



FIRED MUTATI'S

MMD RESPONDS

We're not surprised, we don't expect smooth run with PF now

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Lawyer abandons Nakacinda in MMD case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

National secretary of the Felix Mutati-led MMD Raphael Nakacinda was yesterday abandoned by his lawyer in a matter regarding MMD leadership wrangles.

This was after High Court Judge Sharon Newa refused to stay the proceedings of the main case, pending Nakacinda's appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Nakacinda had appealed over the court's ruling that dismissed Mutati and four other's applications where they wanted the court to determine whether acting secretary general for the Nevers Mumba-led MMD faction could challenge their election.

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FILE: Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja explains the treason charge against UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema on April 12, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We're coming for those who incited Kitwe riots - Kanganja

By Abraham Kalito

Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja says Police will investigate individuals who orchestrated falsehoods that led to the riots in Kitwe on the Copperbelt.

Thousands of Residents in Kitwe's Kawama, Buchi and Chimwemwe fought running battles with the Police on Monday, demanding that government explains the alleged sale of ZAFFICO industries to Chinese nationals.

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Sata tollgate cost \$4.3m because it has sophisticated features - Chitotela

By Mukosha Funga

Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela says the Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza cost \$4.3 million because it has superior, sophisticated infrastructure which will not compromise revenue collection at the facility.

And Chitotela says because opposition leaders like Hakainde Hichilema have realized that it will be hard to campaign against President Lungu in 2021, they had resorted to cheap propaganda.

Speaking on ZNBC's Government Forum, Monday, Chitotela responded to concerns regarding the cost of the Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza.

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ConCourt has brought confusion - Brebnar

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Don't blame Lungu for high unemployment, it started during privatization - Haabazoka

By Mirriam Chabala

Economics Association of Zambia president Dr Lubinda Haabazoka says President Edgar Lungu is not responsible for the high levels of unemployment

in Zambia because it has been prevalent since the privatization era commenced in the early 1990s. And Dr Haabazoka says contrary to popular belief, President Lungu holds a lot of press conferences, but in unconventional places like airports.

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Times publishing in Chinese to increase sales, explains Dora

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Lusaka man sues Minister Lusambo over K70,000 debt

Story page 2



By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Lusaka man has dragged provincial minister Bowman Lusambo to court for failing to pay a K70,000 balance on a property he purchased at K350,000 last year.

Coxcy Mudenda, owner of a property known as Lot No. 19897/M Lusaka, is seeking for a declaration that there is no contract between them as Lusambo has breached the contract in question, as well as, an order that Lusambo immediately vacates the subject premises.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Friday, Mudenda stated that on March 18, 2017, he entered into a contract of sale with Lusambo relating to proposed subdivision of Block IC of plot seven and eight of the said plot, at a total cost of K350,000.

Lusaka man sues Bowman Lusambo over K70,000 debt

He stated that Lusambo paid a deposit of K100,000 upon execution of contract and took possession of the premises.

Mudenda further stated that on two separate occasions, Lusambo made two equal payments in the sum of K50,000, bringing the total payments to K200,000 and leaving a balance of K150,000, which was to be paid within 30 days of execution of contract of sale.

He disclosed that Lusambo did not make the payment

and by letter dated October 5, 2017 sent through his lawyers who committed to make the payment by October 13, 2017.

Mudenda stated that he planned to invest the proceeds in a farm project and he had to borrow money when Lusambo failed to stick to the contract.

"The plaintiff was originally hesitant to sell his property but agreed to proceed with the sale based on the understanding as proffered by the defendant

that full payment would be made within a month of execution of contract of sale. The plaintiff's reason for agreeing to enter into the sale agreement with the defendant was to invest the proceeds from the sale in a farm project," read the statement of claim.

"In complete reliance that the defendant would abide to the terms of the contract of sale, the plaintiff went ahead and borrowed monies on interest."

Mudenda further stated that on October 20, last

year, he sent another letter to Lusambo's lawyers, reminding them of their client's commitment and gave them a seven day ultimatum within which to make the payment.

He stated that on November 1, 2017, Lusambo, through his lawyers, wrote a letter proposing to liquidate the outstanding amount in weekly installments of K20,000 but did not honour the proposal as he had only paid K30,000 by July 19, 2018, leaving a

balance of K120,000.

Mudenda stated that Lusambo continued to make promises which he did not meet and on August 27, 2018, made payment of K50,000, leaving the balance of K70,000

He lamented that despite several reminders, Lusambo had failed to pay the balance of K70,000 when he had been in possession of the said property from the date of execution of the contract of sale.

Mudenda added that as a result, he had suffered loss and damage.

He now seeks for a declaration that there is no contract between them as Lusambo had breached the contract in question.

Mudenda is further seeking an order that Lusambo immediately vacates the subject premises, as well as, damages for breach of contract, other reliefs and costs.

Sata tollgate cost \$4.3m because it has sophisticated features, explains Chitotela

By Mukosha Funga

Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela says the Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza cost \$4.3 million because it has superior, sophisticated infrastructure which will not compromise revenue collection at the facility.

And Chitotela says because opposition leaders like Hakainde Hichilema have realized that it will be hard to campaign against President Lungu in 2021, they had resorted to cheap propaganda.

Speaking on ZNBC's Government Forum, Monday, Chitotela responded to concerns regarding the cost of the Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza.

"I have received a lot of queries saying 'why should we construct a toll plaza at K43 million. We are talking about a modern conventional toll plaza with eight lanes. It is not just a toll plaza, it is coming with a back control, a system engagement, a back control room where everything that is happening on all our toll plazas now are linked to the main server at National Road Fund Agency. The total cost includes payment to Zesco supply of electricity, buying of a standby generator, the provision of a software that connects, and we said we are not going to procure a foreign software because we need

to support our own so Zamtel is providing. You find out that the cost of the service provision including electricity and the printing of the cards, because we are launching this for the first time in Zambia, the total cost of connecting, this card will not just work on Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza, it can work on any of the plazas in Zambia, that is the total cost. We have the office block, the server room, a network system connected to the main server at NRFA so that when the cashier is receiving money, even NRFA is able to monitor that and the vehicle number is captured. Whatever is happening at our toll plazas across the country are being monitored so obviously, we are not just talking about the construction of a toll plaza and that's why I said we have different types of toll plazas," Chitotela said. He said toll plazas which were constructed for much less did not have sophisticated software.

"We have what we call a simplified toll plaza which can cost as low as four million. What will determine is that kind of infrastructure that you are putting there and the traffic volumes because you can't put a simplified plaza on Ndola-Kitwe dual carriageway because we are anticipating more than 17,000 vehicles per day and according to the

estimated net per month, we are expecting to be raising between nine to 10 million Kwacha every month on that toll plaza so we need to put enhanced security system so that we don't compromise in terms of revenue collection," Chitotela said.

He said government projected to recoup the \$4.3 million within four months of operation.

"And if you go to the road going to Chipata where we expect only 2,000 vehicles per day, you can't put an enhanced toll plaza like the one we have put at Katuba because it is not cost effective. The investment we have put on that toll plaza which is K43 million, we will be able to raise it within three or four months," he said.

And Chitotela said because opposition leaders like Hakainde Hichilema could not fault President Lungu on delivering development, they had resorted to cheap propaganda.

"You can go to every province in Zambia, you will find some development taking place...at least in every province, there are major infrastructure developments that are taking place. Zambia has been turned into a construction site. The time I was coming, I came with some Zambians that have not been in Zambia for the past two years and they were saying 'is this Zambia?' and I told

them that 'yes, it is good to come and see what we are doing'. And that's why even the opponents, I have never heard anybody condemning that President Lungu is not delivering development. But what

they have resolved to do now is cheap propaganda; inciting Zambians, lying to the Zambians. They began by saying that President Lungu has sold ZNBC to the Chinese just to incite people," said Chitotela.

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By Abraham Kalito

Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya says the move by Times of Zambia to translate some articles from English to Mandarin is in a bid to entice and attract the Chinese community, thereby increasing newspaper sales. Delivering a ministerial statement, Tuesday, Siliya said the decision was a strategy by the Board of Directors at Times of Zambia newspaper aimed at raising the much needed resources as the company has a negative asset value exceeding K600 million. "Mr Speaker, this ministerial statement is in a response to a point of order raised by

Times of Zambia publishing in Chinese to increase sales - Siliya

honourable Jack Mwimbu Member of Parliament for Monze Central on Wednesday 10 October 2018, alleging that the Times of Zambia Newspaper was publishing some articles in Chinese and therefore discriminating against Zambian languages. Mr Speaker the current status of the Times of Zambia is as follows. There are 286 employees. As of

30th September 2018, the company had total assets of K86.4 million with liabilities amounting to K748.5 million. This means the company is technically insolvent with a negative asset value of K662.1 million. The company also has salary arrears of three to 10 months for different categories of staff. Mr Speaker, the Times of Zambia came into being on 7 December 1970 and

merged with the Times Printpak in March 1993," Siliya said. "In January 2016, the company was taken over by the Industrial Development Corporation under Ministry of Finance. Like any other state enterprise, the Times of Zambia is expected to generate enough revenue to declare dividends to its share holders in this case the people of Zambia.

However, as earlier stated, the Times of Zambia has over the years experienced massive financial challenges including obsolete equipment, over-staffing and rigid business model in an environment disrupted by new online media. Mr Speaker, in 2015, the Board and management of Times of Zambia began to explore various ways to raise resources for the

company. Among the strategies identified was to attract new business through subscription and advertising targeted at new commercial communities in Zambia such as the Turkish, the French speaking and the Chinese communities. It is in this regard Mr Speaker that the decision to translate and reproduce some carefully selected stories of the day in Mandarin was arrived at. The Times of Zambia hopes this will expose the paper to potentially new income from a community that would not necessarily be attracted to it because of language barrier." She said the articles did not in any way discriminate against the people of Zambia. "Mr Speaker, the alleged discrimination against the people of Zambia by the Times of Zambia Newspaper publication of an article in Chinese when there has been no such publication in local languages does not arise. Mr Speaker, English is the official language of Zambia the language in which the Times of Zambia Newspaper has always been published. Let me emphasise once again that all stories published in Mandarin are translated from the English version in the same copy," said Siliya.

ConCourt has brought confusion, says Brebner

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Civil Rights activist Brebner Changala says the Constitutional Court was not necessary because it has only added to more confusion in the country. And Changala has questioned why the ConCourt takes long to deliver judgements on matters of national interest saying its torture for Zambians to remain in suspense. Last week, the ConCourt upheld Lusaka Central PF member of parliament Margaret Mwanakatwe's election and declared that she was duly-elected. But in an interview with News Diggers! Changala charged that the ConCourt had become a very dangerous institution. He wondered whether the ConCourt, which is a court of last jurisdiction, could review the ruling of the Lusaka Central seat if UPND loosing candidate Charlotte Scott appealed like in the case of ministers who were asked to pay back their salaries after being in office illegally. "The Constitutional Court has cleared Margaret Mwanakatwe as a duly elected MP but the same court has ruled that Mwanakatwe and many others had stayed in office illegally. By staying in that office there were certain benefits that they had accrued, one of them was monetary and also privilege. Justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done.

Mwanakatwe has been cleared. And the same court told ministers who stayed in office illegally to pay and they have gone back three times to the same court and it has accepted their applications on three occasions. If anybody outside PF had gone back with a ruling like they ruled on Charlotte Scott, if they make another application asking them to revisit their ruling, will they agree? It has become an extremely dangerous institution," Changala said. "There is no institution that has been spared in this country in terms of confidence in our institutions of governance. Since it's inception, the Constitutional Court hasn't performed very well. This court might have not been necessary, it has just added on to more confusion in this country." And Changala wondered why the ConCourt took so long to deliver judgements on matters of national interest. "The ruling has come and gone although a bit late. We are coming from a situation where a presidential petition was thrown out for failing to be managed within 14 days. We have a ruling which is almost two and half years in the same Constitutional court. Now if a presidential petition which is countrywide is 14 days and we have a delay of a parliamentary seat to be decided for almost two and half years, there's a total mismatch and pure

abuse of the people of Zambia. You keep them waiting in suspense that long in a matter that could have been decided in a year or within 90 days, it's torturing the citizens. It's not fair. Why do they torture us only to deliver something that is of no interest to anybody other than themselves?" asked

Changala. "The Constitutional Court should, especially in matters that are of personal interest, give them that urgency, not where people loose interest in a matter. We have the illegibility case of President Edgar Lungu which is taking suspiciously too long. It's a matter of law. Why

can't they tell us? And the President has gone outside now to campaign for 2021. He has gone on campaign while the matter is in court which tells you that the executive has no regard for the Constitutional Court. So if the executive has no regard for the Constitutional Court, who am I to have any regard?"

Lawyer abandons Nakacinda in MMD leadership case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

National secretary of the Felix Mutati-led MMD Raphael Nakacinda was yesterday abandoned by his lawyer in a matter regarding MMD leadership wrangles. This was after High Court Judge Sharon Nawa refused to stay the proceedings of the main case, pending Nakacinda's appeal to the Court of Appeal. Nakacinda had appealed over the court's ruling that dismissed Mutati and four other's applications where they wanted the court to determine whether acting secretary general for the Nevers Mumba-led MMD faction Winnie Zaloumis could challenge their election when her tenure of office allegedly expired in 2016. Justice Nawa had last week dismissed their application with costs, saying it was not only forum shopping, but also an abuse of the court process, a ruling which Nakacinda had appealed against. Meanwhile, Zaloumis informed the court that Nakacinda, Mutati and others held an illegal convention in May, 2016, which purportedly ushered them in as new office bearers,

adding that they have caused a lot of suffering to the party. When the matter came up for hearing, Tuesday, Nakacinda, through his lawyer Jonas Zimba, applied for stay of the proceedings in the main matter, pending determination of the appeal. Judge Nawa, however, declined to grant the application and ordered that trial commenced immediately. But Zimba asked to be excused, saying he had no instructions to represent Nakacinda in the main matter. And when Zimba walked out, Nakacinda appearing in person, applied to have the matter adjourned to enable him engage new lawyers. However, Dr Nevers Mumba's lawyers, Jean Madaika and Mulambo Haimbe objected to the application, saying it was a well-calculated move between Nakacinda and Zimba meant to frustrate the proceedings. Judge Nawa refused to adjourn the matter and directed that Zaloumis, the witness on stand, proceed with her testimony. She added that they would adjourn the matter at the point of cross-

examination and whether Nakacinda would have lawyers to represent him or not, the matter would proceed on Wednesday. In her testimony, Zaloumis informed the court that Nakacinda, Mutati and others, held an illegal convention in May, 2016, which ushered them as new office bearers despite more than half of MMD members having resolved that the convention should be pushed to 2017. She said that there was no National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting that allowed them to hold the illegal convention. Zaloumis further said Mutati and others even went as far as the Registrar of Societies and changed the names of MMD office bearers. She added that they were using the same to prove that they were the legal office bearers of the party. She denied that the Mutati-led faction had received a petition from MMD provincial offices to hold a convention in 2016, saying that even if there was such a petition, it would still require NEC to call for the convention. The matter continues, Wednesday.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

President Edgar Lungu has fired Works and Supply Minister Felix Mutati and has also revoked his nomination to Parliament with immediate effect.

The MMD faction leader has been replaced with Lunte PF member of parliament Mutotwe Kafwaya.

But the Mutati-led MMD faction's national secretary Raphael Nakacinda says the party is not surprised, adding that it does not expect a smooth relationship with the PF going forward.

He however said the PF-MMD alliance continues because it was never anchored on an appointment of any party official into government.

"We are not shocked! We can never be surprised with such a development. First of all, when you are appointed, the only other thing that would happen is for that appointment to be revoked because the person who has appointed you has the right or prerogative to appoint and to disappoint even in the next day. But beyond that, from the political front, I am sure we are all living in the same environment that there has been a lot of

Lungu kicks Mutati out of Cabinet, Parliament

pressure [and] calls from people, speculations, all kind of things that people may conclude could be the reason for the dismissal. But as the CEO of the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy, I would want to stick with principal. And this thing has just happened now, I will be able to speak substantially as days go by because [in] every occurrence, the intent behind it can only be revealed with time," Nakacinda said in an interview, Tuesday. He, however, hastened to add that Mutati's dismissal as Works and Supply Minister will not affect party activities.

"There is no activity of the party that will be affected by this development. We are an independent political party and that position we have reiterated. And we would want that people appreciate [that] alliances are normal in a democracy and, therefore, they

(alliances) should never in any way compromise the system of governance. And the system of governance entails that the President who is elected enjoys all the courtesies and prerogatives of that office and one of them is to appoint and disappoint, but we were never naïve to anchor the survival of the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy on appointments. We have always existed for contestation and elections are the ones that guarantee the future of our party," Nakacinda explained.

He said the party does not expect a smooth run with its associates.

"In reality, even when two people are living in the same room or same environment, it doesn't mean that they will be smiling all the time, there could be moments when you differ on what has been cooked or what has not been cooked, and all those differences. So, it is not only as a result of

today's development, but as we continue marching forward, we do not expect a smooth run with our colleagues, or indeed with any other entity that we may associate with," Nakacinda said.

Meanwhile, Nakacinda said the alliance between PF and MMD continues because it was never anchored on appointments.

"The PF-MMD alliance was not anchored on an appointment for either Honourable Mutati or any individual; the consideration for the alliance was broader than an appointment. And I think it will be lack of maturity for us to anchor that relationship to an appointment. I think the reasons and the basis for which we went to do that alliance will be revealed at an appropriate time on whether to continue or not, but as far as we are concerned, this revocation of that appointment has

not in any way shaken MMD or get us saddened. It is a development that is normal. Honourable Mutati is not the first minister to have been appointed and his appointment revoked," said Nakacinda.

"For now, what would be important, I think it is also important for the country, is that we hold a principled position that the President enjoys the prerogative to appoint a Cabinet and he enjoys the same prerogative to reshuffle Cabinet, move ministers, as well as hire and revoke the appointment. And in this case, honorable Mutati obviously was appointed on merit as an individual but also picked from the alliance partner being the MMD, so the revocation of that appointment for us, we are seeing it in the eyes of the fact that that's the right of the President and any other matter, I think they are matters that we will be able to speak to when we

progress from there," said Nakacinda.

Meanwhile, the newly appointed Works and Supply Minister, who is an accountant by profession and worked for Inyatsi Construction company which donated Land to President Lungu in Swaziland, said he would focus on building capacity at government printers to print the 2021 ballot papers. "A lot has been discussed about building our own capacity to be able to produce election materials for 2021, so that's an area we will be looking at to ensure that we can capacitate ourselves through Government Printers. I will also be looking at government infrastructure, as you know, the Ministry of Works and Supply looks at existing infrastructure so we will be making continuous assessments and we hope to do the right thing in terms of having our infrastructure in the position that it should be," said Kafwaya.

"I will be able to work to the best of my abilities, in terms of ensuring that we work within the confines of the law to support government to deliver to the Zambian people because that's the most important thing."



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Don't blame Lungu for high unemployment, it started during privatization - Haabazoka

By Mirriam Chabala
Economics Association of Zambia president Dr Lubinda Haabazoka says President Edgar Lungu is not responsible for the high levels of unemployment in Zambia because it has been prevalent since the privatization era commenced in the early 1990s. And Dr Haabazoka says contrary to popular belief, President Lungu holds a lot of press conferences, but in unconventional places like airports. Speaking when he featured on a Hot FM's Frank on Hot programme, Tuesday, Dr Haabazoka said it was not right to blame President Lungu for all the unemployment challenges in the country because he did not create them.

and half of them exported outside the country and no new jobs," Dr Haabazoka said. "We are also seeing a change in the structure of our economy. We have seen investment from the (Far) East, such [as where] you increase production efficiency, people coming with machinery... such kind of investment, despite bringing in the country, they are not creating jobs that we wanted. Look at the mining industry, the mining industry employs at maximum 30,000 people directly, indirectly another 20,000. So, about 60,000 people maximum are employed by the mining sector."

He insisted that privatization of the mining sector was the reason why there was too much unemployment in Zambia. "Look at our kwacha; when the kwacha is losing value, people are turning to one person, the President. But that's wrong; we are fighting the wrong thing! Yes, he is answerable to what is happening in the economy, but this volatility in the kwacha did not start under him, it didn't start under Chiluba. Yes, he is in charge, but if you want to solve the problem, you should not look at him, you should go back to the mining industry; the mining industry after privatization. I am not

saying we should not blame him (President Lungu) for anything [but] I am saying we should focus on the actual problem, and the problem is the mining industry," Dr Haabazoka argued. "Imagine, if we were marketing and selling mineral resources here within Zambia, meaning people that wanted to buy our copper, cobalt and diamonds, were going to come and buy in Chambishi, in Kitwe and wherever, and they were going to bring their forex [foreign exchange] here. Even if the mining companies were externalizing profit, our kwacha was going to be

very strong, but we were going to have the guarantee because then, ZRA were going to be monitoring properly how much money is coming in." And Dr Haabazoka said contrary to popular belief, President Lungu held a lot of press conferences, but in unconventional places like airports. "There is an increase in false information, but that false information is as a result of a vacuum that has been created in the economy and because at some point, people have issued conflicting statements, they would want to hear certain things, not from big brothers in the family, but from the

head of that family. It's very important for the President to hold press briefings, actually he normally holds them. But he holds them in places where you don't expect them, [for example] at the airport, when he is unveiling something or swearing-in people. But I think, even with our interaction with investors in Zambia, they say, 'we need to hear it from a press conference' so that everybody starts singing the same song within government. So, as EAZ, that's our advice. We need a press conference, but we cannot appear to force because [if we] start forcing then it will never come," Dr Haabazoka said

Fiscal consolidation an illusion - CTPD

Unemployment levels started increasing after privatization in the 1990s and, unfortunately, from that period, Zambia has never recovered. Jobs are being created here and there, but not faster than the people are floating into society. If we are producing, say 500,000 jobs a year, then we are even going to ask for other people from other countries to come in to help. We have about 6.5 million economically-active citizens and we only have about a million jobs. That is a time bomb, if you understand this time bomb...and I don't want people in government to misunderstand me to say, it's them who started this. It started after privatization, over 220 companies sold,

By Stuart Lisulo
Government will fail to deliver on its promise of fiscal consolidation in the 2019 national budget next year because expenditure will far exceed revenue mobilization, says the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD). In a statement, CTPD executive director Isaac Mwaipopo stated that expenditure in next year's K86.8 billion budget will be excessive and outweigh the government's revenue mobilization efforts. Ahead of the full release of a 2019 national budget analysis, Mwaipopo argued in an executive summary that government will overshoot its expenditure in the targeted areas of next

year's budget compared to revenue generated. "In light of the analysis above and findings of this paper, CTPD is of the considered view that the 2019 national budget will not deliver on fiscal consolidation as fiscal consolidation is achieved when government increases resource mobilization while reducing government expenditure. In light of the analysis above and findings of this paper, CTPD is of the considered view that the 2019 national budget will not deliver on fiscal consolidation as fiscal consolidation is achieved when government increases resource mobilization, while reducing government expenditure. Firstly, in

the 2019 budget, the total budget allocation was set at K86.8 billion against a target of K75.3 billion in the 2019-2021 MTEF (Medium-Term Expenditure Framework). This means expenditure is expected to be above the projected by over 15 per cent. This raises questions on commitment towards fiscal consolidation on the expenditure side," Mwaipopo stated in the summary released, Tuesday. "Secondly, the fiscal deficit is expected to widen since the macroeconomic target has been relaxed from 6.1 per cent of GDP in the 2018 budget to 7.4 per cent of GDP in the 2019 budget. A widening fiscal deficit means that fiscal consolidation will remain an

illusion. Lastly, government plans to increase total borrowing by 43 per cent, while reducing domestic borrowing and increasing external borrowing. This means interest payments are likely to be higher in 2019 and thus making it more challenging to achieve fiscal consolidation on the expenditure side. Domestic resource mobilization has already been excessive with more taxes levied on the struggling working population." He highlighted the government's proposed increase in defence spending, among others, which is far outweighs other critical social sector areas. "With regards, budget

allocations indicated in the 2019 budget as compared to the 2018 budget allocations, we note the following: there will be a significant increase in budget allocation towards defence (45 per cent), and public order and safety (33.6 per cent) against minimal increases in education (14.8 per cent); health (19 per cent) and economic affairs (19.7 per cent). Furthermore, the 2019 budget proposes to increase debt payment by 66.1 per cent from K14.2 billion in the 2018 budget to K23.6 billion. On account of increased debt payments, there has been a reduction in the budget share of education, health and social protection. The allocation to social protection has been reduced by 5 per cent, while that for environmental protection has been reduced by 8 per cent," he narrated.

Police will arrest those who incited Kitwe riot - Kanganja

By Abraham Kalito
Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja says Police will investigate individuals who orchestrated falsehoods that led to the riots in Kitwe on the Copperbelt. Thousands of Residents in Kitwe's Kawama, Buchi and Chimwemwe fought running battles with the Police on Monday demanding that government explains the alleged sale of ZAFFICO industries to Chinese nationals. State House press aide Amos Chanda followed up with a press briefing where he accused the opposition UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema of inciting Copperbelt residents

to riots through his provocative statements on radio. And in a statement issued to News Diggers! Tuesday, Kanganja warned that individuals who orchestrated the xenophobic attacks would be dealt with. "Yesterday, some parts of Kitwe on the Copperbelt Province experienced riots which happened as a result of falsehood peddled by people with concealed agenda. Due to the foregoing, I wish to inform members of the public that police have instituted investigations in the matter," he said. "These investigations will not only focus on those criminal elements

that took part in the riot and looting of two shops belonging to foreign nationals but will be extended to all those that orchestrated the falsehood which led to the disturbance. Police are also investigating those issuing racial and discriminatory remarks which are likely to propagate xenophobic attacks." "Section 67 of Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia criminalises any act of publishing false news whether orally or in writing or any statement, rumour or report which is likely to cause fear and alarm to the public or to disturb public peace. Further, section 70 of the same Act prohibits any person from expressing

or showing hatred, ridicule or contempt for persons on the basis of their race, tribe, place of origin or colour," said Kanganja. "I am sending a warning to members of the public, Political Parties and any other grouping to desist from such criminal acts. The conduct by those behind the riots in Kitwe will not be condoned by Police; therefore, all those that had a hand in it will face the wrath of the Law. Members of the public are further advised to always verify any information before taking any action and should always follow the legally laid down procedures before doing so."

He further appealed to government to consider reducing its budgetary allocations towards areas like defence in favour of increasing social sector spending. "In light of these, CTPD recommends that government should consider reducing its allocation towards defence, and public order and safety in order to increase allocations towards critical social sectors such as health and education. Furthermore, there is need to relocate resources to social protection since expenditure in this regard impacts the living standards of the poorest in the society," advised Mwaipopo.



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Giving Power Back to the People: NAREP's Vision for Zambia

The commendable initiative by News Diggers to accord a platform to various Opposition Parties so that they can articulate to the Zambian people, their vision for our nation, is a critical step towards re-establishing our lost sense of democracy. For too long now, we have battled as politicians to win the hearts and minds of our electorate not through great and inspirational ideas, but through raising our voices the loudest in condemnation, or by creating an infectiously popular song. Our mission as NAREP is to give every Zambian the power to make real and meaningful choices for their lives and to take control of their own destinies. We believe that every Zambian can become whatever he or she wants to be and it all starts by giving them back the power that they have handed over to elected officials who no longer believe they need to be accountable.

At the heart of NAREP's mission is the Zambian youth; the young men and women who toil every day to get educated in order to build a life for themselves and their future families. 50% of our country's population is below the age of 16. Every year, nearly 400,000 young men and women enter the job market. To keep pace with these numbers, over 1,000 jobs a day would need to be created. This is an impossible task for a nation that does not have forward thinking leaders. As NAREP, we want to put people at the centre of our mission to restore the value system that made this nation great. We see the youth as the engine for this journey to reclaiming our rightful place among the greatest nations on earth.

Our flagship idea of empowering the youth and women of Zambia under a scheme we call TiPanGeni will revolutionise the way giver meant operates and the way business

is conducted. Through TiPanGeni, we build the skills that our economy so badly needs. Our youth, our men and our women are deeply talented. They simply lack the support that they need to push their potential in the right direction. How will NAREP's TiPanGeni initiative do what leaders in the past have failed to do? It will achieve success because it will be all-inclusive. No nation can thrive when it hands its best land to foreign ownership or grants its prizes contracts and assets to companies that lack a depth of local interest.

TiPanGeni is a movement for the men, women and youth of Zambia. It combines the spending power of governments and business through an institutional framework that will be overseen by an civil society and the private sector. It will train ordinary Zambians while at the same time giving them direct access to government business as part of the training process in a way that is transparent and accountable. It will involve universities, unions, grassroots organisations, women and youth movements, student bodies. It will bring the nation together in a harmonious way and will identify vulnerable communities and neglected needs. There will be no limit to what we vmcan achieve when we work together and shape our prosperity through a common enterprise.

Entrepreneurship training will begin at the primary school level. Industry and universities will work hand in hand to ensure that our graduates receive hands-on training even as they pursue their studies. Our women in the markets will no longer have to worry about where to sell their goods or wake up at ungodly hours to hustle for the day's supplies. Our young men will run successful small, medium-sized and large scale sustainable businesses

delivering quality goods and services and becoming prosperous citizens through the strength of their ideas and enterprise. Our mine suppliers will be world class agents in logistics and supply; our mining entrepreneurs will own large scale mines; our rural small scale and peasant farmers will be part of a broad network supplying local markets and neighbouring states with high yielding agricultural commodities that we are uniquely positioned as a country to produce. Nothing will be impossible under a NAREP inspired vision that will tap into the potential of the many not the few. Nothing will be beyond the ability of the neglected and abused girl-child to dream and attain.

But all this will require a decision from each of us to choose to act on our conviction for a better Zambia. It will require us to abandon those that abuse the power they have and to demand a better approach to governance; one that upholds full accountability for how our money is raised and spent, how much we borrow and why, who has stolen or abused their office and when. We need to ask the hard questions of our leaders and demand answers as to why a nation of less than 16 million people, 10 times the size of Malawi with minerals, tourism potential, forests, rivers, natural water and talented people can be so poor. We need to ask why we cannot have issue-based politics that sets out the vision for our future and champions leaders who really care for the poor and vulnerable. The time to change course is now. The decisions made today will impact the generations to come and we cannot waste any more time ignoring the need to restore the value system in our government that made this nation great.

NAREP



‘Isambo lya nfwa’ (Reading of the Will)

As the wheels of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane touched the surface of the runway at Kenneth Kaunda Airport, Hanzunza took a deep breath and smiled cheekily as tears mingled with pain of losing his best friend filled his eyes. He was back for an impromptu funeral following a tragic road accident that claimed the life of Jamu his childhood friend and business partner. Hanzunza had been gone to China for 18 uninterrupted years and had been working like a donkey while his friend Jamu took care of his business back home in Zambia. Although the pain of losing his friend was still excruciating, the thought of finally seeing the building he had been building with the help of his friend was consoling.

Growing up in Luanshya’s Mpatamatu compound, Hanzunza had heard so many stories about people who had gone to work abroad during the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The now fabled story of a certain Mr. Phiri of the ‘Phiri anabwera kuchokera ku Harare fame’ talks of a certain man who left Zambia to go and work in Harare in Southern Rhodesia now Zimbabwe. After working for a very long time, time for Mr. Phiri to come back to Zambia came and it is told that he came back only with a suitcase full of clothes. He found a number of his relatives had died, he had no house or anywhere to go. He was shattered and cried a lot and thus became a laughing stock.

When the young Hanzunza was coming from school during his Luanshya days, he used to hear the ‘a Phiri anabwera’ song playing at tavern located just near his house and although he was only a teenager then, he had vowed to himself never end up like ‘a Phiri’ if he ever he went to work outside the country.

It was no wonder he was smiling now because he had done better than the fabled ‘a Phiri’. Having learnt from ‘a Phiri’ he had worked very hard and never forgot where he came from. In fact he had spent all

the money he was earning there in the diaspora to create an enviable dynasty back home in Zambia. Every month end he was sending his hard earned money to his friend for his building.

Upon arrival, Hanzunza was greeted by familiar faces such that although he had planned to be strong, he broke into tears upon seeing the sister to his departed friend among the entourage of people who had come to receive him at the airport.

The funeral went well and on the day of burial Hanzunza was amazed about the size of the crowd that turned up at the cemetery to pay the last respects to his departed friend. The messages of good will poured from everywhere and people talked highly of his late friend especially about his generosity.

As per tradition, Hanzunza was asked to remain at the funeral house and witness the reading of the testament or better ‘isambo lyan fwa’ of his departed friend. The family thought it was important he stay so that he could hear the reading of the Will of his best friend just in case the friend had something for him. Although Hanzunza knew that his deceased friend had nothing much to offer in his will because most of the time it was him who was sending money to help Jamu to pay rent and a few other bills.

The reading of the will was short and to the point but its impact was catastrophic. At the end of it Hanzunza collapsed and was rushed to the hospital. An excited uncle to Hanzunza’s deceased friend had produced some authentic looking papers and shared the property that Hanzunza had built with the help of his deceased friend across his family. It was only then that Hanzunza realized that his friend had changed all the papers and was building his own buildings using the money he was sending to him. Swindled in broad day light, Hanzunza could not fathom the fact that his 18 years of hard work was going under the drain. He challenged his deceased

friend’s family that those properties were not Jamu’s but no one entertained him. He was thrown out of the house and accused of trying to steal his late friend’s hard earned development.

‘You were not here when your friend was working day and night. ‘Imwe ba Hanzunza ndimwe chabe a Phiri anabwera (You are just a Phiri anabwera)’. His friend’s uncle yelled. ‘Show us evidence’.

Although at first Hanzunza was professional and made his friend Jamu sign for the money he received from him, as time passed by he became complacent and stopped signing for things. There were no contracts signed anymore.

Anyhow, after a very long and costly legal battle, Hanzunza finally managed to get back his property from Jamu’s family after he found a worn out piece of contract he signed with Jamu a long time.

Hanzunza was lucky because an old contract saved him. You may not be lucky if you do not have any. Make sure you make a contact for everything tangible that you endeavour to do with another party.

It is very difficult even for the courts to help you or protect you from being swindled if there is no contract. Make sure you have a qualified person (an architect, a lawyer, quantity surveyor or project manager) handle your construction contracts especially on projects involving substantial amounts of money.

In the case of simple deals such as supply of materials, supply of labour or any other services make sure you draft up a simple contract and let both of you sign on it. Contracts may sometimes look unnecessary and seem like you do not trust people but it is better to be thought of as untrusting that to look good and regret later.

Building is great investment, do it right.

Wherever we want to go; our feet shall take us there.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Abdul Suppliers and General Dealers and its Managing Director Abdul Uwayezu have sued Zambia Sugar Company in the Lusaka High Court claiming damages for false imprisonment and loss of business after the company accused them of selling counterfeit sugar. They stated that as a result of Zambia Sugar’s actions, the company has suffered great humiliation and loss of reputation because they were labelled as a company that sells counterfeit goods in the media. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court last week, the

Lusaka businessman sues Zambia Sugar for wrongful imprisonment, loss of business

plaintiffs stated that they were general traders engaged in buying and reselling goods and commodities, sugar being among them. They stated that some time on May 1, 2018, they purchased 1Kg bales of sugar from Paza Trading Company Limited, an agent of Zambia Sugar, for purpose of resale. The plaintiffs disclosed that on June 4, 2018, they were visited in their shop around City Market area by agents and workers of Zambia Sugar, who were accompanied by

police officers, claiming that the plaintiffs were selling counterfeit sugar products of Zambia Sugar. They added that when they tried to explain that they had in fact purchased the purported counterfeit sugar from Paza Trading Company, the explanation fell on deaf ears. “The agents and workers of the defendant instructed the police officers to seize from his shop, 15 bakes of 1Kg sugar on the pretext that the same were

counterfeit. The plaintiffs shall aver at trial that they tried to explain that they had in fact purchased the purportedly counterfeit sugar from Paza Trading Company, but the explanation fell on deaf ears,” read the statement of claim. They stated that Uwayezu was later detained by the police and falsely imprisoned for two days and was only released without being charged on the third day under the instructions of Zambia Sugar. The plaintiffs lamented

that as a result of the actions of Zambia Sugar, the company was labelled as a company that sells counterfeit goods in the media. They stated that after the police had concluded their investigations, they informed an officer of Zambia Sugar that the sugar was in fact not counterfeit and was purchased from Paza Trading Company. The plaintiffs stated that the sugar was, however, returned without so much as an apology rendered in the press by

the defendant. They stated that as the result of Zambia Sugar’s actions, they had suffered great humiliation and loss of reputation in both general business and among customers. They now claim for damages for false imprisonment, loss of business, unlawful detention of goods, exemplary and aggravated damages, interest on all amounts found due at the current bank lending rate, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.

In February, when President Lungu removed Felix Mutati from the position of Finance Minister, we wrote an editorial opinion, which annoyed the minister's MMD faction as they accused us of trying to create a rift between him and the Patriotic Front. Today, Mutati has finally been fired in a fashion that we accurately prophesied.

We now want Mr Raphael Nakacinda to tell us what is wrong with our opinion below, which we published on February 17, 2018:

Felix Mutati's fall from grace is finally on course. It was bound to happen sooner or later. Like we said, it was not a matter of if, but when and how. In fact, the former Finance Minister should thank President Edgar Lungu for generously offering him a ladder on which to climb down. If the President had chosen to execute his eventual plan in one move, Mr IMF would not be returning to Parliament next week.

If Felix Mutati thinks this is just an ordinary reshuffle and that he can soon be elevated again, to the position of Vice-President or anywhere

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Posterity is crawling towards Felix Mutati

near the throne, then he is dangerously naïve because President Lungu is not that stupid.

This is the beginning of the downfall for Mutati. Soon his stint in PF will be over. He will be former minister, former MP and former Honourable; and that is when he will know Jesus. If he thinks we are hallucinating, let him watch the next move from the Great Leader of this Great Country.

But why is this happening to Mutati? Firstly, the relegated minister was too ambitious. He showed too much of his intentions to succeed President Lungu, and thought as a king-maker through the 2016 PF-MMD alliance, he had wielded enough political influence to

call some shots in some way. That's why he was sending his boys like Raphael Nakacinda to go about bragging that PF was nothing without Mutati. Just last week, Nakacinda had the audacity of going on ZNBC TV to boast that if an election was called, the Mutati-led MMD faction could stand alone and beat PF.

Secondly, Felix Mutati betrayed his brothers and sisters in MMD to pursue his selfish personal interest. After noticing that Nevers Mumba was hesitating to take up the immoral offer for partnership, Mutati hijacked the MMD and gave himself to the PF, leaving the Mumba-led faction in disarray. The PF gave Mutati some resources

to mobilise youths who violently stormed the MMD secretariat and hounded out office bearers with stones and sticks.

But while all that was happening, we knew that Mutati was nothing but a pawn. He was used by Rupiah Banda, who also wanted to guarantee his freedom by ensuring that PF stays in power. Posterity is crawling towards Mutati now. He made his bed and soon he will come back to lie in it. When he is given the final kick out of government, that's when he will tell us the truth about Zambia's debt. Otherwise, Mutati's job with the PF is done; his relevance has expired. That's why he has been thrown in the trash bin waiting for

the garbage collectors to pick him and take him back to the opposition where he belongs. Like they say, there is no honour among thieves.

Mutati's chapter in PF is closed, but there is nothing to mourn about because he saw it coming. That is why he started campaigning openly while trying to drag former president Rupiah Banda out of the boat with him. Actually, what is funny now is that Mutati thinks this dismissal will give him the much-needed time to campaign ahead of 2021. What he doesn't know is that he now has no political party; the MMD has slipped from his hands along with his government job.

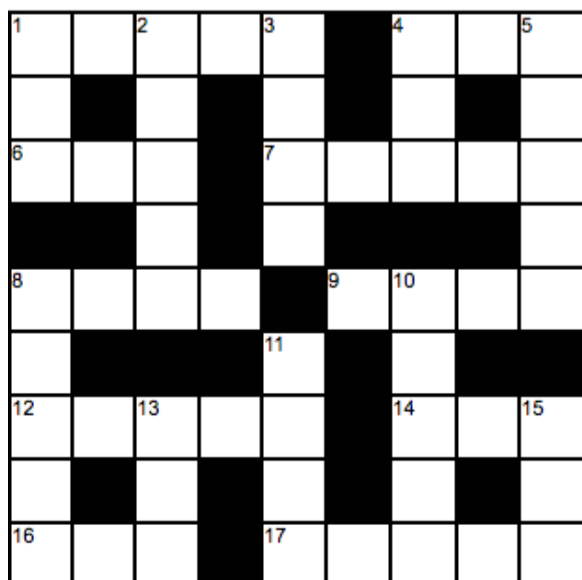
Since Mr Mutati seems to be living in denial, we will

spell it out for him. Considering that his intention is to take over the governance of this country from President Lungu, he can kiss the court case goodbye now. This is operation: "Sink the MMD before it bounces back."

We don't celebrate other people's misery, but in every sad situation, there are life lessons. Mutati has learnt his. He is now a graduate of the PF school of mafias. We wish him well in retirement and hoping he will give us enough news as he battles to remain relevant to the political scene. Good luck getting police permits for those MMD card renewal exercises.

With Mutati gone, the next question we must ask is; who is next? Oh, yes! Mutati is not the last one to go; this regime does not tolerate competition or political morality. All those ministers who are eyeing the Great Leader's increased salary must start counting their days. All those who are disgusted by the corruption, brutality and disorder that is going on in the PF must also pack their bags and wait for the doorbell. It is not a matter of if; it is a matter of when and how!

Crossword puzzle 225



*"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science."
- Albert Einstein*

- | Across | Down |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hunger for | 1. Spy org. |
| 4. Stanley ___ trophy | 2. A titan |
| 6. Everything | 3. Genesis spot |
| 7. Give a nudge to | 4. Car for hire |
| 8. Impulsive | 5. Great strength |
| 9. Practice boxing | 8. Synagogue leader |
| 12. Expressionless | 10. Cell phone precursor |
| 14. Fuel | 11. Decide not to attend |
| 16. Writing fluid | 13. Pose a question |
| 17. Prize money | 15. Observe |

Solutions to puzzle 224



Reader's feedback

ND OPINION:

Mulenga Kapwepwe will burn her fingers over ZNBC

Editor,
"I just love this, News Diggers! Keep it up." - Wanosha Wanosha

"Very timely advice. Just the shareholding tells you who calls the shots at ZNBC. TopStar, a subunit of Star Times, not of ZNBC, collects all finances accrued to ZNBC until the loan is paid with huge surplus. She can't understand the intricacies of the trick in Digital Migration in Zambia." - Maningi Dibili

"Ba News Diggers! every time I read your article, I gain more and more interest to read other articles. May God bless you for the work you are doing for this country." - Albert Bwanga

"News Diggers! I salute you. Thank you for making us understand certain things we didn't know about the Digital Migration issue." - Khumalo Ntombi

"These guys are News Diggers! Indeed, hope she's going heed the timely counsel granted here." - Joel Nkandu

"You've nailed it, ba Diggers!!" - Noah Shumba

"Madam Kapwepwe, Diggers! have just given you a friendly advice. Please take it into consideration." - Bo Muyunda Kandama

"President Edgar Lungu's govt is scandalous

like no other. It's not normal to defend most, if not all of their scandals." - Kwa Mwamba

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.



Amos' blaming of opposition for exam leakage

Editor,

"HH must be a very powerful man. Look at this: 1. Kwacha falling against the dollar, it's HH's problem; 2. UNZA riots because government never paid allowances to students, it's HH; 3. Poor performance of the economy, it's HH; 4. Exam leakages of grade 7, 9, and 12 is HH no one else; 5. Road accidents, it's HH; 6. High fuel prices, it's HH! This HH animal should be very powerful! We should then make him President because he is controlling everything in this country!" - Frank Frankie

"It paints a picture of a government that is comfortable with taking the easy way out of the problem by assigning it to external forces. Once again, an opportunity to admit failure and take corrective measures has been lost. If I were closer to the corridors of power, I would advise the Presidency to run away from this blame-game narrative. It doesn't portray a picture of a government that is on top of things." - Felix Nkonge

"This nonsense of blaming everyone but yourselves must come to an end. These guys can point fingers at anybody, but never take responsibility for their incompetence." - Bashi Meghan

Kitwe residents' riot over ZAFFICO 'sale'

Dear Editor,

"Government has already stated that ZAFFICO is not being sold, but merely being listed on the stock exchange (or making it a public company). The rioters are demanding that government should tell the truth regarding this issue. That automatically means they already know the truth! They should riot for other reasons, not demanding to know the truth, which apparently they already know. So, if government suddenly says the truth is that, 'it is selling ZAFFICO,' what

then will they do? Stop rioting and go home?" - Yuri Kasonde IV

"I think next time Copperbelt, you will vote wisely." - Philip Kaseba

"Guys, Copperbelt is not a place to exploit when it comes to selling their property, government has just played with fire! Now that means they will be chaos! Please, government; stop favouring Chinese!" - Xquiz Gebe Queson

"The wind of change is blowing from the distance." - Christopher Chisefu

Cameroon school kidnap: More than 70 pupils seized in Bamenda

Dozens of people, mostly school pupils, have been kidnapped from a boarding school in the west of Cameroon. At least 79 students and three others, including the principal, were

seized early on Monday morning in Bamenda, the capital of the North-West region, a government official has told the BBC. A massive search operation involving the Cameroonian army is

now under way. Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions have been hit by a secessionist rebellion in recent years. Regional governor Adolphe Lele L'Afrique

blamed separatist militias for the kidnapping. Militias, who have been demanding the independence of the two English-speaking regions, have called for a school boycott.

But no single group has said it carried out the kidnapping at Bamenda's Presbyterian Secondary School, which has pupils aged between 10 and 14. A video of some of the children, believed to have

been filmed by one of the kidnapers, is being shared on social media. The students, all boys and crammed into a tiny room, all look nervous as the person holding the camera orders them to say their names and where they are from.

They also repeat the phrase: "I was taken from school last night by the Amba boys, I don't know where I am."

Amba is short for Ambazonia, the name of the new country that the separatists want to create. One student, who managed to avoid capture by hiding under a bed, told the BBC that events unfolded quickly as the kidnapers entered the school.

"One of my friends, they beat him mercilessly. All I could think about was to just stay quiet. They threatened to shoot some people... all the big boys they rounded up, and the small ones they left them behind."

A teacher at the school described what she saw as she entered the principal's office after students had been taken from different dormitories.

"The military came in and went to the principal's house where we realised that her door was bashed and entered into, the glasses are still there on the ground," she told the BBC.

French rescue workers were searching into the night Monday for possible victims under the wreckage of two dilapidated buildings that suddenly collapsed in the centre of Marseille.

Officials in the southern port city warned there were likely casualties after the two adjoining buildings collapsed around 9.00 am (0800 GMT), blocking the street with massive piles of rubble in a scene resembling the aftermath of an earthquake.

"What's important is that there are as few deaths as possible, but we think there will be some," said Marseille Mayor Jean-Claude Gaudin.

Housing Minister Julien Denormandie, who rushed to Marseille from Paris, said it was a "race against the clock" to find survivors. Some 100 rescue workers with sniffer dogs were combing the rubble "relentlessly", Denormandie said, while a drone scanned the wreckage from above.

Just two passers-by were reported lightly injured in the morning.

The delicacy of the operation, a stone's throw from Marseille's bustling Old Port and waterfront, became clear in the afternoon when part of a third adjoining building collapsed.

Authorities had evacuated several dozen residents from neighbouring buildings as a precaution, police spokesman Philippe Bianchi told AFP.

Google Maps images taken in recent months showed the two collapsed buildings, in the working-class neighbourhood of Noailles, had had large visible cracks in their facades.

One of them had been condemned and, with its windows boarded up, was well-secured and in theory

Rescuers search for victims after buildings collapse in Marseille

unoccupied, officials said. But neighbours feared there were people inside the other when it crashed

down in what Djaffar Nour, who was grocery shopping down the street, said was "a matter of seconds".

"There was a Comorian lady -- every morning she took her two children to school and she got back

just before the explosion," said Nacer Sellani, manager of a shop across the street. AFP



Firefighters take the help of a sniffer dog to locate possible trapped people in the debris

Macron urges European army to defend against Russia, US

French President Emmanuel Macron called Tuesday for a "real European army" as the continent marks a century since the divisions of World War I, to better defend itself against Russia and even the United States.

Macron, who has pushed for a joint EU military force since his arrival in power last year, said Europe needed to reduce its dependence on American might, not least after US President Donald Trump announced he was pulling out of a Cold War-era nuclear treaty.

"We have to protect ourselves with respect

to China, Russia and even the United States of America," Macron told Europe 1 radio.

"When I see President Trump announcing that he's quitting a major disarmament treaty which was formed after the 1980s euro-missile crisis that hit Europe, who is the main victim? Europe and its security," he said.

"We will not protect the Europeans unless we decide to have a true European army," he said in the interview, recorded Monday night in Verdun, northeast France, as Macron tours the former Western Front

during week-long World War I centenary commemorations.

Faced with "a Russia which is at our borders and has shown that it can be a threat", Macron argued: "We need a Europe which defends itself better alone, without just depending on the United States, in a more sovereign manner."

The EU launched a joint multi-billion-euro defence fund last year designed to develop Europe's military capacities and make the continent more strategically independent. AFP

Russia seen adopting new tactics in US election interference efforts

Russian agents believed to be connected to the government have been active in spreading divisive content and promoting extreme themes ahead of Tuesday's U.S. mid-term elections, but they are working hard to cover their tracks, according to government investigators, academics and security firms.

Researchers studying the spread of disinformation on Facebook, Twitter, Reddit and other platforms say the new, subtler tactics have allowed most of the so-called information operations campaigns to survive purges by the big social media companies and avoid government scrutiny.

"The Russians are definitely not sitting this one out," said Graham Brookie, director of the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab. "They have adapted over time to increased (U.S.) focus on influence operations."

U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies say Russia used disinformation and other tactics to support President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.

The Russian government has rejected allegations of election interference. On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman declined to comment on allegations of further meddling in the run-up to the mid-term elections.

"We cannot react to some abstract cybersecurity analysts because we do not know who they are and whether they understand anything about cybersecurity," Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

He said Moscow expected no significant improvement to its strained ties with Washington after the vote.

One clear sign of a continued

Russian commitment to disrupting American political life came out in charges unsealed last month against a Russian woman who serves as an accountant at a St. Petersburg company known as the Internet Research Agency.

After spending \$12 million on a project to influence the U.S. election through social media in 2016, the company budgeted \$12.2 million for last year and then proposed spending \$10 million in just the first half of 2018, court filings showed.

The indictment said the Internet Research Agency used fake social media

accounts to post on both sides of politically charged issues including race, gun control and immigration. The instructions were detailed, down to how to mock particular politicians during a specific news cycle. If the goals of spreading divisive content have remained the same, the methods have evolved in multiple ways, researchers say. For one, there has been less reliance on pure fiction. People have been sensitized to look for completely false stories, and Facebook has been using outside fact-checkers to at least slow their spread on its pages.

"We've done a lot research on fake news and people are getting better at figuring out what it is, so it's become less effective as a tactic," said Priscilla Moriuchi, a former National Security Agency official who is now a threat analyst at the cybersecurity firm Recorded Future threat manager.

Instead, Russian accounts have been amplifying stories and internet "memes" that initially came from the U.S. far left or far right. Such postings seem more authentic, are harder to identify as foreign, and are easier to produce than made-up stories. **REUTERS**

Seventeen migrants perish crossing from Africa to Spain: Spanish coast guard

At least 17 migrants have died in the past 24 hours while trying to cross the sea from North Africa to Spain, and rescuers picked up more than 100 others, the Spanish coast guard said on Monday.

Two rafts were found in the Western Mediterranean between the Iberian peninsula and Morocco and Algeria with 80 people aboard and 13 dead. They were taken to the Spanish North African enclave of Melilla, the coast guard said.

The coast guard also found four bodies and rescued 22 men in the Atlantic off the southern Spanish city of Cadiz.

Spain has now become the main destination for undocumented migrants and refugees from Africa and the Middle East trying to reach Europe. **REUTERS**

U.S. billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates unveiled on Tuesday in Beijing a futuristic toilet that doesn't need water or sewers and uses chemicals to turn human waste into fertilizer.

The Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) co-founder, who a day earlier was one

Bill Gates, on China trip, lauds free trade - and futuristic toilets

of the high profile guests at a major trade event in Shanghai, also lauded the

globalized and free trade systems that made the toilet technology possible.

"I honestly believe trade allows every country to do what it's best at," he told

Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

"So when I talk about components of this toilet being made in China, others in Thailand, others in the United States - you really want to be bringing together all of that IQ so that you're getting that combination." Gates' trip comes amid trade tension between China and the United States, the world's two largest economies, which have slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on goods worth billions of dollars.

The toilet, which Gates said was ready for sale after years of development, is the brainchild of research projects funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's biggest private philanthropy organization. There are multiple designs of the toilet but all work by separating liquid and solid waste.

"The current toilet simply sends the waste away in the water, whereas these toilets don't have the sewer. They take both the liquids and solids and do chemical work on it, including burning it in most cases," Gates told Reuters.

He compared the change from traditional toilets to waterless models as similar to development in computing around the time he founded Microsoft in the mid-1970s.

"In the way that a personal computer is sort of self contained, not a gigantic thing, we can do this chemical processing at the household level," he said. **REUTERS**



A man looks at a toilet design by Cranfield University at the Reinvented Toilet Expo showcasing sewerless sanitation technology in Beijing, China November 6, 2018. **REUTERS/Thomas Peter**

Turkish foreign minister says dangerous to isolate Iran: Anadolu

Turkey foreign minister criticized on Tuesday the U.S. renewal of sanctions on Iran's oil and shipping industries, saying it was dangerous to isolate Iran and unfair to punish its people, Anadolu news agency reported.

Mevlut Cavusoglu's comments to reporters in Japan came a day after Washington reimposed sanctions, abandoning a 2015 deal between world powers and Iran over its nuclear program, while temporarily allowing major customers including Turkey to keep buying crude from the Islamic Republic.

"We do not believe any result can be reached with sanctions. I think meaningful dialogue and talks

are more useful than sanctions," he said.

The decision by U.S. President Donald Trump aims to hit Iran's oil-dependent economy and force Tehran to quash not only its nuclear ambitions and ballistic missile program but also its support for militant proxies in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East.

Washington has pledged to eventually halt all purchases of crude oil from Iran globally but for now it said eight countries - China, India, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Greece, Taiwan and Turkey - can continue imports without penalty. Crude exports contribute one-third of Iran's government

revenues.

Turkey depends heavily on imports to meet its energy needs and neighboring Iran has been one of its main sources of oil because of its proximity, crude quality and favorable price differentials, traders say.

Cavusoglu also said it was not that easy for countries including Turkey and Japan to diversify energy resources to comply with the sanctions.

"Not only neighboring countries but many countries from many regions of the world are being impacted by these unilateral sanctions."

REUTERS

Viva Forever! Spice Girls reveal 2019 UK reunion tour

Say You'll Be There: Best-selling 90s girl band the Spice Girls promise to give fans what they really, really want on a UK reunion tour next year.

The band -- minus pop star-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham -- released details of a comeback tour, which will see them play Wembley Stadium, Britain's biggest

venue.

In a video shared on the band's newly created Twitter account, the four remaining members staged a mock news broadcast to confirm rumours of the tour.

Beckham, also known as Posh Spice, later posted a photo of the foursome on social media alongside a statement.

"I won't be joining my girls

on stage again but being in the Spice Girls was a hugely important part of my life and I wish my girls so much love and fun as they go back on tour," she wrote on Instagram.

The pop phenomenon's announcement sparked celebration from fans on social media, including from British singer Adele who shared a throwback

childhood photo of herself posing excitedly in front of magazine posters of the band on her bedroom wall.

"This is how I feel right now! I am ready," she added on Instagram.

The band's official Twitter account, which promised a "new generation of girl power" was flooded with a frenzy of posts from nostalgic fans.

"The Spice Girls performing in my home town! I need to sit down. I can't breathe!!" tweeted Wez from Sunderland.

I'm already packing my Union Jack dress and platform shoes, see you there," another fan, Vicky, added.

Jessica Morgan joked on Twitter: "My life depends on successfully purchasing a

Spice Girls ticket."

The tour will take in six British cities next year, including Manchester on June 1, the Scottish capital Edinburgh a week later and culminating at Wembley on June 15.

Ahead of the announcement, Melanie Brown (also known as Mel B and Scary Spice) left the door open to Beckham's possible involvement. **AFP**

Mac Miller: US rapper died from drug overdose

US rapper Mac Miller died as a result of an accidental overdose involving cocaine, fentanyl and alcohol, a coroner has concluded.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner - Coroner confirmed the star's cause of death on Monday.

The 26-year-old, who rose to fame after topping US charts with his debut album in 2011, was found dead at his California home in September.

Ex-girlfriend Ariana Grande called him "an angel" in a song at the weekend.

She was among many stars and fans to pay tribute to the performer following his death.

Chance the Rapper, SZA and Miguel were among the artists to perform at a tribute concert at the weekend.

Fentanyl, a powerful painkiller that tends to be cheaper and more potent than heroin, has played a major part in the USA's opioid crisis.

An estimated 200 people die of overdoses every day, according to the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

The singer Prince had taken fentanyl before his death in 2016.

The drug was also a factor in the fatal overdose suffered by rapper Lil Peep in November 2017. **BBC**

Idris is People's 'Sexiest Man Alive' for 2018



Idris Elba may not be the next James Bond, but he is your "Sexiest Man Alive" for 2018.

Elba, 46, is the 33rd hunk to receive the People magazine honor, which was announced Monday night

on NBC's "The Tonight Show" by host Jimmy Fallon.

In reaction to the recognition, the "Thor" star said he's "really happy with that one. My mum is going to be very, very proud."

Elba flashed a shy smile at Fallon's request, flexed his bicep and thanked the magazine.

Elba used his time in the spotlight to encourage fans to tend to their civic duty Tuesday, tweeting:

"I'm honoured & thankful. What's even more important is your vote in the midterm elections. Your vote can make a difference!"

Elba, who found his breakthrough role as drug kingpin Russell "Stringer" Bell on HBO's "The Wire," has starred in dozens of TV series and films throughout his career, including his portrayal of Heimdall in Marvel's "Thor" franchise. Sorry ladies, Elba is off the market. He proposed to his girlfriend, Sabrina Dhowre, in February after nearly a year of dating.

The U.K. native is one of a small handful of people of color to receive the accolade since the inaugural "Sexiest Man Alive" spread in 1985, including Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (2016) and Denzel Washington (1996). Blake Shelton took the title in 2017, which sparked some mixed reactions online. Shelton quipped that "y'all must be running out of people. Like, wow, we're down to somebody who is somewhat symmetrical." **USATODAY**

Facebook blocks 30 accounts ahead of US midterm elections

Facebook said Monday it had blocked some 30 accounts on its platform and 85 accounts on photo-sharing social network Instagram over concerns they may be linked to foreign entities and aimed at interfering in US midterm elections.

The announcement came shortly after US law enforcement and intelligence agencies said they had no indication of efforts to disrupt election infrastructure but that Americans should be wary of Russian attempts to spread fake news.

A study published last week found that misinformation on social media was spreading at a greater rate than during the run-up to the 2016 presidential vote, which Russia is accused of manipulating through a vast propaganda campaign in favor of Donald Trump, the

eventual winner.

"On Sunday evening, US law enforcement contacted us about online activity that they recently discovered and which they believe may be linked to foreign entities," Facebook said in a blog post.

"Our very early-stage investigation has so far identified around 30 Facebook accounts and 85 Instagram accounts that may be engaged in coordinated inauthentic behavior.

"We immediately blocked these accounts and are now investigating them in more detail."

It added all the Facebook pages associated with the accounts appeared to be in French or Russian languages.

The Instagram accounts were mostly in English, with some "focused on celebrities, others

political debate."

"Typically, we would be further along with our analysis before announcing anything publicly. But given that we are only one day away from important elections in the US, we wanted to let people know about the action we've taken and the facts as we know them today," Facebook added.

Despite an aggressive crackdown by social media firms, so-called "junk news" is spreading at a greater rate than in 2016 on social media ahead of the US midterm elections, Oxford Internet Institute researchers said in a study published Thursday.

Twitter said Saturday it deleted a "series of accounts" that attempted to share disinformation without giving a number. **AFP**



Ryan Coogler accepts the Hollywood Film Award for 'Black Panther' onstage during the 22nd Annual Hollywood Film Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on November 4, 2018 in Beverly Hills, California. USATODAY

Rihanna becomes latest star to send Trump a cease-and-desist notice

The R&B superstar made good Monday on her promise to prohibit President Donald Trump from using her songs at his campaign events after she learned that her hit track "Please Don't Stop the Music" had been played at several events in recent days. The singer's legal team sent a cease-and-desist letter to White House attorneys, saying that Rihanna had "not provided her consent to Mr. Trump to use her music," calling the use "improper."

"It has come to our attention that President Trump has utilized [Rihanna's] musical compositions and master recordings, including her hit track 'Don't Stop the Music,' in connection with a number of political events held across the United States," says the letter, obtained by Rolling Stone late Monday.

Rihanna first learned that the president's pre-rally playlist included her music this weekend after The Washington Post's Philip Rucker tweeted about it, noting everyone at the rally was "loving" the atmosphere.

The singer quickly fired back, saying that wouldn't be the case for "much longer."

"Me nor my people would ever be at or around one of those tragic rallies," she wrote on Twitter, telling Rucker "thanks for the heads up." **YAHOO**



WHICH PARTY DESERVES YOUR VOTE?

Building on its accolade as a trendsetter in promoting national discourse and objective news reporting, News Diggers now introduces a platform for political party players to debate topical issues affecting citizens.

We have picked the Patriotic Front and four other top political parties seeking to form government in 2021 and offered them a full page each in the print edition of News Diggers on which to publish their agenda.

Starting November 6, 2018, the top leadership of these political parties will go into detail explaining why they deserve your vote.

- Mondays:** Patriotic Front
- Tuesdays:** United Party for National Development
- Wednesdays:** National Restoration Party
- Thursdays:** National Democratic Congress
- Fridays:** People's Alliance for Change



These articles will further be published on all our social media pages. We now call on you the readers to evaluate and give them feedback by commenting as follows:

For a party you would vote for, comment starting with: "Yes Vote" and add a very short reason if necessary

For a party you wouldn't vote for, comment starting with: "No Vote" and add a very brief reason if necessary

Voting wisely means understanding what you are voting for, know them now.

Supporting democracy from the home of investigative journalism

US Olympic moves to disband USA Gymnastics body

The United States Olympic Committee said Monday it had begun moves to disband the country's governing body for gymnastics, accusing the sport's rulers of failing to grapple with the aftermath of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal.

USOC chief executive Sarah Hirshland said in a statement

Olympic chiefs had started formal proceedings to revoke USA Gymnastics' status as the governing body for the sport in the United States.

In an open letter addressed to US gymnasts, Hirshland

said USA Gymnastics had failed to "change its culture, to rebuild its leadership, and to effectively serve its membership."

"You deserve better," Hirshland told gymnasts in

the letter.

USA Gymnastics has lurched from one self-inflicted debacle to the next as it has struggled to rebuild in the wake of the Nassar abuse case, the worst scandal in US Olympic history.

Former US team doctor Nassar was jailed for life earlier this year after abusing more than 250 athletes, including several stars of the United States' gold medal-winning teams at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

The beleaguered governing body, which had been accused of covering up Nassar's crimes, has been in a state of perpetual crisis ever since the scandal erupted.

Last month, newly installed chief executive Mary Bono resigned after just four days following an outcry by Olympic stars Simone Biles and Alexandra Raisman.

Bono had taken over from chief executive Kerry Perry, who had resigned after just

Man City sought to bypass financial fairplay rules

Premier League champions Manchester City attempted to bypass Uefa's Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations by allowing their Abu Dhabi-based sponsors to make cash injections, Der Spiegel alleges on Tuesday.

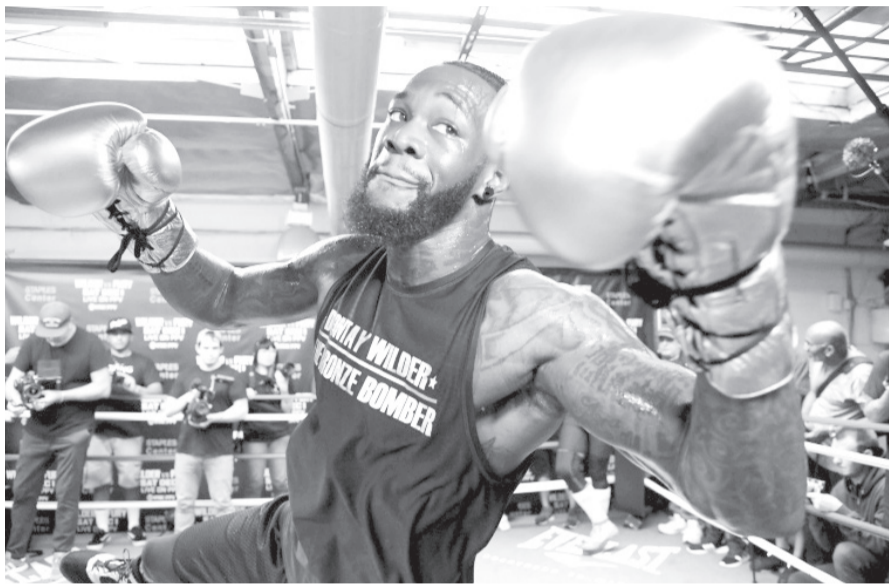
The German news magazine said it had seen internal documents in which the club's officials discussed how to wipe out a shortfall of almost £10 million.

The allegations are the latest in the so-called Football Leaks series.

Under FFP rules, clubs cannot spend more than they earn in any given season and deficits must fall within a 30-million-euro limit over three seasons.

City were fined €60 million by Uefa in 2014 for breaching those rules, but the two parties reached an agreement under which the club would get €40 million back if they stuck to the terms of their settlement.

Der Spiegel says City were in danger of violating the FFP rules after they sacked manager Roberto Mancini in 2013 after the club failed to successfully defend their title. **SUPERSPORT**



World heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder holds an open workout ahead of his title defence against Tyson Fury next month. AFP

nine months after criticism of her performance by USOC.

Perry's departure came after the appointment and swift resignation of elite coach

Mary Lee Tracy -- who had made comments supportive of Nassar in 2016 when allegations of abuse against him had begun to emerge. **AFP**

Buffon says Champions League return against Napoli like electric shock

Italian goalkeeping legend Gianluigi Buffon said Monday that making his European debut for new club Paris Saint-Germain at home in Italy against Napoli was like an electric shock for him. "I know the San Paolo Stadium very well and above all I know the feeling that there is between the team and its fans," said the 40-year-old former World Cup winner ahead of Tuesday's game.

"Being able to return to the Champions League after my disqualification in a match so important in Italy and Naples is something that inevitably gives some major shocks.

"It's very emotional! If I chose to continue to play at 40 years it's because football generates emotions like nothing else.

"I'm really lucky to be able to return in Italy, against Naples, in a Champions League match."

Buffon was suspended for PSG's opening three European games for his behaviour and comments towards the referee during Juventus' quarter-final loss to Real Madrid last April. Napoli and PSG played out a 2-2 draw in the first leg in Paris, with the Italians second in Group C on five points after three games, one behind

leaders Liverpool.

PSG face the prospect of potential early elimination as they sit third with four.

A defeat in the heated atmosphere of the San Paolo and Paris could find themselves four points behind the top two with two games to play, including a home clash with Liverpool later this month.

"It will be very difficult to win because the Napoli I saw in the first leg is a team to be respected," said Buffon. "For us it will be important not to lose, because then there are still two games to make up.

"I hope after this forced exile to be able to have a good match and to be useful to my teammates and the team's cause."

New PSG coach Thomas Tuchel is counting on Buffon to help keep cool heads in Naples.

"Gigi (Buffon) will help us, he already knows the stadium and the atmosphere and he'll be a big help in the dressing room," said Tuchel at Monday's press conference.

"Gigi is coming back from a ban and he deserves to play in Italy against a team he knows."

In Naples, Buffon will meet

up again with old friend Carlo Ancelotti, who brought the goalkeeper to Juventus back in 2001 -- the start of a glorious 17-year career in Turin.

"Carlo is a special person but he is also a great coach who

has won everything in his career," said Buffon.

"He brought me to Juventus, even though he soon left. And then the following year he defeated us in the Champions League final ...

Napoli are counting on

Ancelotti's European credentials -- Champions League titles with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007 and once with Real Madrid in 2014 -- to pull them through against PSG, who have the two most expensive players in history in

Neymar and Kylian Mbappe.

"It's always a pleasure to meet him again, to see that he is motivated despite his age, I have great respect for the professional and great affection for my friend," Ancelotti said earlier. **AFP**



Jamal Murray puts up 48 points as the Denver Nuggets defeat the Boston Celtics to keep pace with Golden State in the NBA's Western Conference. AFP

Drama at NAZ as players boycott SA tournament, reveal kit scandal

By Alex Chilumbwe

Five players have vowed not to represent the Zambia netball team at the Diamond challenge in South Africa. The Netball Association of Zambia (NAZ) has been rocked with a scandal after failing to pay

players who participated in the African Netball Regional Tournament hosted in Zambia. Speaking to Goal Diggers! yesterday, the players revealed that NAZ grabbed their kits which included socks, sneakers, hampers and

ZAMTEL donated t-shirts. "Pairs of socks, ZAMTEL donated t-shirts, sneakers and hampers are among the things that were grabbed from players. You can imagine grabbing kit that cannot be shared by two individuals," lamented

one of the players. "I would not even agree if they called me for the national team. It is a lot of personal sacrifice and little benefit on my part. If they fail to pay us our allowances when we host a major tournament, what would

make them keep us well in a foreign country? We have gone outside the country and came back with only transport money to take us to our various homes from town," said another. Goal Diggers! understands that before the

tournament each player was promised K12,000 but to date only K2000 was given to each player. "All the players were only given K2000 each and we were told that our unknown balances would be deposited in our accounts on unknown dates. We all watch the news and we know that more than K200 000 was raised for that tournament," explained one of them. "I do not think the Ministry of Sports is aware of what goes on in the netball association. We love this game so much but the association is making us hate it. Actually, it would be shameful for them to call any player when there are a lot of issues to sort out," summed another one. NAZ president Getrude Mukumi did not deny grabbing of players' kits, but failed to give a detailed account of the scenario after the tournament. "We demanded for their kit because we wanted to keep it for other players that would be called to the national team in future. There isn't much I can say about it but it is not every player that left their kit. Others left it out of anger and walked away," said Mukumi. However, Mukumi was positive that the netball team will travel for the Diamond Challenge on 27 November. She said the ladies would be called in camp next week and begin preparations for the tournament that will run up to 1st December. Five nations are expected to participate in the Diamond Challenge and these are Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and hosts South Africa. South Africa won last year's edition after beating Malawi in the final.

Shepolopolo coach names final squad for Ghana WafCON

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zambia Women National Team coach Bruce Mwape has named his final 21-member squad for the 2018 Africa Women Championship (AWC) that kicks off on November 17. During a media briefing in Lusaka yesterday, Mwape said the team would leave for Ivory Coast on Thursday where they will acclimatize with fine-tuning matches. The impressive Barbara Banda will join her colleagues in Abidjan before heading to Ghana's capital, Accra for the tournament. Zambia is in Group B alongside Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The tournament will be concluded on December 1, 2018.

FINAL SQUAD

(GOALKEEPERS)

Catherine Musonda (Indeni), Hazel Nali (Green Buffaloes), Chiko Nkhoma (Red Arrows) (DEFENDERS)

Lushomo Mweemba (Nwazi), Anita Mulenga (Green Buffaloes), Margaret Belemu (Red Arrows), Martha Tembo (Green Buffaloes), Jacqueline



Shepolopolo coach Bruce Mwape during the unveiling of the final squad to play in the women AFCON in Ghana.

Nkole (Indeni), Agness Musase (Green Buffaloes), Vast Phiri (Zesco), Grace Zulu (Indeni) (MIDFIELDERS)

Mary Mwakapila, Irene Lungu (Green Buffaloes), Judith Zulu (Green Buffaloes), Hellen N. Chanda (Red Arrows),

Avell Chitundu (Zesco) (STRIKERS) Hellen Mubanga (Red Arrows), Grace Chanda (Zesco),

Lubandji Ochumba Oseke (Nkwazi), Racheal Kundanaji (Indeni), Barbara Banda (EDF Logroño, Spain)

By Alex Chilumbwe

Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandenbroeck has begun preparations for the November 17 Africa Cup of Nations must win clash against Mozambique, with 25 local player called to camp. Twenty three players trained on Monday at the Futsal Arena. The players undertook an intense physical training at directives of the technical bench while goalkeepers were in the hands of their trainer Stephen Mwansa. FAZ through a social media post revealed that coach Vandenbroeck would run the local players through the mill before naming his final squad at the end of the week when

Chipolopolo regroup for Mambas encounter

camp shifts to South Africa. "The foreign based players will join directly in South Africa where the team will be holed up before heading to Maputo for the Group K Africa Cup of Nations tie," FAZ indicated. "Some members of the 2017 Under-20 Africa Cup winning side have

been included in the local camp and among them are Boyd Musonda, Shemmy Mayembe while current U20 campaigners in Francisco Mwepu and Benson Kolala have also been included signaling that the coach has his eye across all national teams," said FAZ. FULL SQUAD

(GOALKEEPERS) Charles Muntanga (Nkwazi), Toaster Nsabata (Zanaco) (DEFENDERS) Shemmy Mayembe, Simon Silwimba, Solomon Sakala (all Zesco) Alan Kamwanga, Benson Sakala (both Power Dynamos), Lawrence Chungu, Isaac Shamujompa (both Buildcon), Adrian

Chama (GBFC), Luka Banda (Napsa Stars), Lyson Thole (Kabwe Warriors) (MIDFIELDERS) Boyd Musonda (Zanaco), Henry Besa, George Chaloba (both National Assembly), Jackson Chirwa (GBFC), Clement Mundia (Kabwe Warriors), Bruce Musakanya (Red Arrows),

Webster Muzazu (Forest Rangers), Lameck Silwaba (Buildcon), Spencer Sautu (Green Eagles), Benson Kolala (Nchanga Rangers) (STRIKERS) Phiri Joseph (Red Arrows), Lazarous Kambole (Zesco United) Francisco Mwepu (Kafue Celtic)

Nadal out of ATP Finals with abdominal injury, ankle surgery



Rafael Nadal pulled out of the season-ending ATP Finals because of an abdominal injury and had surgery on his right ankle Monday.

Nadal announced on Twitter that he is done for the year, citing the stomach muscle issue that forced him to withdraw from last week's Paris Masters.

He added that he decided to have the ankle operation so he can start 2019 healthy.

John Isner will replace Nadal in the ATP Finals field. Play in London begins next Sunday.

Nadal hasn't competed since he retired from his U.S. Open semifinal because of a painful right knee.

He lost his No. 1 ranking to Novak Djokovic on Monday.

Because Nadal's season is over, Djokovic is assured of finishing the year atop the ATP rankings for the fifth time.

The 32-year-old Spaniard ends 2018 with a 45-4 record and five titles, including his 17th Grand Slam trophy at the French Open in June. Yahoo.com



Ronaldinho has just £5 in bank account!

A court in Brazil has seized the passports of Ronaldinho and his brother over their failure to pay a fine for building on an environmental protection area.

The former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star and his brother, Roberto, were convicted of illegal construction in February 2015 and ordered to pay 8.5 million Brazilian Real (£1.7m).

Along with company Reno Constructions and Incorporations

Ltd., they were found to have built a sugar mill with a fishing platform and a pier in a permanent preservation area on Lake Guaíba without permission.

Having so far defaulted on the payments and proving difficult to track down, the 38-year-old and his brother were taken to court again, and the public prosecutor said that an investigation into their bank accounts revealed a balance of just 24.63 Brazilian Real (£5).

"There is no other measure than the retention of the passports as a coercive measure in the face of repeated unfair, abusive and total disrespect, disobedience and non-compliance with the legal system," the prosecutor argued.

The court in Rio Grande do Sul, the 2005 Ballon d'Or winner's home state, has now ruled that the footballing icon must submit his passport when he returns to Brazil from his current travels. Goal.com

PLAYERS BOYCOTT

By Alex Chilumbwe

Five players have vowed not to represent the Zambia netball team at the Diamond challenge in South Africa.

The Netball Association of Zambia (NAZ) has been rocked with a scandal after failing to pay players who participated in the African Netball Regional Tournament hosted in Zambia. [To page 15](#)

TOURNAMENT

...as wage scandal hits NAZ