had pursued a "byungjin"

to nuclear policy

policy of simultaneously developing its nuclear capabilities alongside the economy.

In April, citing a "fresh

climate of detente and peace" on the peninsula, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared the nuclear quest complete

and said his country would focus on "socialist economic construction".

But a statement issued by the North's foreign ministry

said Pyongyang could revert to its former policy if the US did not change its stance over sanctions.

"The word 'byungjin'

may appear again and the change of the line could be seriously reconsidered," said the statement carried by the official KCNA news agency late Friday.

At a historic summit in Singapore in June, US President Donald Trump and Kim signed a vaguely-worded statement on denuclearisation.

But little progress has been made since then, with Washington pushing to maintain sanctions against the North until its "final, fully verified denuclearisation" and Pyongyang condemning US demands as "gangster-like".

"The improvement of relations and sanctions are incompatible," said the statement, released under the name of the director of the foreign ministry's Institute for American Studies.

"What remains to be done is the US corresponding reply," it added.

The statement is the latest sign of Pyongyang's increasing frustration with Washington.

Last month, the North's state media carried a near 1,700 words long commentary accusing the US of playing a "double game", implicitly criticising Trump for his comments aimed at barring Seoul from lifting sanctions against Pyongyang.

Despite a flurry of diplomacy on and around the peninsula differences are emerging between Seoul and Washington, which stations 28,500 troops in the South to protect it from its nuclear-armed neighbour.

The South's dovish president Moon Jae-in has long favoured engagement with the North, which is subject to multiple UN Security Council sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

He has dangled large investment and joint cross-border projects as incentives for steps towards denuclearisation, while the US has been adamant pressure should be maintained on Pyongyang until it fully dismantles its weapons programmes.

In an interview with Fox News on Friday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated that sanctions will remain until Pyongyang carries out denuclearisation commitments made in Singapore, adding he will meet with his North Korean counterpart next week. **AFP**

Indonesia extends search for victims, second black box from crashed jet

Indonesian authorities on Sunday extended by three days the search for the victims and a black box from the wreckage of a passenger jet that crashed last week, killing all 189 people on

board.

"We decided to extend it three days" beginning on Monday, search and rescue agency (Basarnas) chief Muhammad Syaugi said at a news conference.

The decision was based on an evaluation and observations of the crash site, he told reporters, noting that many victims' remains had not been recovered.

As of Sunday a total of 105

body bags, few containing intact remains, had been recovered and handed to police for forensic identification, yet only seven victims had been identified.

"I'm sure the total will

increase," Syaugi said.

The agency is prioritizing recovering human remains and the cockpit voice recorder (CVR), the second black box from the wrecked near-new Boeing Co. 737 MAX that smashed into the sea early on Monday, 13 minutes after it took off from Jakarta.

Divers have been honing in on ping signals in their search for the second box, as investigators try to get data from a partly damaged flight data recorder recovered on Thursday.

"The signal picked up by the ping locator has been followed by reliable divers," Syaugi said, "but they haven't found (it) yet."

The device is thought to be around 50 meters from the main search area, where the water is only 30 m (98 ft) deep, but ocean currents and mud on the sea bed that is more than one-meter deep have complicated search efforts, Syaugi said.

The pilot of flight JT610 had asked for, and received, permission to turn back to Jakarta, but what went wrong remains a mystery.

While victims' relatives are desperate to know what happened, the investigation of the first crash of a Boeing 737 MAX is also the focus of scrutiny by the global aviation industry. Preliminary investigation findings are expected to be made public after 30 days.

Indonesia is one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets but its safety record has been patchy. Its transport safety panel investigated 137 serious aviation incidents from 2012 to 2017.

"There's still a lot we need to improve," Air Transportation Director General Pramintohadi Sukarno said at a press conference on Saturday, referring to safety rules. **REUTERS**



U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan conducts military drills during Keen Sword, a joint field-training exercise involving U.S. military, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel and Royal Canadian Navy, at sea November 3, 2018. **REUTERS**

Sacked Sri Lankan PM's residence becomes symbol of power struggle

The banquet hall at Sri Lanka's ousted prime minister's official residence is packed with supporters -- many sleeping on chairs and the floor -- who have come to stand guard as he tussles for power with an old rival.

Thousands of loyalists from across the country are camped out at the Temple Trees residence in Colombo, a colonial-era bungalow where Ranil Wickremesinghe has been holed up since his shock dismissal more than a week ago.

Day and night they top up coconut oil lamps and keep jasmine-perfumed incense sticks burning in the 5,000-capacity banquet hall -- usually reserved for state dinners and VIP weddings -- while the 69-year-old plots his next move.

President Maithripala Sirisena sacked Wickremesinghe on

October 26 but he has refused to accept the decision or to leave the residence so former strongman leader Mahinda Rajapakse -- who was named in his place -- can move in.

S.M. Faheed, a 73-year-old diehard supporter of Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP), vowed to stay there until the constitutional crisis is resolved.

"I will not leave until Ranil is given the PM's chair," Faheed said. "We are here to support him and make sure no one tries to throw him out of Temple Trees."

"If I have to, I will stay here till I die."

Wickremesinghe has asked lawmakers to vote to decide between him and Rajapakse and end the crisis, but parliament has been suspended since his sacking. **AFP**

Husband of freed Pakistani Christian woman appeals to Trump for refuge

The husband of a Pakistani Christian woman acquitted after spending eight years on death row on charges of blasphemy has appealed to U.S. President Donald Trump for refuge, citing danger to family members' lives.

Ashiq Masih, the husband of Asia Bibi, whose case has outraged Christians worldwide and been a source of division within Pakistan, also appealed to the United Kingdom and Canada for assistance.

The ultra-right Tehreek-e-Labaik (TLP) party blocked major roads in Pakistan's biggest cities for three days, calling for the murder of the Supreme Court judges who acquitted Asia Bibi on Wednesday, and terming Prime Minister Imran Khan and the country's army chief enemies of Islam.

The TLP called off the protests late on Friday after striking a deal with the government that could see authorities seek to put Bibi on an 'exit control list' barring her from leaving the country and open a review of the verdict in the courts.

"I am requesting the President of the United States Donald Trump to help us exit from Pakistan," Masih said in a video recorded by

the British Pakistani Christian Association and seen by Reuters. "I also request the

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to help us, I also request the Prime Minister of

Canada," he said, while also asking for help on behalf of his brother Josph Nadeem who has

assisted with Bibi's case. The U.S. Embassy and British and Canadian High Commissions

in Islamabad did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the video. **REUTERS**

Poroshenko, Orthodox patriarch sign accord on independent Ukraine church

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko and the Istanbul-based Orthodox patriarch on Saturday signed an accord that paves the way for the recognition of an independent Ukrainian church, provoking new fury in Moscow.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I had on October 11 agreed to recognise the independence of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church from the Moscow Patriarchate, a move that was welcomed with jubilation by Kiev but condemned as "catastrophic" in Moscow.

On a visit to Istanbul that will see him hold talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Poroshenko signed an agreement setting out the steps needed to formalise the recognition of the independence of the Ukrainian Church, known as Tomos.



Ukraine's president Petro Poroshenko (L) leaves the Fener Greek Patriarchate after meet Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew (R)

"On behalf of the Ukrainian people, I am very grateful to His Holiness and to all the bishops of the Ecumenical Patriarchy for

the extremely important and wise decision to open the road to God for the Ukrainian nation and its church," Poroshenko said.

"The agreement that we signed today sets the conditions so that the preparation to grant the Tomos will be done in

absolute correspondence with the canonical rules of the Orthodox Church." Poroshenko also tweeted: "Today is a historic day. We have reached an agreement on the cooperation between Ukraine and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which we just signed with His Holiness."

The issue is set to play a key role in Ukraine's March 2019 presidential elections with Poroshenko making Tomos a key issue as he plans a re-election bid.

The Patriarchate is based in its historic home of Istanbul, the former Constantinople and once the capital of the Byzantine Empire before the Ottoman Muslim conquest of 1453. Bartholomew is considered the "first among equals" of Orthodox patriarchs.

The Patriarchate of Moscow, which is strongly backed by the Kremlin, argues it technically oversees most of Ukraine's Orthodox parishes and has warned that independence would provoke a rift in global Orthodoxy. **AFP**

Russia turns up uninvited to major NATO wargames

The whirring of a low-flying Soviet Union-era war plane signalled Russia's uninvited arrival to NATO's biggest military exercise since the end of the Cold War.

Marines on board USS Mount Whitney off the Norwegian coast, had gathered for a group photo on deck when the Tupolev TU-142 soared overhead.

"It's a long-range maritime patrol reconnaissance plane," said one fascinated marine after casting an expert eye over the visitor.

Although he had seen plenty of images of the aircraft, this was the first time he had seen it live, so to speak.

Russia has already made clear its displeasure at NATO's Trident Juncture exercises, the largest by the alliance since the end of the

Cold War.

They warned that the two-week long exercise, which it sees as an anti-Russian show of force, would not go unanswered.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, two Tupolev TU-142 carried out a "planned flight" of more than 12 hours.

"All flights by the Russian fleet's maritime planes are carried out strictly in accordance with international airspace regulations," the ministry said on Saturday, according to state news agency RIA Novosti.

Several states, including Sweden, Turkey and Baltic nations, have complained about Russian airspace violations in recent years.

Last week, Moscow also announced plans to test missiles in the region.

According to Avinor, the public operator of

most civil airports in Norway, Russia sent a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) about the missile tests November 1-3 in the Norwegian Sea.

Any missile testing "will not change the plan of our exercise," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Wednesday.

"We have not seen anything resembling a missile test, or even ships or aircraft in the area that would be relevant to documenting or monitoring missile testing," said Robert Aguilar, captain of the USS Mount Whitney.

The Tupolev's passage appeared to be part of Russia's response.

But Colonel Garth Manger, a British Royal Marine in charge of operational duties aboard the US ship, took it in his stride.

"They're watching us and we're watching them," he said. **AFP**

Ariana Grande's new single "Thank U, Next" arrived by surprise on Saturday night -- perfectly timed to the evening's episode of "Saturday Night Live," which featured her ex-fiance Pete Davidson.

Davidson is one of the many exes Grande references in the song's opening lines, along with Big Sean, Ricky Alvarez and Mac Miller, the latter of whom she remembers most fondly: "Thought

Ariana Grande's 'Thank U, Next' single name-drops Pete Davidson, Mac Miller

I'd end up with Sean but he wasn't a match / Wrote some songs about Ricky now I listen and laugh / Even almost got married and for Pete, I'm so thankful / Wish I could say, "Thank you" to

Malcolm 'cause he was an angel."

The rest of the song takes a less sincere tone, as she sings, "Thank u, next / Thank u, next / Thank u, next / I'm so (expletive) grateful for my ex."

Grande seemingly reveals that she's moved on to another man -- "Plus, I met someone else / We having better discussions" -- before revealing that the soulmate she's singing about is, in fact, herself: "I

know they say I move on too fast / But this one gon' last / 'Cause her name is Ari / And I'm so good with that."

The title of the track references the several days of drama between Grande and Davidson that preceded it, stemming from a promo that Davidson appeared in for Saturday's "SNL" episode last week, in which he jokingly proposed to musical guest Maggie Rogers. When she rejected him, he cracked, "0 for 3," referencing his broken engagement with Grande and past attempts at love. Grande didn't think the joke was very funny, slamming Davidson in several since-deleted tweets. "For somebody who claims to hate relevancy u sure love clinging to it huh," she wrote. "Thank u, next." Saturday's "SNL" episode snuck in a reference to Davidson in host Jonah

Hill's opening monologue, in which Hill visited Tina Fey, Drew Barrymore and Candice Bergen in the "Five-Timers' Club" lounge.

Bergen requested "another Pete Davidson" cocktail from Kenan Thompson, going on to explaining the drink as, "All I know is it's got a lot going on, but it still gets the job done."

Davidson went on to directly address his and Grande's breakup during a segment on "Weekend Update," in which he praised his ex and asked viewers to respect their privacy.

"The last thing I will say is, I know some of you are curious about the breakup, but the truth is, it's nobody's business, and sometimes things just don't work out and that's OK," he said. "She's a wonderful, strong person and I wish her all the happiness in the world." *USATODAY*

Mariah Carey was no diva on 'The Voice,' suffered with her heeled boots - Kelly Clarkson

Kelly Clarkson knows what you are thinking, she's read the gossip sites. But Clarkson, 36, insists that Mariah Carey, 48, was so not a diva on "The Voice." The pop legend Carey was a visiting key adviser during the competition series' knockout rounds this week.

"Honest to god, I know everyone thinks she was a diva and probably so awkward," Clarkson tells *USA TODAY*. "I've been doing this show for three seasons. She honestly did her homework, knew the singers, knew the songs and gave solid advice. Everyone was floored. I was floored."

"She could have have walked in and been a diva and we all would have still worked with that," she adds.

Clarkson says she admired how Carey worked through the long studio sessions, navigating the tricky stage on the massive boot heels (very much on display in the publicity pictures).

Carey admitted she didn't get the memo about long bouts of stage walking.

"And she was like, 'Oh Lord, no one told me, I didn't know,'" Clarkson recalls. "On that stage, you're up, you're down, it's kind of like Catholic services but you're doing it in heels. And there are these grates. But she was wearing these amazing boots."

When Clarkson visited the show in past years, the same thing happened to her. She wore big heels. But Clarkson ended up convincing the show's producers to allow her a change to her comfortable Chuck Taylor sneakers.

"But (Carey) didn't

change those amazing shoes," says Clarkson. "It was like, 'Oh lord, don't mess with my feet.'"

The big drama of Tuesday night belonged to Abby Cates, who sang Clarkson's own "Because of You."

Still Clarkson, an alum of

"American Idol," couldn't help but to be jealous that Cates and "The Voice" contestants had Carey's singing advice.

"It's like, I've done a competition like this. And I didn't get no Mariah Carey coaching," says Clarkson. *USATODAY*



Kelly Clarkson: Mariah Carey was no diva on 'The Voice,' suffered with her heeled boots.

Spice Girls to reunite for tour without Victoria Beckham

A report says the Spice Girls are about to give fans what they really, really want: a reunion.

The Sun newspaper said Saturday that the 1990s girl group is about to announce a new tour, but without original member Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham.

The newspaper says the band has recorded a message that will be broadcast Monday announcing a 2019 U.K. stadium tour.

Apart from Beckham, now a successful fashion designer, the lineup includes Melanie "Sporty Spice" Chisholm, Emma "Baby Spice" Bunton, Melanie "Scary Spice" Brown and Geri "Ginger Spice" Horner.

The band was a 1990s phenomenon with hits including "Wannabe" and "Viva Forever." They performed as a four-piece for two years after Horner quit the band in 1998, split in 2000 and last reunited at the 2012 London Olympics. *USATODAY*

The Prodigy: 'We don't need to reinvent ourselves'

The Prodigy's Liam Howlett is in the mood to divulge secrets.

For a start, the band's seminal Firestarter video came about by accident, the music producer and songwriter reveals - after he "binned" the video that was intended to accompany the track.

"We've probably thrown away four or five finished videos," Howlett confides. "The guy finished the video for Firestarter and I just hated it and thought it wasn't good enough for the song."

"In the original Keef was in a straight jacket and had this ball bouncing - it was just nonsense. It cost like £100,000 but I just put it in the bin."

Much to the consternation of the band's label, XL Recordings, one assumes - given all that time and money spent shooting and editing the video for it all to go down the drain.

Liam says he "made a few calls", however, and got director Walter Stern on

board - having worked with him previously.

"Videos cost a lot more money in those days and I think we only had £20,000 left, so I asked Walter if he could help us out."

"The reason why the video was black and white was because we couldn't pay for colour," he adds.

Having the menacing-looking Keith Flint perform in a disused London Underground tunnel in anything but black and white seems unthinkable now, but Liam promises it wasn't a conscious decision.

"This is how these things happen with our band, they're very spontaneous. None of it is pre-conceived or contrived in any way. We go with the flow of what feels good and what feels real."

After a four-day shoot for the original, the new



'Bachelor' stars Sean Lowe, Catherine Giudici share emotional photos of son in ICU. USATODAY

video was shot in one day: "We all moaned, everyone was whingeing

we're gonna get asbestos poisoning from the tunnel - from being

down there sweating [like crazy] - but the result is great. It's one of

the greatest videos ever." Fortunately, the 47-year-old didn't get his way over the controversial and groundbreaking Smack My Bitch Up video. He admits to falling out with the video's Swedish director Jonas Akerlund because he didn't like it. "I saw it before it had any of the effects on it - it was just a guy - or a girl, as it happens - walking around with the camera - and it didn't have any of the drugged-out effects on it yet."

"But when I saw it in the end, I was like... this is amazing." BBC

Bill Maher slams Trump as 'racist Paul Revere,' talks Kanye West and Oprah

Bill Maher was sure to highlight as many headline-making names in the political circle as he could during "Real Time with Bill Maher" Friday, including, of course, President Donald Trump.

During his opening monologue, the late night host slammed the president, accusing him of raising fear and alarm about a caravan of Central American migrants heading to the United States.

"Trump is like a racist Paul Revere. 'The migrants are coming! The migrants are coming!'" Maher said. "He keeps calling it an invasion. Yes, an invasion of strollers."

"Yes, the great invaders of history, Attila the Hun, Ivan the Terrible, Dora the Explorer," he

joked. "Fox News treats it like it's the zombie apocalypse. But zombies eat brains, why would they be heading towards America?"

Maher also talked about Kanye West distancing himself from Trump

earlier this week. "(West) tweeted out, 'I now realize I've been used to spread a message I don't believe in.' And Kim told him he doesn't have to sleep on the couch anymore," he joked.

He also discussed Oprah Winfrey being on the campaign trail in Georgia for Democrat Stacey Abrams, who could make history by becoming the nation's first black female governor.

"(She) went door-to-

door for Stacey Abrams in Georgia. Can you imagine that? Oprah coming to your door?" he said. "So far she's convinced five women to vote for Abrams and two men to put the shot gun down." USATODAY

X Factor cancels voting after sound issues

The X Factor has cancelled its public vote after the show was hit by sound issues on Saturday night.

Viewers complained that the judges and some of the performances sounded distorted and contestants sounded like "Daleks".

ITV apologised and said

the vote will take place on Sunday's show instead.

It is thought to be the first time voting has been cancelled in the singing show's 15-year history.

Viewers started to encounter sound issues during the performance by Danny Tetry and continued through Anthony Russell's song.

A message appeared on screen which read: "We are sorry for the temporary interference in sound."

At the end of the

programme, another message said: "Due to a technical issue, tonight's vote has been cancelled. It will open in tomorrow night's show." BBC



Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette (L) takes a shot past Liverpool's Andrew Robertson to equalise in 82nd-minute during a Premier League Soccer match between Arsenal FC and Liverpool FC on Saturday at the Emirates Stadium in London. Photo by Neil Hall/EPA-EFE

Serena Williams: Roger Federer says American 'went too far' in US Open final

Roger Federer says fellow tennis great Serena Williams "went too far" in her outburst at the umpire during September's US Open final.

Williams received a code violation for coaching, a penalty point for racquet abuse and a game penalty for calling the umpire a "liar" and a "thief" during her defeat by Naomi Osaka.

Federer said the incident could have been handled differently.

"I feel like Serena should have walked away," he told the Sunday Times.

"She did, but she went too far. She should have walked earlier."

Federer did, however, say Williams' actions were "a little bit excusable".

He added: "The umpire maybe should not have pushed her there. It's unfortunate, but an incredible case study." *BBC*

Pochettino salutes Spurs' fighting spirit

Mauricio Pochettino hailed the character of his Tottenham team after they withstood a Wolves fightback to grind out a 3-2 win at Molineux.

Pochettino was keen for his players to learn the lessons on Saturday's thrilling clash after they threatened to throw away a 3-0 lead in a tense finale.

But the Tottenham manager also praised his team's fighting qualities after former England defender Gary Neville this week labelled previous Tottenham teams as 'spineless'.

"When some people make some comments you have to respect the comments," Pochettino said.

"But yes, I was so happy right from the beginning. Since I arrived here we created a very good culture about fight and altogether the belief.

"It was difficult to create that but I am so happy. It is a team that is always going to give the faith in each game.

"We can win or we can lose but we are so intense and today the effort was fantastic."

Pochettino's men appeared to be cruising when Harry Kane made it 3-0 on 61 minutes, adding to first half goals from Erik Lamela and Lucas Moura.

Yet two late penalties from Wolves set up a nervous finish and left Pochettino with mixed feelings.

"When we got to 3-0 we thought and the whole stadium thought the game was over," he said.

"When we arrive in that situation we need to learn about how to play seriously, not make mistakes and not give opponents such poor actions that they can stay in the game.

"That is why I am happy for three points but disappointed with some of the performance."

Pochettino celebrated victory amid a backdrop of injury concerns, especially in midfield, after Mousa Dembele limped off after just six minutes with his ankle heavily strapped.

With Victor Wanyama (knee) and Eric Dier (thigh) already sidelined, Pochettino will conduct a nervous head count ahead of Tuesday's must-win

Champions League game at home to PSV Eindhoven.

"We don't know but we

are a little bit worried. We need to see because we need to assess him on

Monday," Pochettino said of Dembele.

"It will be a shame because

we hope it's not a big issue. It's very painful now but I hope it's not a big issue and he can be with the team again soon."

In his eagerness to rest players ahead of Tuesday, Pochettino handed a Premier League debut to 20-year-old centre-back Juan Foyth, who enjoyed an excellent first half before conceding both penalties after the break.

Such was the nervous nature of his display that Spurs introduced the rested Davinson Sanchez from the bench, but Pochettino backed his youngster to bounce back strongly after Ruben Neves and Raul Jimenez both scored from the spot for Wolves. *AFP*



Tottenham's Lucas Moura celebrates with Harry Kane during their 3-2 win at Wolves. *AFP*

Allegri hails 'leader' Ronaldo as Juve hold off Cagliari

Massimiliano Allegri praised Cristiano Ronaldo's leadership skills as Juventus beat Cagliari

3-1 for their 10th win in 11 games to maintain their six-point cushion at the top of Serie A on Saturday. Paulo Dybala scored after just 44 seconds, with a Filip Bradaric own-goal accounting for Juventus' second after 39 minutes, two minutes after Joao Pedro had pulled the Sardinians level. Ronaldo failed to add to his seven-goal league tally for new club Juventus with the Portuguese superstar hitting the woodwork

before next week's Champions League visit by former club Manchester United.

But the 33-year-old's pass across goal set up Colombian Juan Cuadrado for his first of the season three minutes from time in the Allianz Stadium.

"He has always been a leader and an extraordinary player, as you saw from the assist he put on Cuadrado's foot," said Allegri.

"These are different players who in the decisive moment always come up with a goal or a great pass."

Juventus have 31 points from 11 games with Inter and Napoli both on 25 points.

It is the best ever start to a season for the Turin giants who have drawn just one game against Genoa.

Earlier, Inter Milan crushed Genoa 5-0 to reclaim second spot on goal difference ahead of

Napoli, who had eased past Empoli 5-1 on Friday, and keep the pressure on the seven-time reigning champions.

But Allegri insisted: "This isn't good enough.

"We have to defend better, we concede too many goals and risked letting in an equaliser in the 85th minute.

"Even after the first goal we didn't add a second and drifted out of the game. We can't always assume

that we'll score two or three goals."

Wins by the top three were a boost before next week's Champions League fixtures, with Inter Milan at home against Barcelona and Napoli hosting Paris Saint-Germain.

Eusebio Di Francesco's Roma, however, needed a late Alessandro Florenzi volley to snatch a 1-1 draw at Fiorentina ahead of their midweek trip to CSKA Moscow. *AFP*

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Zambia's first track and field 1991 world champion Samuel Matete has applauded Zambia Amateur Athletics Association (ZAAA) for establishing a Northern Regional Athletic Office at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola. Matete who was appointed to be in charge of the office said its operations would promote athletics in the region adding that there had been an information gap between the head office in Lusaka and other surrounding areas that include Copperbelt. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Matete said he was honoured by the appointment that ZAAA entrusted him with. "I am honoured to be in charge of this office not for my own ego but for the development of athletics in the country. Usually the concentration is always in Lusaka yet talent is everywhere," Matete said. Matete has a personal best of 47.10 seconds in the 400 metres race which he achieved during the Weltklasse, Zurich in 1991. He is also the current African record holder in 400metres hurdles. "I have been seeing social media posts inquiring about issues to do with the sport. Now is the chance for people here to actually have an office they can

Matete celebrates opening of Ndola Athletic Office

go to and learn even more. I would be glad if more offices were established in every province of the country so that the sport can grow bigger," said the African record holder. ZAAA established a Northern Regional Athletics Office at Levy Mwanawasa stadium in Ndola last week and its operations are already running.

By Alex Chilumbwe
 The Zambia women national team on Saturday beat the Black Queens of Ghana 3-2 in their friendly match in Lusaka at Nkoloma stadium ahead of their African Women Football Cup of nations that kicks off on November 17 in Ghana. Shepolopolo's Grace wasted a golden opportunity earlier on when she shot wide in the 15th minute allowing Ghana to take the lead

KundanANJI hat-trick downs Black Queens

in the 21st minute when Portia Boakye's strike found the back of the net. The Queens maintained good possession with an organized 4-2-2 formation that allowed little chances of attacking for Shepolopolo. Ghana managed another goal in the 31st minute through Elizabeth Addo from a well taken set-piece to make it 2-0. A couple of unsuccessful attacks

rocked both teams as Zambia withdrew Judith Zulu for Hellen Chanda in the 37th minute. Ghana led 2-0 at half time. The second half saw a different Shepolopolo with a few substitutions making great impact for the Zambian ladies. Racheal Kundananji scored a brace to level the score and turn the game on it's head. There was more to come from Kundananji as she completed her hat-trick in the 87th minute to seal a well deserved comeback victory for her team. Shepolopolo coach Bruce Mwape said the win against the Black Queens of Ghana had set a good spirit and high morale ahead of the championship in Ghana. "Although we scored late, I am glad we won at the end of the day. It shows how easily they take instructions and how prepared for the tournament in Ghana. The spirit set and the morale are all good," said Mwape. Shepolopolo is in group B alongside Kenya, South Africa and defending champions Nigeria at the women AFCON.



Shepolopolo celebrates after Rachel Kundananji scored a brace. Picture by Jean Mandela.

Brian Mwinga gets player of the month nomination in Austrian Bundesliga

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Austria based Zambian striker Brian Mwila is in the running for Player of the Month in the Austrian Bundesliga. Mwila has hit the ground running at his new club SCR Altach scoring two

goals in four appearances in October. The 24-year old joined SCR Altach on August 31, 2018 after having featured for Buildcon for the first half of the season in Zambia. His former coach at Buildcon Tenant

Chembo said he had always had confidence in Mwila's football talent and skills. He noted that there would be more if he maintained a high interest of learning and competitiveness. "I had so much confidence in him at the

time he was under my management at Buildcon. His skills were always unique and he always wanted to improve. He is bound to greater heights if he continues to be more competitive and learn more," said Chembo.

DEVILS EYE

LUNGU

By Alex Chilumbwe
Nkana CEO Charles Chakatazya says he is in talks with Buildcon midfielder Chisamba Lungu to get him in the Aba Red wagon. Chakatazya in an interview with Goal Diggers! said he had not finalized anything with Lungu yet but indicated that the talks would see fruition in no time. "We are talking with Lungu but we have

not finalized anything yet. Of course there is a huge chance of our talks resulting into something good for both of us. He is a good player that the club would cherish once he is here and we already have other good players at the club that would make a fierce combination with him," said Chakatazya. Chisamba Lungu who also plays as a winger

but primarily an attacking midfielder could be Nkana's

favourite replacement for Idriss Ilunga Mbombo who left the

club for a Sudanese side Al-Hilal Omdurman where he is expected to

be instrumental in the side's CAF champions league campaign.



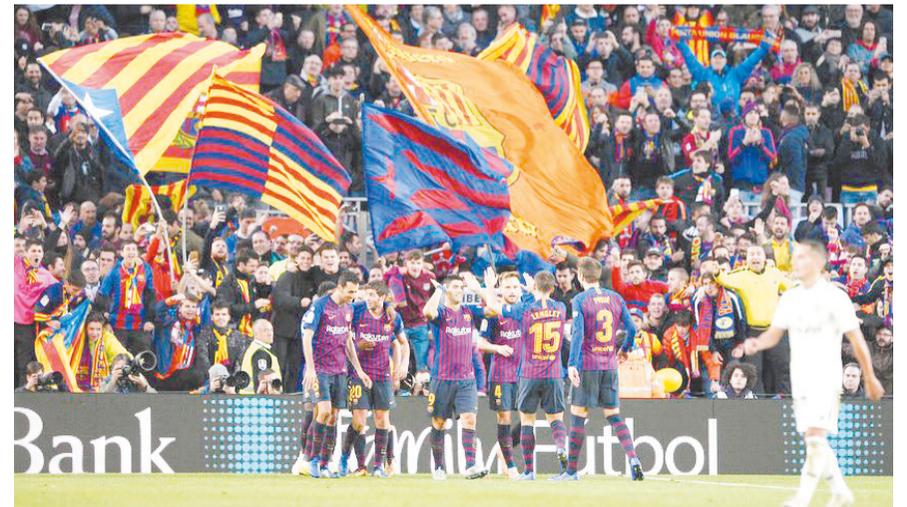
Shepolopolo and Black Queens of Ghana in football action at Nkoloma stadium during the friendly match on Saturday



Ireen Lungu dribbles past a Black Queens defender during Zambia's 3-2 win on Saturday



LeBron James scored 28 points as the Los Angeles Lakers overcame their late mistakes and held on for a win over the Portland Trail Blazers. AFP



Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (C) celebrates his second goal with teammates during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on October 28, 2018.