



UPND BACKS NDC IN ROAN

By Mirriam Chabala
UPND chairperson for mobilisation Sylvia Masebo says the official position of the opposition Alliance is that her party will only field a candidate in Bahati while the NDC is supposed to field a candidate in Roan constituency ahead of the April 11th parliamentary by-election. But Masebo, who is former tourism, and local government minister, says she is aware that the ruling party is making all efforts to disqualify the Alliance candidates from the race. She told News Diggers! in an interview, Wednesday, that UPND was going to throw its weight behind an NDC candidate in Roan. *To page 6*

...as PF schemes to go 'unopposed'



Service and Security Chiefs salute as President Edgar Lungu leaves Freedom Statue shortly after laying wreaths during this Year's Youth Day commemorations in Lusaka on March 12, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UK Minister of State for Africa, Foreign Office and DFID Harriett Baldwin says freedom of expression and media in Zambia is under threat as evidenced by the closure of Prime TV. In her Tweet, Baldwin

Media freedom in Zambia under threat, observes UK Minister

expressed concern over the closure of Prime TV especially that it was happening in a country with a promising democratic record to uphold. "# Commonwealth Day #Zambia Concerned at official action against independent station Prime TV. Further evidence that freedom of expression & media is under threat in Zambia, a country with a promising democratic record to uphold," read Baldwin's tweet. *To page 5*

Mwakalombe orders security wings to curb illegal mealie meal export

By Daniel Chansa
Copperbelt Minister Japhen Mwakalombe has ordered security wings to impound trucks that are transporting maize and mealie meal without export

permits. In an interview, Mwakalombe said the lifting of ban to export mealie meal was not open to everyone but to millers who had permits. *To page 3*

Kabwe police launch manhunt for woman who dumped baby in septic tank

By Joseph Mwenya
Police in Kabwe have launched a man hunt for a 20-year-old woman who allegedly dumped a baby in a septic tank after giving birth. Central Province Police Commissioner Chola Katanga said police received a report from Barnabas Mulenga, a plumber for Lukanga Water and Sewerage Company that whilst unblocking the sewer line in Kasanda mine compound, he found a dead female baby wrapped in a blue plastic bag suspected to have been

dumped after birth. Katanga said no arrests had been made but that the suspect, Emmy Mwami, of Kasanda house number M/7 had fled to an unknown place. *To page 2*

Businessman sues Mushipe over K70,000 rental arrears

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Today's technocrats are cowards - Trevor

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KCM cuts operations, suspends workforce

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By Mirriam Chabala

Trade and investment expert Trevor Simumba has charged that the current crop of technocrats are self-seeking cowards who are only looking out for their wellbeing. And Simumba says come 2021, himself and other progressive Zambians will "get rid of them once and for all. Reflecting on how the country has fared politically and economically over the years from late Fredrick Chiluba's reign through to the Edgar Lungu-led PF, Simumba observed that things had only gotten worse in terms of the caliber of those serving in government. Simumba stated that President Lungu was surrounded by cowards who were not telling him the truth because they were afraid of losing their jobs. "The main excuse being given for the cowardice of Zambian professionals in government is that if they speak out they risk retirement in national interest! So what? From University in the UK, I joined government in 1994 as an economist in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry. After two years, I

Today's crop of technocrats are cowards - Simumba

went into the private sector as an Assistant Consultant. My first major consulting assignment was with the World Bank which took me back into government but with better remuneration. Since then I have advised Governments in over 25 countries across the world mainly in Africa including the UK and USA Governments on issues related to trade and investment. I can state very strongly I have never seen the level of mediocrity and fear in the public service as I have seen with the current crop of public servants in Zambia. I have worked with Hon. Mutati when he was Minister of Trade, I worked with Hon. Magande when he was Finance Minister and many a time, my view was different from theirs but never once did I think 'oh what if I lose my job?'

Under both the LPM and FTJ governments, we all worked as a team," Simumba stated in a Facebook post, Tuesday. "Central Bank had brilliant minds Fundanga, Kalyalya, Mwenda and others, Ministry of Finance with likes of Musokotwane, Felix Nkulukusa, Emmanuel Ngulube, Stella Chibanda, late Mubanga. At State House you had proper Economic and Political Advisers focused on managing the Zambian economy. Today everyone in key positions is just focused on their own survival and no one is telling the President the full story nor the truth. Many a time, the late Mwanawasa would directly ask for technocrats to explain to him issues rather than hear it second hand from Ministers. He also hated bootlickers and felt insulted when you thought by saying nice things



you would impress him. I remember sometime in 2006 or 2007 when I was presenting the 'Enterprise Show' on ZNBC, I released an exclusive exposé of a fuel deal that had led to a shortage of diesel in Zambia. The information I

received implicated the PS Energy and I spoke directly into the camera as it was a live show and addressed the President saying 'please take action Sir, I am tired of walking as there is no diesel for my car...I received threats

from OP officers because of that saying how can I address the President on TV like that. But lo and behold, President Mwanawasa reacted differently and sent his personal security to come and get the file of information I had and he immediately fired the PS Energy and canceled the deal with a South African bank." And Simumba said there was need to save Zambia from getting destroyed by voting out PF in 2021. "Do not tell me 'oh no we cannot talk because we may lose our jobs or government will harass us', no! You are just simply a coward. If we were like you cowards, FTJ would have managed to get his third term. In my more than 20 years of professional life I have faced serious threats not only against my job but against my life. But because I stand for the truth and for my country, no harm has come to me. The late Sata once called me and said 'why don't you support me'? And I said 'because I do not agree with your brand of politics or policies'. But he said one thing I will always remember. He said, 'the problem you have Simumba is that your generation is a very selfish generation of Zambians. I wanted to give you a job but abanobe (your friends) were the most against you,'" stated Simumba. "This is the reality of Zambia today. We have a generation of back stabbing kleptocrats who at the snap of a finger will even betray the current President whom they shower with all sorts of praises and accolades but deep down in their hearts despise. We know them and come 2021, I and many progressive Zambians will ensure we get rid of them once and for all. They were the same people who destroyed RB and today they have gathered around the PF. They will also destroy the PF but we will not allow them destroy Zambia. Enough is enough its time to rise and shine, our appointed time has come for the Lord to hear our cry."

Kabwe police launch manhunt for woman who dumped newborn in septic tank

By Joseph Mwenya

Police in Kabwe have launched a man hunt for a 20-year-old woman who allegedly dumped a baby in a septic tank after giving birth. Central Province Police Commissioner Chola Katanga said police received a report from Barnabas Mulenga, a plumber for Lukanga Water

and Sewerage Company that whilst unblocking the sewer line in Kasanda mine compound, he found a dead female baby wrapped in a blue plastic bag suspected to have been dumped after birth. Katanga said no arrests had been made but that the suspect, Emmy Mwami, of Kasanda house number M/7

had fled to an unknown place. "We received a case of infanticide at around 9:30 hours on Tuesday 12, March at house number M/6 Kasanda Compound where Male, Barnabas Mulenga was unblocking the sewer. The actual time when the baby was dumped is yet to be ascertained. However,

the suspect who stays at the next house, Number M/7, has since fled to an unknown place. The dead baby has been deposited to Kabwe Central Hospital mortuary awaiting post-mortem," Katanga said. And in a separate interview, an eye witness, Loveness Waluchupa, narrated that the owner of house number M/6 reported to the Water utility Company of a sewer blockage and was shocked when a dead body was vacuumed out of the septic tank. Waluchupa said when community members came to see the dead body, the mother to Emmy who stays next door inconspicuously whisked the dead body away and was caught at a nearby dumpsite trying to hide the dead body from community members. "We were shocked when we noticed that the dead body was missing. When we started searching around, we found a woman across the road with a sack tied at the

top. As community members, we forced her to untie the sack and found that it was the same dead body that had gone missing," said Waluchupa. Meanwhile, area Councillor William Kasusu has expressed disappointment at the behaviour of the suspect who he said the community knew was about 8 months pregnant. Kasusu, however, praised Kasanda Mine compound residents for exercising restraint and not effecting mob justice on Emmy's mother. "All the neighbours knew that Emmy was pregnant and it is not surprising that she has run away. This is very sad especially that today is Youth Day; a time when the nation is celebrating the positive strides made by youths in national development. I would, however, like to thank the community for not exercising mob justice on Emmy's mother when they caught her trying to get rid of the baby," said Kasusu.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka High Court has dismissed NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili's application for leave to commence judicial review against the decision of the Speaker of the National Assembly to declare his Roan Parliamentary seat vacant. High Court judge Charles Zulu dismissed the matter for want of jurisdiction, noting that it was not a proper and fit case to grant leave for judicial review. On Monday, Kambwili applied for leave for judicial review in the Lusaka High Court regarding the Speaker's decision to declare his seat vacant on account

High Court dismisses Kambwili's application for judicial review over Roan Seat

of his alleged 'floor crossing' from being a member of PF to NDC, after he discontinued his petition on the same in the Constitutional Court. However in his ruling, Wednesday, justice Zulu noted that Kambwili's change of forum from the Constitutional Court which had exclusive jurisdiction over the matter, to the High Court, was wrong and unbelievable.

He noted that a matter that was purely within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court could not be launched via judicial review under Order 53 RSC. "Interestingly, before the launch of this present application in the High Court, the applicant (Kambwili) had previously taken out a petition before the Constitutional Court over the same subject matter alleging

that the Speaker of the National Assembly had contravened the Constitution. However, the petition was discontinued on March 11 and a few hours thereafter, the applicant re-launched the matter in the High Court via judicial review. I find the change of forum from the one with exclusive jurisdiction over the matter to this court, to be fallible and inconceivable," judge Zulu stated. He ruled that Kambwili's matter

was not a proper and fit case in which to grant leave for judicial review and therefore dismissed the application for want of jurisdiction. "I have quite belabored at leave stage, in order to test whether this is a fit case to warrant a full trial especially that the jurisprudence regarding the interface between order 53 RSC and the new constitutional order espoused in article 128(1) is progressively taking shape through various

and varied litigation in the courts of law. Nevertheless, given the obvious want of jurisdiction, as it were, on the part of this court, the answer is certainly that this is not a proper and fit case in which to grant leave for judicial review," ruled justice Zulu. "In view of the foregoing, I come to the conclusion that the application for leave should be denied for want of jurisdiction, and I so order. The application is therefore dismisses."



A dramatist entertains in song and dance during the 2019 Youth Day in Sinda on Tuesday (Photo: Zindikilani Banda)

Mwakalombe orders security wings to curb illegal mealie meal export

By Daniel Chansa in Ndola

Copperbelt Minister Japhen Mwakalombe has ordered security wings to impound trucks that are transporting maize and mealie meal without export permits. In an interview, Mwakalombe said the lifting of ban to export mealie meal was not open to everyone but to millers who had permits. "What we mean when we say that we are allowing the exportation of mealie meal is that only selected millers with escort permits are allowed to export their mealie meal at the borders," Mwakalombe said. He said government was going to continue fighting the smuggling of mealie meal in the province. He said the ban was lifted to enable the millers to sell their stock which had

been piled up and give room for them to buy more maize the farmers after harvest. He stressed that government alone could not manage to buy all the maize from farmers as it had only budgeted for about 500,000 metric tonnes for strategic reserves. "This is a government of laws which need to be adhered to and that was why anyone exporting mealie meal without a permit risked having their trucks and goods impounded. Millers who will be found exporting mealie meal without an export permit risk having their goods impounded. Those exporting mealie meal without escort permits risk having their goods permanently taken away from them once their goods are impounded," said Mwakalombe.

Youths doomed under PF – Mucheleka

By Thomas Mulenga

UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka says President Edgar Lungu's failure to address youths when he went to officiate at the Youth Day

celebrations in Lusaka, Tuesday, showed that youths were doomed under his leadership. And Mucheleka says Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo is

daydreaming to think that PF will easily win the 2021 elections because President Lungu has no competition. In an interview, Wednesday, Mucheleka said President

Lungu missed an opportunity to interact with the youths and tell them what government was doing to create opportunities for them. "It was very unfortunate that the President decided not to give hope to the youths at that important occasion. Mind you, the situation in this country is so desperate especially with regard to unemployment, poverty, inequality. All those challenges have the face of the youths, the most afflicted person by high levels of unemployment, high levels of poverty and inequality are the youths. The President should have used that occasion to give hope to the youths by indicating what government policy is regarding how the youths are going to be assisted or how the government is attempting to create an environment that creates hope for the youths," Mucheleka said. "The hope for the youths could have come from the head of state himself, not what we were seeing yesterday where Kampyongo as usual was tasked to go and round up youths, they gave them beer, they were insulting opposition leaders, the opposition alliance, that's what they were doing. I thought they should have been talking about how they are going to create jobs for the youths, giving them hope, that's what leadership is all about, giving hope to the hopeless youths. The youths are doomed, there is no future for the youths under the PF administration

and the evidence is there going by what the President exhibited yesterday, failing to speak to the youths, failing to make eye contact with the youths." He said government-led youth empowerment projects were only benefiting PF youths. "We have the majority of our youths that have totally been excluded from participating in any economic activities. The youth empowerment fund with its good intention has a lot of problems to a point where it is has been turned into the PF youth fund, but even with that, within the PF itself, there is nothing that we have seen with PF youths on how they have been able to access that funding, other than them being used as tools of political violence," Mucheleka said. "Where is the hope for the youths? What the President should have done yesterday as he met the youths was to respond to them on what measures government was putting in place to address their challenges. We have degree holders roaming the streets, youths whose education is being cut off because meal allowance for the poorest of the poor's children was scrapped off." And Mucheleka said Lusambo was daydreaming to think that the 2021 elections would be a walkover. "Bowman Lusambo is daydreaming with his hallucination that the PF will win the 2021 general election. On what basis can he expect the people of Zambia to vote for the PF in

2021 with all this suffering that they have caused on people due to poor economic policies and corruption? That can only happen if they say that they are going to manipulate the ECZ to declare them as winners, maybe that's what Lusambo is saying. And even that would be the case, the people will triumph, they claim their victory in 2021. It is not up to Lusambo or Lungu to determine what will happen in 2021, it is up to the people of Zambia, who have been subjected to mediocre leadership of the PF to decide and they will accordingly decide," said Mucheleka. "Lusambo can say that because he thinks they are going to use the money they are acquiring through corruption to buy people and manipulate the election results. But we have seen in so many situations where people have gone ahead to reject a failing regime despite them pumping in a lot of money in the campaigns. When people are fade up with a regime, they don't care how much money you give them, their will shall eventually triumph. So let not Lusambo who has just come to benefit from what people like Chishimba Kambwili worked for so hard by campaigning for PF and President Edgar Lungu to win the 2016 elections. Today Lusambo hallucinate and daydream about president Lungu being re-elected in 2021 because he has to appear relevant within the PF."

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Prime TV closure won't force us to watch ZNBC - Kalaba

By Thomas Mulenga

Democratic Party President Harry Kalaba says the Independent Broadcasting Authority only suspended Prime TV's license because the station gives coverage to opposition political parties, which poses a threat to PF. Speaking when he featured on Pan African Radio 'The Peoples' Debate' program, Wednesday, Kalaba said people would not be forced to watch ZNBC despite Prime TV 'closure' because the national Broadcaster had lost its credibility. "The only reason why Prime TV is being treated like that is because Prime TV is giving an audience to people like me to talk, they are giving opposition leaders an opportunity to speak and that is not going on well [with PF]. But what the PF doesn't know is that even if they close Prime TV, we are not watching ZNBC. If I ask just here how people are watching ZNBC, there is no one, 'bonse tatutamba' (we all don't watch it). ZNBC has lost credibility and the PF have continued living in a fool's paradise thinking if they show them on the front page of Daily Mail and Times of Zambia then they are fine. Who buys Daily Mail anyway? Who buys Times of Zambia? Those things have become moribund because we have not allowed them to run professionally. Now,

Prime TV has been closed, it's very sad," Kalaba said. "The IBA has just undermined itself. Today it's Prime TV they closed, but all of you Diamond TV, Muvi TV, Pan African Radio and others, must get worried. When you see your colleagues being treated that way then you know that it has become a totalitarian system where people have lost confidence in you and the only thing you can depend on are state apparatus that can keep you. 'Abantu tabalekufwaya, banshi ulepatikisha? So even if you are shown on ZNBC it won't work. I even went to Multi-Choice and told them that I want to remove this thing from my decoder because sometimes my son makes a mistake when he is changing channels and brings ZNBC." And Kalaba said police were working under difficult conditions as they were being threatened by the ruling party whenever they tried to perform their duties professionally. "The police are working under very difficult circumstances, remember what happened in Sesheke, the Police enforced law and order according to their job? They were fired. That is telling them that listen to the party, don't follow the rules, listen to us as PF, not to anybody else. They want to keep their jobs, what can they do? They can watch. But

I can tell the Police that 'you have a friend in me, you have an ally in Harry Kalaba, when I become President, your dignity will be restored, even where you live, your salaries will be reviewed. Because the reason why there is minimal in countries like Singapore it's because the law enforcement agencies are well taken care of and that's what I want to advance when I become President so that the Police are well taken care of, so that 'tabaleminawila amate ka K20' (they won't be over excited upon seeing a K20) because they would have already eaten Chicken and Chips from home," Kalaba said. And when asked what made him confident that he was going to win the 2021 elections on first attempt when experienced politicians like UPND's Hakainde Hichilema had lost several times, Kalaba said he was "Harry Kalaba". "I am Harry Kalaba, so accept that, and I am not going to compare myself to anybody else, I have come with my own manifesto, I have come with my own mind and I have refused to compare myself to anybody. I acknowledge the good works that Mr Hakainde Hichilema has done in this country, he has formed a formidable opposition, you can't take away from him but I am saying I have also now come on the market. What the Zambian people now require

is choice, they want choice. And they don't want to listen to those people who are saying 'No, Kalaba cannot win the elections in 2021, he has just come on the scene. In Zambia, they say unless you stay for 10 years, unless you lose for 2 or 3 times. Watch the space, me I am not going to lose anything. In 1991, did Chiluba lose any election to become President? Chiluba was president just within the next 6 months.

I am going to be president in 2021," Kalaba said. "And I respect Mr Hichilema myself, if I had a wedding in my family and invite Mr Hichilema to come and attend that wedding, it should not be a surprise. Because first of all, the man has accomplished himself, he has acquitted himself in so many ways." Kalaba also said the country was in Intensive Care Unit under the PF.

"This country is in a quagmire, this country is in intensive care. It requires a leadership that will give itself, it requires the spirit of Thomas Sankara of Bukina Faso who told his people that we are going to use our hands and produce for ourselves and keep our integrity. It requires the spirit that Kaunda had in the first republic. Zambians should not continue settling for less," said Kalaba.



Children entertain during the 2019 Youth Day in Sinda (Photo: Zindikilani Banda)

We'll form a law to help journalists regulate themselves - Kasolo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Information and Broadcasting Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo says government will continue allowing the media to self regulate but his ministry will just formulate a law to help them do so. Kasolo told News Diggers in an interview that there was no inconsistency between the soon to be drafted media regulatory law and the PF manifesto which promotes self regulation of the media. "It's very clear. We have tried to get the media to self regulate, they even formed an organization something like ZAMAC or something like that but they failed to set it up properly and to actually have people to pay into the organization so that it can be administered. So we can't just leave it to chance that our friends in the media will just carry it on and make all the mistakes and you don't even have a structure to identify who is a true journalist and who is not. So to assist you (journalists) in setting that up, we are just drafting out, when we finish the drafting, we will consult with the various media houses and journalists so that they can have their input in this," Kasolo said. "[Then] we will regulate it through the normal parliamentary process so that it becomes law. What that does is it gives media and journalists professions a chance to know how to self regulate, [like] if you have an organization and that organization will be run by yourselves, it won't be run by government. It will be run by journalists, you vote in the president, secretary general etc and you have a secretariat. Now how are you going to run that? It will be all people

that will be called journalists will have to become members of this organization and there will be a subscription fee per annum. Let's assume that you have got a 1,000 journalists and they are subscribing K100 a year, that is K100,000. It's doable because that sort of money can run a small secretariat and ensure that with the assistance of others, there is regulation so that if somebody goes wrong, the organization itself will regulate that person, they will take him/her to task, they will pass charges and fees and what have you." He said there would be order in journalism. "So people will now be called journalists as a profession not journalists that just wake up in the morning and says 'I am a journalist.' No, there will be order. That is what we want. So self regulation will continue but what we are trying is to give you a platform which is backed by law within which to self regulate. It will be self regulation but it will give you a structural basis. So it isn't us regulating, it is us giving you a regulatory framework within which you self regulate," Kasolo said. And Kasolo said there was no inconsistency between the PF manifesto and the new media regulation law. "So there is no inconsistency with the PF manifesto at all. The PF manifesto insists that journalists should self regulate but what we are saying is they have failed to set it up. So let us help them by setting it up, we assist them, consult them and finalizing the frame work which will be backed up by law so that when they regulate themselves, their organization will have the power to actually protect its members," said Kasolo.



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Home of investigative journalism in Zambia

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini has advised Choma Central UPND member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa to file in a written question through the office of the Clerk if he wants to get answers from the Executive on why salaries for UNZA and CBU lecturers have been delayed. This was after Mweetwa rose on a point of order seeking the Speaker's ruling on whether or not the Executive was in order to be seated in the House, quietly, without

UNZA, CBU can be equated to Intercity under PF - Mweetwa

addressing the challenges facing university lecturers. Mweetwa also said that the higher learning institutions in Zambia had been equated to Intercity Bus Terminus. "Mr Speaker, there are worrying trends currently in Zambia. Many things, Mr Speaker, are in tatters. Many

institutions of governance, Mr Speaker, have not been paid. To zero down, Mr Speaker, to my point of order, which I consider to be in national interest, Mr Speaker, we saw yesterday through the media at the University of Zambia (UNZA), workers not being paid their salaries,

lecturers not being paid their salaries and I am made to understand [that] this is replicated at the Copperbelt University. To add to many institutions that have gone unpaid for example eight months for example National Housing Authority (NHA), a year not without being paid

but we have a government of PF," Mweetwa said. "Mr Speaker, is this government in order to remain quiet as if it is business as usual when at our highest institutions of higher learning that things have gone wrong, classes are not going on. Workers

have just reaffirmed that they are not going to return for work. The university, Sir, from being a centre of service and Excellency now can be equated to Intercity bus terminus where you can't tell who is going where. Is the government in order Mr Speaker with the severity and importance that should attached to such an institution of learning, to remain quiet and not address this house? Given that the management yesterday tried to negotiate with the workers and the lecturers and they failed. Are they in order to continue this quiet are they are Mr Speaker?" And in his ruling Dr Matibini ordered Mweetwa to file in a question to the Minister of Finance. "My ruling is that if you would like to receive a response from the executive ranch of government presumably the Honorable Minister of Finance, ask them questions and they will answer you," ruled Dr Matibini.

Cop narrates how he apprehended suspect in MSL theft case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Police officer has narrated to the Lusaka Magistrate's Court how he apprehended a man who allegedly attempted to break into a warehouse at Zambia Medical Stores Limited (ZMSL) in 2017 where drugs and other goods worth over K3 million were reportedly stolen. However, Grafton Chalwe, 45, an officer at Lusaka Division told the court that nothing was stolen from the warehouse on that material day. This is the matter in which six people, among them three former ZMSL employees, are facing three counts of theft and criminal trespass. The accused persons include; Tambwe Tambwe a businessman; Patrick Ellite, businessman; Oliver Chipalapata, businessman; Kaluluka Muye ndekwa, warehouse receiving assistant; Paul Bwalya, warehouse assistant and Ananias Simumba, driver. Two of the accused persons are Congolese while the rest are Zambians. In the first count, Ntambwe, Ellite and Chipalapata are charged with criminal trespass contrary to sections 303(a) of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia Particulars of the offence allege that on August 20, 2017 in Lusaka, the trio jointly and whilst acting together, unlawfully entered into the Zambia Medical Stores Limited premises, namely Lichwe warehouse with intent to commit a felony therein.

In the second count, Muye ndekwa, Bwalya and Simumba are charged with theft by public servant contrary to section 272 and 277 of the Laws of Zambia. It is alleged that on dates unknown but between January 1, 2016 and August 20, 2017, the three being persons employed by Zambia Medical Stores Limited as warehouse assistants and driver or clerk respectively, stole K7,647 sachets of Artemether and Lumefantine tablets, 14,336 pieces of gloves, 1115, 596 boxes of Amoxycillin tablets and 235 boxes of insulin soluble tablets, all together valued at K3,001,223.30, the property of the Government of Zambia, which came into their possession by virtue of their employment. And in count three, Ntambwe, Ellite and Chipalapata are charged with theft. It is alleged that between January 1, 2016 and August 20, 2017, the trio stole K7,647 sachets of Artemether and Lumefantine tablets, 14,336 pieces of gloves, 1115, 596 boxes of Amoxycillin

tablets and 235 boxes of insulin soluble tablets, all together valued at K3,001,223, the property of Zambia Medical Stores Limited. When the matter came up for continuation of trial before magistrate Rachael Mwansa, Wednesday, Chalwe testified that on August 20, 2017, he received an intelligence report that some criminals were breaking into ZMSL in Chinika industrial area. He said acting on the same report, he mobilised other officers and proceeded to the scene. "On August 20, 2017, I was on duty around 08:00 hours when we received an intelligence report to the effect that there were criminals who were breaking in at Medical Stores in Chinika industrial area. Acting on the same report, I together with other officers mobilised ourselves and proceeded to the reported scene. On arrival, we used the rear gate. [And] when we entered the premises, we found one man trying to open a door in the warehouse," Chalwe said. He said when the officers

apprehended the suspect, they found him with instruments used for breaking into buildings, among them; a garden folk, an axial, a bunch of keys, bar soap, wheel spanner, saw blade and a bottle of suspected acid. Chalwe said after confronting the suspect, he identified himself as Ellite from Kanyama Township. "The police officers took Ellite to

Lusaka Central Police Station for further investigations," he said. In cross examination, Tambwe asked the witness if the officer found the stolen items on him and whether there was anything reportedly missing at ZMSL. In response, Chalwe said nothing was stolen from ZMSL on that particular day. Trial continues.

Media freedom in Zambia under threat, observes UK Minister

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UK Minister of State for Africa, Foreign Office and DFID Harriett Baldwin says freedom of expression and media in Zambia is under threat as evidenced by the closure of Prime TV. In her Tweet, Baldwin expressed concern over the closure of Prime TV especially that it was happening in a country with a promising democratic record to uphold. "#CommonwealthDay #Zambia

Concerned at official action against station independent station Prime TV. Further evidence that freedom of expression & media is under threat in Zambia, a country with a promising democratic record to uphold," read Baldwin's tweet. Baldwin had visited Zambia in July 2018 and observed that Zambia had a promising democratic record which she thought needed to be upheld.

Garden boy gets K2,000 fine for wearing ZAF uniform

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrate's Court has fined a 23-year-old garden boy of Obama area K2,000, in default six months simple imprisonment, for unlawfully wearing a Zambia Air Force (ZAF) uniform.

In this matter, Prince Mwanza, a general worker of Lusaka's Obama area in Chelston, was facing one count of unlawful wearing of uniform contrary to Section 182 (3) of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia.

Particulars of offence were that on dates unknown but between February 1, 2018 and April 30, 2018 in Lusaka, Mwanza unlawfully wore a ZAF outfit without authority. Mwanza had initially denied the charges and

trial had commenced but changed his plea on Monday. During trial, a witness identified as Alice Chimula of Chilenje Township, had told the court that she only met Mwanza via Facebook and after accepting his friend request, he sent her two pictures in which he posed in a ZAF uniform. Chimula, 28, narrated how the garden boy proposed marriage to her on Facebook, before they physically met. "In his first message to me Mwanza wrote 'I really like you and I want to marry you. My friends are laughing at me because I am single,'" she said. Chimula said on April 7, last year, Mwanza called her to arrange for a meeting with him at ZAF Airport so that they could know each other in person. "Mwanza told me that he was stationed at ZAF Airport and that I should go and meet him there around 13:00 hours, which I did. When I got there I found a ZAF officer only known as Mr Banda at the gate," she said. Chimula said with the aid of the pictures, the said Mr Banda took her to his superior who explained that the man in the photos was a garden boy working for a senior ZAF officer. She said she was later

informed that ZAF officers had apprehended Mwanza the same day around 20:00 hours in Obama Chelston and he was taken to Chelston police station. The matter came up before magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Wednesday, for facts and sentencing. And when the facts were read to him, Mwanza said the facts were true and correct adding that he wore the uniform in the house and did not go with it outside. In mitigation, Mwanza, through his lawyer, asked the court to be lenient on him as he was a first offender who did not waste the court's time by pleading guilty. He said he had a two-year-old child who solely depended on him and a custodial sentence may jeopardise his current employment. Mwanza said he was remorseful for his actions. In her ruling, magistrate Chanda said although Mwanza deserved leniency, the offence he committed was very serious because he was not allowed to wear a security uniform especially for police and defence forces. She therefore fined him K2,000 to be paid within three days, in default, six months simple imprisonment.



PF cadres at the Freedom Statue during this year's Youth Day celebrations in Lusaka on March 12, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Thomas Mulenga

The Drug Enforcement Commission says it has arrested a Malawian national for trafficking in 291 Kilograms of dry Mirra.

In a statement, Wednesday, DEC Public Relations Officer Theresa Katongo said the 33-year-old, Yusuf Twayib Nawe of Lusaka-West, falsely labeled 24 boxes in which the Mirra was concealed as Pure Zambian Tea among other false labels.

"The Drug Enforcement Commission in Lusaka Province has arrested a 33

DEC arrests Malawian for trafficking in 291Kg of Miraa

year old Malawian national identified as Yusuf Hafeez Twayib Nawe of Lusaka-West for trafficking in 24 boxes of dry miraa weighing 291 kilograms concealed in

boxes falsely labelled pure Zambian Green Tea, Moringa, Ethiopian Tea and other labels of tea. This follows the recent arrest of ten suspects for trafficking in over 1.3 tons

of miraa concealed in boxes bearing similar false labels," Katongo stated.

And Katongo stated that the Commission had arrested two people in North-Western

Province for trafficking in over 1.5 tons of cannabis.

"The Drug Enforcement Commission in North-Western Province has arrested two people for trafficking in over 1.5 tons of cannabis, contrary to the laws of Zambia. Patson Mula, 43, a small scale farmer of Kandemba area in Solwezi District has been arrested for unlawful cultivation of fresh cannabis plants weighing 1.8 tons. Also arrested in Solwezi District is Abel Kasaso, 34, of Kimakolwe area for unlawful cultivation of fresh cannabis plants weighing 33.4 kilograms" Katongo said. "And in Eastern Province, the Commission has arrested and jointly charged Chalunguma Muyayi, 34, a driver of Muyayi farm with Marliot Lungu, 24, of John Laing in Lusaka

for trafficking in 1.12 tons of cannabis concealed in 18 by 90 Kilogram sacks and one 50kg sack laden on a canter intercepted in Lumezi District. Also arrested is Ronald Besa, 49, a small scale farmer of Masaba Village in Luapula Province for unlawful cultivation of fresh cannabis plants weighing 640 kilograms."

The DEC has since warned small scale farmers to desist from engaging themselves in drug cultivation.

"The Commission, therefore wishes to reiterate a warning to small scale farmers to desist from engaging themselves in the cultivation of illicit crops such as cannabis which have devastating effect on the nation's social wellbeing," stated Katongo.

KCM cuts operations, suspends workforce

By Daniel Chansa

Konkola Copper Mines has shut down operations at number 1 shaft, which was being mined by Master Mine Services, saying the company had failed to source for funds to pay workers.

KCM has since written to the redundant workers who have been placed on forced leave.

Master Mining Company is a Chinese mining contractor that was contracted to mine KCM's No.1 Shaft also called No.4 Shaft Complex.

This is according to a memorandum addressed to all employees and signed by KCM assistant Human Resource Manager

DC Musonda and Master Mine Service project manager Ma Yun Liang dated March 11, 2019.

"We wish to inform all our employees that in the last few months, KCM has not been able to pay Master Mine Services according to the conditions of the contract. As a result, KCM is owing the company huge amounts of money. Thus, it has become difficult for the company to continue running the project. Management made several efforts to sustain the operations through borrowing from banks, shareholders and other Chinese companies," the memo reads in part.

"However, the company is not able to source

any more funds to sustain the project. Therefore, operations at Master Mine Service-KCM project have been suspended until further notice, only selected employees for care and maintenance will continue reporting for work."

The memo further states that after the end of the period workers would be put on forced leave.

"During this period, employees will proceed on leave according to the accrued leave days. Upon exhausting the accrued leave days, an employee will automatically be placed on forced leave (unpaid leave) in the event that operations do not resume."

UPND to support NDC in Roan, but adoption draws uncertainty

By Mirriam Chabala and Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND chairperson for mobilisation Sylvia Masebo says the official position of the opposition Alliance is that her party will only field a candidate in Bahati while the NDC is supposed to field a candidate in Roan constituency ahead of the April 11th parliamentary by-election.

But Masebo, who is former tourism, and local government minister, says she is aware that the ruling party is making all efforts to disqualify the Alliance candidates from the race.

She told News Diggers! in an interview, Wednesday, that UPND was going to throw its weight behind an NDC candidate in Roan.

"That is the correct position. Even when you follow the statement from Gary [Nkombo, UPND chairperson

for elections], we had agreed that UPND would field a candidate in Bahati and NDC together with other Alliance Partners would support; similarly, we had agreed that NDC would field a candidate in Roan while UPND and Alliance partners would support. We were hoping that it was going to be Kambwili himself who was going to be the candidate, but even after Kambwili failed because the court process was stretched beyond the nomination period, we still agreed that NDC should field and we should not field," she explained.

"But I am also aware that there are a lot of manoeuvres by the PF on the ground, both in Bahati and Roan to try and influence otherwise through the structures. So there was an idea that a UPND candidate should be on standby, just in case the PF pulls a fast one,

we should quickly throw in another Alliance candidate on the UPND ticket, so that we don't let the PF go through unopposed. We are aware that the PF is making plans to make sure that the NDC candidate doesn't go on the ballot and they also want to ensure that the UPND candidate doesn't also appear. But otherwise, UPND is 100 per cent behind NDC and it's candidate in Roan. In fact, Roan is for Kambwili at the end of the day. He is basically the one people still want as their MP, so with the help of UPND, we are very hopeful that he will deliver victory for the adopted candidate."

Asked what would happen if the NDC candidate was blocked, Masebo said UPND was aware of such a possibility and the party was in consultation with NDC and other Alliance partners to

ensure that backup plans are in place.

"That's the problem that I am grappling with. The issue is that ECZ will only announce at the end around 15:00 hours that 'these are the successful candidates who will go on the ballot', at that stage it becomes too late to field any other candidate in an event that the other Alliance candidate from NDC is not on the list. So that is the situation that we are dealing with. But at the same time, we are very cautious in the way we are handling this situation, bearing in mind that our NDC partners have not put any standby candidate in Bahati. We don't want to see both NDC and UPND candidates going on the ballot, that will not be good for the Alliance."

However a source in Luanshya told News Diggers! that the predicament that NDC and

UPND were in was causing tension in Roan.

"There is serious tension here because some individuals in the UPND structures really want to contest and these are telling the party leadership that NDC will not be allowed to contest because its candidate will be blocked.

The challenge is that Mwenya Musenge who is the Secretary General [for NDC] still has some unresolved issues with Kambwili. And this is the man who is supposed to sign and issue the adoption certificate. So there is fear that Musenge can actually sell out on the last minute again and claim that he did not sign on the adoption certificate or something like that which can mess up the NDC adoption," explained the source.

And the sources said Kambwili's son Mwamba was not likely to be adopted despite being a preferred candidate because he did not have a voter's card.

"The preferred candidate was the son to CK, Mwamba. But Mwamba has got no voter's card, so he has fallen off. Article 70 of the revised constitution is clear over the matter. So that's the snag which Mwamba hit. So right now there are four other candidates available for Mr Akafumba to pick from. So Mwamba is no longer in the race that's why you have seen it's now quiet."

Meanwhile, NDC National Youth chairman Charles Kabwita has accused the Examination Council of Zambia of trying to block its 14 potential candidates who were on the list of adoption for Roan constituency from verifying their Grade 12 certificates.

In an interview, Kabwita said the 14 NDC candidates were given bank deposit slips to go and deposit the monies but found the centre closed when they returned, before they were later advised to go back on Friday.

"We took 14 candidates to have their certificates verified but upon arrival, I don't know how they noticed that we were coming from an opposition political party. I led the team of candidates and candidates complied with the procedures that are laid down by the Examination Council of Zambia. We were given deposit slips to go and deposit the K100 fee for those who are required to do so and we did that, But upon returning to the office, we found a poster stating that the centre has been closed until Friday 12:00 hours," Kabwita said.

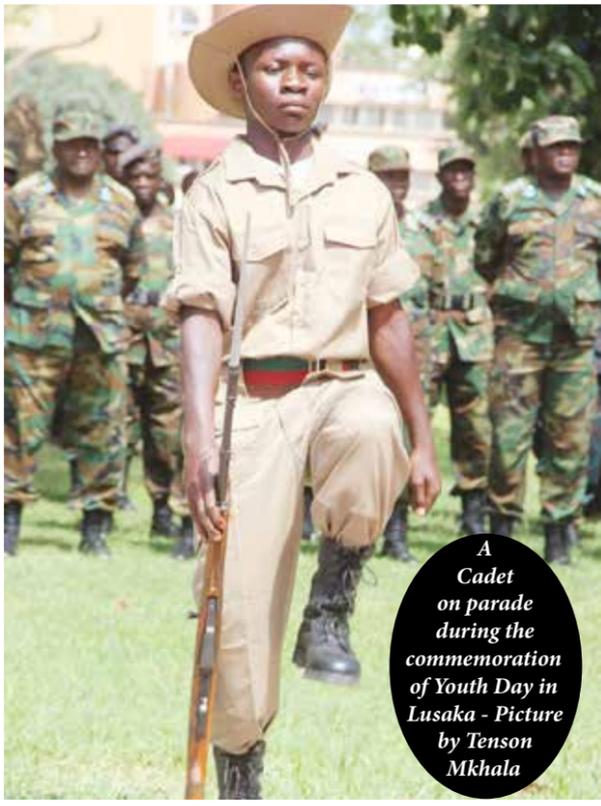
He vowed that no tricks from the Elections House was going to stop his party from contesting the Roan by-election.

"For us in the NDC we take it that this is political as we know that the PF are extremely afraid of the NDC presence in Roan hence the decision to instruct the ECZ to block us, but this will not deter the NDC from contesting Roan. We are a step ahead of the PF because we have people in the PF who are giving us information. So everything that they are planning, we are being told, we know how to counter the last kicks of a dying horse. So whatever the PF are thinking of doing in order to block the NDC from participating in the by-election will not suffice because we remain steadfast as a political party," he said.

"So I just want to tell our colleagues in the PF that this will not deter the NDC from contesting the by-election in Roan. Yes they have barred our 14 candidates not to have their certificates to be verified but we have a reservoir of membership in our party. And come adoptions tomorrow, NDC will field a candidate. Even I Charles Kabwita I am a potential candidate, I will stand [and] if it comes to the worst, I will stand in Roan constituency."



PF cadres at Freedom Statue during this year's Youth Day celebrations in Lusaka on March 12, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



A Cadet on parade during the commemoration of Youth Day in Lusaka - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Diplomats go to lay wreaths at Freedom Statue during the commemoration Youth - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Businessman sues Mushipe over K70,000 rental arrears

By Zondiwe Mbewe | A businessman identified as Archie Mctribuoy has dragged Lusaka lawyer Martha Mushipe to court for failing to pay over K70,000 in rental arrears. Mctribuoy is seeking an order for leave to issue vacant possession and warrant of distress of house number 100/11, in Ibex Hill, Lusaka.

Ireland to illuminate Vic Falls in green to celebrate festival of St Patrick

By Thomas Mulenga
The Embassy of Ireland says it will illuminate the Victoria Falls in Green from 15 to 17 March 2019, as Ireland will be celebrating their national day of St. Patrick who is credited for having introduced Christianity in that country in the fifth century. Speaking at a Media briefing, Wednesday, Embassy of Ireland Political and Economic Analyst Makani Mzyece said the Greening of the Victoria Falls was an example of the close diplomatic relations between Zambia and Ireland. "On 15-17 March 2019, Victoria Falls will be illuminated in green to celebrate the Irish festival of Saint Patrick. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland and is credited with bringing Christianity to the country in the early Fifth Century. His life is celebrated on the 17th of March each year, and this celebration has become the National Day of Ireland and the most important festival in the country," Mzyece said. "The "Greening" of Victoria Falls is another example of the close and friendly relationship between Zambia and Ireland. For Ireland, the colour green symbolizes St. Patrick and also the Irish people. Since 2010, Ireland has been running an initiative called the "Global Greening". In 2018, over 300 landmarks in 50 countries were illuminated in Green- this included the Freedom Statue on Independence Avenue. This year, the Embassy of Ireland, in cooperation with the National Heritage and Conservation Commission, will include Victoria Falls in the Global Greening initiative for the first time on 15-17 March 2019." Mzyece said the greening of the Victoria Falls had received extensive coverage in the Irish Media. "Victoria Falls is the centerpiece of this year's landmarks, and its greening has already received extensive coverage in the Irish media. At the launch by the Irish Minister



for Tourism, Shane Ross and the Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland, Niall Gibbons for this year's campaign, the Victoria Falls were highlighted as the outstanding addition to the Global Greening. An image of Victoria Falls was displayed during the official launch boosting, selected above other confirmed greenings such as the Colosseum of Rome, Niagara Falls, the Christ the Redeemer statue of Rio de Janeiro or the Sydney Opera House," Mzyece said. "This Global Greening initiative is designed to promote awareness of Ireland, while also providing a platform for the host country to highlight their own tourist offering. The Embassy is very pleased that maximum exposure has been achieved for Zambia in Irish media this year." Mzyece disclosed that Ireland had a cordial diplomatic relation with Zambia which had resulted in bilateral assistance such as the Irish Aid. "Links between Ireland with Zambia stretch back over a century. Irish missionary societies - inspired by St Patrick - were among the main providers of services in health and education in

what was then Northern Rhodesia. Many of Zambia's leading citizens received their education at schools run by Irish missionaries, and many of Zambia's hospitals throughout much of the 20th century were in the care of Irish missionary sisters. Ireland established diplomatic relations with Zambia in 1965, and a Development Office was opened in the Country

1980. Today, Ireland has full status Embassy in Lusaka, and Zambia is one of Ireland's nine key Partner countries which benefit from direct Development Assistance through Irish Aid," said Mzyece. "Ireland and Zambia continue to deepen bilateral relations in a range of key policy issues and a Memorandum of Understanding on Political

Consultations with Ireland was signed in June 2018 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Honourable Joseph Malanji. Today Irish citizens continue to play an important role in Zambia - with thousands of Zambians employed by companies set-up by Irish citizens, and many more Zambians benefitting from cooperation in areas such as Health or education."

Mctribuoy is seeking an order for leave to issue vacant possession and warrant of distress of house number 100/11, in Ibex Hill, Lusaka. He is further seeking payment of the outstanding rentals at the rate of K6,500 per month from January 2017 until vacant possession is rendered less monies paid so far, damages, costs and other relief. In an affidavit in support of originating summons filed in the Lusaka High Court, Wednesday, Mctribuoy stated that he entered into a tenancy agreement with Mushipe on January 14, 2017 in respect of the house in Ibex Hill. He stated that Mushipe had breached the Tenancy Agreement to the extent that she had willfully failed, neglected and or refused to pay rentals within the meaning of the Tenancy Agreement, adding that the same had accumulated in excess of K70,000. Mctribuoy added that the payment had been so erratic. He stated that he finds it relevant to terminate the said Tenancy Agreement on account of failure to perform by Mushipe who had despite several reminders failed to honour her obligation.

Lungu sends condolences to Ahmed Ali, Kenyatta over Ethiopian Air crash

By Mirriam Chabala
President Edgar Lungu has sent messages of condolences to the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and his Kenyan counterpart President Uhuru Kenyatta on the tragic plane crash which claimed 157 lives on March 10th, 2019. An Ethiopian Airline Boeing 737 bound for Nairobi crashed shortly after take-off on Sunday morning, killing all 149 passengers and eight crew members on board, making it the second fatal crash of the new and popular Boeing jet in less than five months. Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda said in a statement that President Lungu expressed great sorrow on the tragic crash

of Ethiopian Airlines in his message of condolences to Ethiopia's Prime Minister. "Our thoughts and prayers are with our sisterly counties that are affected by the loss. We mourn with you and pray that the Almighty God grants the people of Ethiopia courage and strength during this trying period. Allow me on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia and indeed on my own behalf to convey to your Excellency and the bereaved families, our sincere and heartfelt condolences on the sudden and painful loss of their beloved ones," Chanda quoted President Lungu as saying. And in a message of condolences to President Kenyatta, the Head of State

said the Zambian government conveyed sincere and heartfelt condolences on the tragic and shocking loss of 32 Kenyan nationals who died in the plane crash. "Our thought and prayers are with your Excellency. We mourn with you and pray that the Almighty God grants the people of Kenya courage and fortitude during this difficult period. Once again, please accept, your Excellency, our heartfelt condolences and the assurances of my highest consideration," said President Lungu. Chanda further disclosed that the President acknowledged that the Ethiopian Airlines was the pride of Africa and that it was indeed a tragedy to have lost so many lives on flight 302.

Mayday! Mayday! Zambia is finally going down!!

It is a fact that the PF government inherited a fairly healthy Treasury from the MMD, which allowed them to go on a thoughtless construction expedition. But now after depleting the reserves, they are pointing fingers in all directions and making Zambians pay for their lack of planning. When the PF came into power, our country's foreign exchange reserves at Bank of Zambia were worth more than three months of import cover.

By the end of last year, Zambia's gross reserves plummeted to just US \$1.57 billion, the lowest in the last nine years, compared to around US \$3.1 billion in 2014.

Due to unplanned expenditure, however, Zambia's Treasury has ran out of money before PF could complete its haphazard construction projects. Unfortunately, this government ignored the warning alarms and continued to borrow in a bid to paint a continuing developmental agenda. Today, those shylocks who were lending them money are knocking, and the PF has been left with no option but to suspend funding to critical sectors in order to repay debt.

In fact, they have raped and mutilated the national budget in order to satisfy international lenders, but still, this has not helped in any way, so they are now having to borrow more

this year in order to pay back what they borrowed last year.

What is amazing about this state of affairs is that the PF doesn't want to admit that they have plunged the country into an economic crisis. The Ministry of Finance insists that everything is moving smoothly; that there is enough money in the reserves, the debt levels are very manageable and citizens must not worry about anything.

True to this narrative, the Zambia Revenue Authority also claims that it is exceeding revenue collection targets by millions of dollars. Since the current leadership at ZRA took charge, we have not heard of any failures in sweeping government revenue. All we have heard are surplus collections being poured into State coffers.

This should mean our country is floating in economic boom, and it is up to the citizens to choose if they want to believe that. But those who are saying that Zambia has never been closer to heaven than it is today need to give us answers. If we are prospering at that rate as a nation, why is this PF government struggling to pay salaries for civil servants? Why is it struggling to keep public universities afloat? Where is the money set aside in the 2019 budget for the University of Zambia and the Copperbelt University? How can a country that is recording unprecedented revenue surplus fail to pay salaries for university lecturers?

Fellow countrymen and women, there is no time left for bulls**ting anyone. Zambia is in a

crisis; the government Treasury is currently distressed. What is happening at UNZA, CBU and other unpaid civil servants is a symptom of what our country is suffering from – economic malaise. The shut down of operations at the two highest learning institutions is a symbol of financial mismanagement by government.

Sadly, very few citizens seem to understand the level we are at in terms of depletion of the government Treasury. But we will do our part in sounding the distress signal. When those who mean well for this country warned that the much talked about infrastructure development was going to haunt the country, citizens didn't want to believe because they thought it did not affect

them directly.

We are back to remind citizens that the harder times they were being told to brace for are finally here. There is no more pretending now since that salary which meant that everything is okay has stopped coming regularly. The fact that, as a civil servant, you can no longer predict your pay day means you are in maningi trouble. And this is just the beginning, where we are going you will have to think twice on whether to buy single or double ply tissue.

Of course the Minister of Finance will dispute this reality and assure you that government, under the Great Leader of This Great Country, will never fail to meet its financial obligations. They will tell you that our hallucinations about the country's economic crisis are nourished by

total ignorance.

The truth is that government has for the past three months been failing to remit employee deductions to microfinance institutions. This failure also covers banks that lend civil servants through the PERMC system. This is the reason why we are hearing reports that BayPort is rethinking its lending partnership with government employees.

This failure by government to simply remit the component of a civil servant's salary meant for microfinance loans means our government is actually failing to pay salaries in full. If this government has the impetus to breach their obligations with private sector players, then civil servants must simply guess if there are any chances that their PAYE and NAPSA contributions are being remitted.

What we are saying is not complicated. Zambia is in a very dire situation. The dreaded times have dawned. The distress signal is now red. When citizens hear any government official defending this crisis, what they should know is that those are airhostesses calming the situation down. Back in the cockpit, they know the danger is real and they are shouting: Mayday! Mayday! Zambia is going down!!

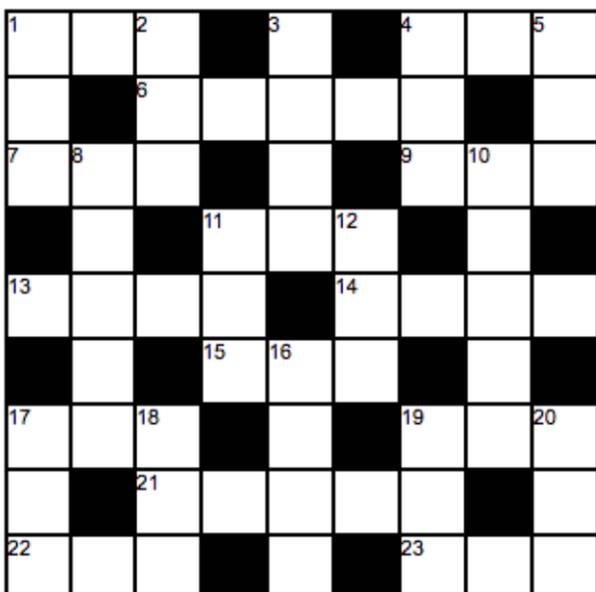
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Ear to the ground

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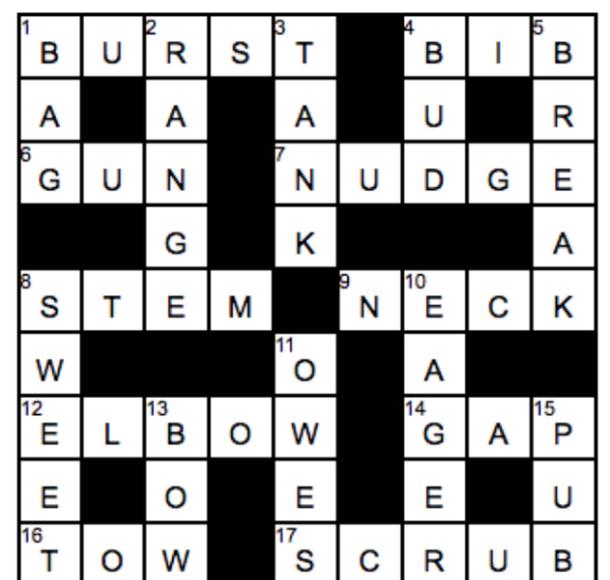
Crossword puzzle 313



“In order to be open to creativity, one must have the capacity for constructive use of solitude. One must overcome the fear of being alone.” - Rollo May

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clock numeral 4. Sculpture or painting 6. Amorous archer 7. Honest ___ Lincoln 9. Furniture wood 11. Single number 13. Grows on the head 14. Sty cry 15. Small bread roll 17. Ruckus 19. Golf peg 21. Bicker 22. Young child 23. Tot's rest | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Going by way of 2. Drink cooler 3. Expanse 4. Lemon or lime suffix 5. Thomas nickname 8. Papa Smurf feature 10. Sudden thrust 11. Planet, e.g. 12. Indefinitely long time 16. Strongly encourage 17. Flight stat. 18. A grain 19. A dozen minus 2 20. More than intuition |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 312



Reader's feedback

CiSCA's caution that PF will need private media when it's in opposition

"Chishimba Kambwili already needs private media. He must be kicking himself for not just agreeing to the Post Newspapers' suggested payment installment plan to clear their tax bill. He would have been getting coverage and Zambia would have gotten the benefit of the tax had it been paid," - David M Mwanangombe

"THEY WIL NEED IT IN OPPOSITION? Who? Politicians enjoy expensive life, when its hard, they jump into the ruling party chapwaaa. How many MMDs are in PF?" - Joshua Njovu

"They don't learn...& when they do, they easily forget that the

very private entities that they're so much trying to gag & trample upon helped them to be where they are today. Foolishness. This is in a case of the post newspaper. It really had a hand in regime change & they know it. Maybe they fear the same to happen to them. Kano nga ebo, ubupuba!" - Godfrey Mwale

Lubinda's assurance that Constitution amendment isn't aimed at blocking HH

Editor,
"Even though but for how long are you going to be amending the constitution Mr. Lubinda don't be fooling us that way. The previous amendment you were excited

that you have done it and today you want to amend the amended already. Ati lacunas when you told us you did a perfect job on the constitution. Shame," - Andy Hanny

"Chiluba did it to Kaunda so its not new to us. Citizens are more alert than ever," - Frank Sichone Narep

"What articles are to be amended? I thought there must be a mutual understanding amongst political players before the bill is taken to Parliament," - Angel Shaka Mainga



High Court upholds Singogo's 6-year sentence

Editor,
"If all this time he was outside on bail he has to go in....and wear the prison garb and start sleeping in there?" - Michael Chipande
"Ninshi it's a trend ku ZAF.... Telili even the past commander is facing such!!!" - Sarah Sachi Zulu
"Kaniki Remember to fix prisons when you are in the civil service or public office. These may just be your temporal quarters," - Andrew-Knox B

"Dear Lubinda, you have always blocked opposition motions in parliament. Remember the vote on pensions? The vote of students allowances? And you chose not to listen when you were advised not to sign a defective constitution at Heroes Stadium? You laid the bed. Lovely. Now sleep on it," - GT Tembo

Striking lecturers' lamentations

Editor,
"I can't believe that lecturers can't see that their salaries are also MEAL ALLOWANCES as far as this government is concerned!" - Pamela Bwembya

"It's shame for academic institutions to be reduced to this level. That's the problem of having illiterate leaders," - Samuel Mulafulafu

"This is what happens, when your leaders become selfish. There is money to buy UN necessary planes, exorbitant second hand fire fighters, ambulances at very high cost and so called unprecedented development at very high cost but will fail to pay for important workers in civil service," - David Sinkala

"I have always wondered why UNZA still depend on government grants. From the number of students (clients), one would have thought they are making big bucks.....what business model are they using or it is charity like the UTH? #wondering," - Thomas Simubali Mankisi

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.

"I just don't like leaders who go in circles to it tells me that they don't know what there are doing this constitutional thing u gathered at the Heroes Stadium and said we have delivered what the people what it very painful to spend people's money like that. I am highly disappointed with this move," - Herick Siwingwa

Cardinal jailed for child sexual abuse

Cardinal George Pell has been jailed for six years after being convicted of sexually abusing two boys in Australia.

The former Vatican treasurer is the most senior Catholic figure ever to be found guilty of sexual offences against children.

Pell abused the 13-year-old choir boys in a Melbourne cathedral in 1996, a jury ruled last year.

The cardinal, 77, maintains his innocence and has lodged an appeal.

In sentencing Pell on Wednesday, a judge said the cleric had committed "a brazen and forcible sexual attack on the two victims" "Your conduct was permeated by staggering arrogance," said Judge Peter Kidd.

In December, a jury unanimously convicted Pell of one charge of sexually penetrating a child under 16, and four counts of committing an indecent act on a child under 16.

His conviction has rocked the Catholic Church, where he had been one of the Pope's closest

advisers.

Pell will be eligible for parole after three years and eight months. His appeal will be heard in June.

One of Pell's victims said it was hard "to take comfort in this outcome" with the cleric's appeal looming.

Prosecutors said that Pell had abused the boys following a mass in St Patrick's Cathedral in 1996, when he was archbishop of Melbourne.

After telling them they were in trouble for drinking communion wine, Pell forced each boy into indecent acts, the court heard. He abused one of the boys again in 1997.

The trial heard testimony from one of the victims. The other died of a drug overdose in 2014.

The verdict was kept secret from the public until February, when additional charges of sexual offences against Pell were withdrawn by prosecutors.

What did the judge say? Judge Kidd said Pell's crimes

were particularly callous because of a "stark" power imbalance.

"You were the archbishop of St Patrick's Cathedral - no less - and you sexually abused two choir boys within that cathedral," he told the County Court of Victoria.

"You even told your victims to be quiet because they were crying."

The judge said he had considered Pell's age and health in determining the sentence. Each of the five charges had carried a maximum 10-year jail term.

Judge Kidd added that Pell should not "be made a scapegoat" for wider failings within the

Catholic Church.

He took more than an hour to deliver his remarks. Unusually for local courts, they were broadcast live - in what officials said was a commitment to "open justice".

Leaning on his walking stick and dressed without his clerical collar, George Pell arrived in the courtroom knowing he faced a significant prison sentence.

He nodded towards a few supporters, but they were significantly outnumbered by the many campaigners and abuse survivors who had come to witness his downfall.

When his sentence was handed down, many in the court turned to look at Pell, searching for any flicker of emotion.

But Pell remained impassive throughout, staring straight ahead, and then bowing towards the judge before being led away. His lawyers argue that the jury's verdict was "unreasonable" because it relied too heavily on the testimony of one victim.

They have also asserted that Pell was wrongly prevented from entering his plea before a jury, and that a defence animation should have been allowed as evidence at the trial.

Pell's surviving victim - who cannot be named - welcomed the sentence but said it was difficult "to feel the gravity of this moment".

"There is no rest for me. Everything is overshadowed by the forthcoming appeal," he said in a statement read by his lawyer. The father of the deceased victim said he was disappointed in the sentence, but was glad to see Pell jailed.

"I watched him walking out of that court and I thought to myself: 'Well, I'm going to sleep in my bed tonight, where are you sleeping?'" he told reporters. *BBC*

Hollywood Stars among dozens charged over US university 'scam'

Hollywood stars including Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin are among dozens of people charged in connection with an alleged \$25m (£19m) university admissions cheating scam in the US, according to court documents. Huffman, star of *Desperate Housewives*, and Full House actress Loughlin, are accused of taking part in an apparent scheme involving parents who paid bribes to get their children into elite universities, including Stanford and Yale.

Both were charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud in indictments unsealed at a federal court in Boston.

Some 33 parents in total have

been charged, as well as 13 other people.

"These parents are a catalogue of wealth and privilege," said US Attorney Andrew Lelling, describing the scheme as the biggest college admissions scam ever prosecuted by the US Justice

Department.

Federal prosecutors have charged William "Rick" Singer, 58, with running the racketeering scam through his Edge College & Career Network, which served several clients, including chief executives and Hollywood ac

Prosecutors said his operation arranged for fake testers to take admissions exams in place of clients' children, and in some cases arranged for applicants to be listed as recruited athletes even if they had no athletic ability.

Part of the scheme also allegedly involved advising parents to pretend to test administrators that their child had learning disabilities, which allowed them extended time to take an exam.

The parents were then allegedly advised to choose one of two test centres that Singer's company apparently said they have control over.

Administrators there took bribes to allow Singer's clients to cheat, often by arranging to have wrong answers corrected, or by having another person take the exam, according to the documents.

Parents paid tens of thousands of dollars for Singer's services, prosecutors said.

Court documents claim Oscar nominee Huffman, who is married to actor William H Macy, paid \$15,000 (£11,400) which she disguised as a charitable donation.

Shy News



Research shows people who consume lots of sugar are more than twice as likely to die from heart disease. Doctors say sugar feeds cancer and Alzheimer's. Then there's sugar's link to diabetes-and the list goes on. That's why giving up sugar in this New Year, along with chemical-based artificial sweeteners, could be the best thing you could do for your health in 2019.

When we think of addiction, we tend to focus on drugs and alcohol. But more doctors now say sugar addiction is often overlooked as the destructive and deadly force it actually is. One of those physicians is sugar addiction specialist Dr. Vincent Pedre, Medical Director of Pedre Integrative Health and President of Dr. Pedre Wellness, based in New York City.

"Sugar is the source of all chronic disease," he said, "We know that solid tumors, cancers, feed on sugar."

Dr. Pedre says sugar includes all sweeteners such as high fructose corn syrup and natural ones like agave. He also points out that to your body, refined carbohydrates are sugars, too.

"People think, 'Well, I don't eat dessert, so I don't have a lot of sugar,'" he said, "But then they're eating bread, rice, pasta. We break down the carbohydrates and they become sugar."

Most of us are Addicted

An estimated three-fourths of Americans are addicted to sugar and don't know it. But food manufacturers do. They add sugar to nearly everything, even foods that may not seem sweet,

'Sugar source of all Chronic diseases'

such as crackers, bread, yogurt, pasta sauce and more. This keeps customers coming back for more. There are nearly 60 different names for sugar. Check the list of ingredients. Red flags are any type of syrup and words that end in -ose. Also fruit juice concentrate, fruit juice, molasses, turbinado, maltodextrin, evaporated cane juice, caramel and honey.

Most people might be shocked to learn that they consume 100 times more sugar than their ancestors did back in the 1800s. Dr. Pedre says most patients are also unaware that their sugar overload is at the root of their nagging health issues, and that when people give up sugar, these issues disappear.

"Bloating, abdominal pain," he explained, "But also sinus congestion, mental fog, memory issues, fatigue, achiness, joint pains-these are all symptoms of consuming sugar in all of its forms. But people don't connect the two."

Scientists who tested lab animals discovered sugar is even more addictive than some illicit drugs.

"Sugar affects the same parts of the brain as cocaine," Dr. Pedre said, "So I tell people that sugar is cocaine for your brain. And by that I mean that it affects the dopamine pathways. Dopamine is the neurotransmitter that makes you feel good. Things are great."

He says people who are addicted to sugar can never be satisfied

with just a taste. "Because that's the design of the neural circuit in the brain," he explained, "It's going to want more hits. And it keeps wanting more and more because it becomes desensitized to small amounts."

Dr. Pedre points out that alcoholics shouldn't have even one drink and drug addicts should avoid even just one hit. Therefore by extension, sugar addicts shouldn't have even a little. That's why he recommends giving up all

sweets. After a number of days, it varies from person to person, the sugar addict generally stops craving it. In the meantime, he says power-through temptation, armed with the knowledge that it's only temporary. *CBN News*



People mourn during a memorial ceremony for the seven crew members who died in the Ethiopian Airlines accident at the Ethiopian Pilot Association Club in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on March 11, 2019. Airlines in Ethiopia, China and Indonesia have grounded their Boeing 737 MAX 8 jets on March 11, as investigators recovered the black boxes from a brand-new passenger jet that crashed outside Addis Ababa a day earlier, killing all 157 people on board.

AFP

Foden becomes City's youngest CL scorer

Phil Foden became Manchester City's youngest Champions League goalscorer as the Premier League champions put seven past Schalke to progress to the quarter-finals. The 18-year-old latched onto a through pass by Leroy Sane - his third assist of the night - and rounded goalkeeper Ralf Fahrmann before slotting into an empty net. At 18 years and 288 days, Foden is the youngest Englishman to net in the competition's knockout stage, and fourth overall behind Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Jadon Sancho and Theo Walcott. "Every time I come on I just try to enjoy my football," he told BT Sport. "I try to concentrate and improve. I enjoy scoring goals. "You are learning all the time in the changing rooms, on the touchline and when you come on. I am learning every day. I will try to keep improving each day. Phil Foden (18-288) becomes the youngest player ever to score a Champions League goal for Manchester City and the youngest English goalscorer in the CL knockout stages. *Goal.com*



Confident Hamilton predicts 'toughest battle yet' with Ferrari

Lewis Hamilton believes Ferrari have the edge going into the opening Grand Prix of the season in Melbourne, but the Mercedes ace remains quietly confident in his bid for a sixth world title. The 34-year-old, who was dominant in 2018, is gunning to go one better than legendary five-time champion Juan Manuel Fangio and close in on Michael Schumacher's all-time record seven Formula One crowns. But it was Ferrari who sizzled in pre-season testing to emerge as the early favourites in Australia, with Hamilton claiming the Italian team could be up to half a second quicker around Albert Park on Sunday. "This is going to be the toughest battle yet," said the Briton, although Mercedes, who have won five drivers' and constructors' titles in a row, may not have shown their full hand yet. - 'We've got the best team' - "We've got the best team around us. We have experience, it's no coincidence that we are world champions so we have to be diligent and stay balanced," added Hamilton, who has won twice in Melbourne, in 2008 and 2015.

"But as a driver for sure I have to figure out how can I pull more out, which I don't have the current answer for." His Ferrari arch-rival Sebastian Vettel swept home in an Australian thriller last year, getting a jump on Hamilton after Mercedes miscalculated a pit stop under virtual safety car conditions. It was the four-time world champion's second straight win in Melbourne and he followed it up with victory at Bahrain before a resurgent and doggedly consistent Hamilton won 11 of the final 19 races to leave the frustrated German in his wake. While Mercedes have retained Valtteri Bottas as Hamilton's partner this year, one of only two unchanged driver line-ups, Vettel has a new teammate in Charles Leclerc who shifted from Sauber -- now branded Alfa Romeo -- in a swap for Kimi Raikkonen. Vettel said he considered 21-year-old Leclerc a "full rival" despite his relative inexperience and expressed confidence that Ferrari can clinch their first drivers' crown since Raikkonen's triumph in 2007. *AFP*

Neymar to be investigated for foul-mouthed Instagram post after Man Utd defeat

Neymar is set to be investigated by UEFA following his comments after Paris Saint-Germain's elimination from the Champions League. The PSG star took to Instagram to hit back at the decision against his team following a handball VAR review during their Champions League last-16 clash. The referee awarded a penalty to United in the final moments of the game, and Marcus Rashford converted the spotkick to eliminate the Ligue

1 club from the competition. Neymar, who didn't play in the fixture due to his current foot injury, voiced his opinion on social media after the match. "That is a disgrace," he wrote on his Instagram Stories alongside a screenshot of the alleged handball. "And UEFA still pick four guys who know nothing about football to review the VAR decision in slow motion... that handball simply doesn't exist! "How do you handball behind your back? Ahh.. go f*ck yourselves."

Following the clash, UEFA announced they would be looking into the 27-year-old's post-match comments and have opened an investigation into the way he conducted himself online. A UEFA statement read: "In accordance with the Article 31 (3) (a) of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations, UEFA has today announced that it has appointed an Ethics and Disciplinary Inspector to conduct an investigation regarding the comments made on social media by the Paris Saint-Germain player Neymar Junior, following the 2018/19 UEFA Champions League match between Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United FC, played on 6 March 2019 in France." *Goal*



Karius taking legal action against Besiktas over unpaid wages

Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius is taking legal action against loan club Besiktas over unpaid wages, *Goal* understands. The 25-year-old has been in Turkey since August 2018. It is understood that Karius is claiming back payments of four months wages worth more than a million Euros. The assistance of world football's governing body has been sought in an effort to bring the matter to a close. First contact was made with FIFA on February 20. That letter made authorities aware of the situation and the need for a swift resolution to be found. Besiktas were contacted and informed of the need to meet the demands of a loanee. No response has been received within the 10-day deadline and further action may now be taken. FIFA could decide to sanction Besiktas if they feel that rules have been broken. If the contract they have in place with Karius has not been honoured, then punishment will be handed out. It is possible that Besiktas could be stung with a point deduction or exclusion from the Europa League. *Goal.com*

World number one and defending champion Naomi Osaka crashed out of Indian Wells on Tuesday, routed 6-3, 6-1 by Switzerland's Belinda Bencic. Japan's Osaka was trying to defend a title for the first time in her career. Her triumph in this elite WTA premier mandatory tournament launched a stellar rise in 2018 that included a first Grand Slam title at the US Open. She followed that up with an Australian Open crown in January that propelled the 21-year-old to number one in the world. Bencic, who turned 22 on Sunday, was a teenage star who won two titles in 2015 but saw her career stalled by a string of back and wrist injuries. She's back on the rise, ranked 23rd in the world after capturing the title in Dubai last month. After her 66-minute triumph over Osaka, Bencic will fight for a semi-final berth against either

Osaka shocked by Bencic in Indian Wells 4th round



World number one Naomi Osaka of Japan shakes hands with Belinda Bencic after falling 6-3, 6-1 to the Swiss player in the fourth round at Indian Wells

fifth-seeded Czech Karolina Pliskova or Estonian Anett Kontaveit. Bencic's win was her second ever against a world number one. She beat then top-ranked Serena Williams on the way to the title in Toronto four years ago. She beat four top-10 players on the way to the title in Dubai. *AFP*

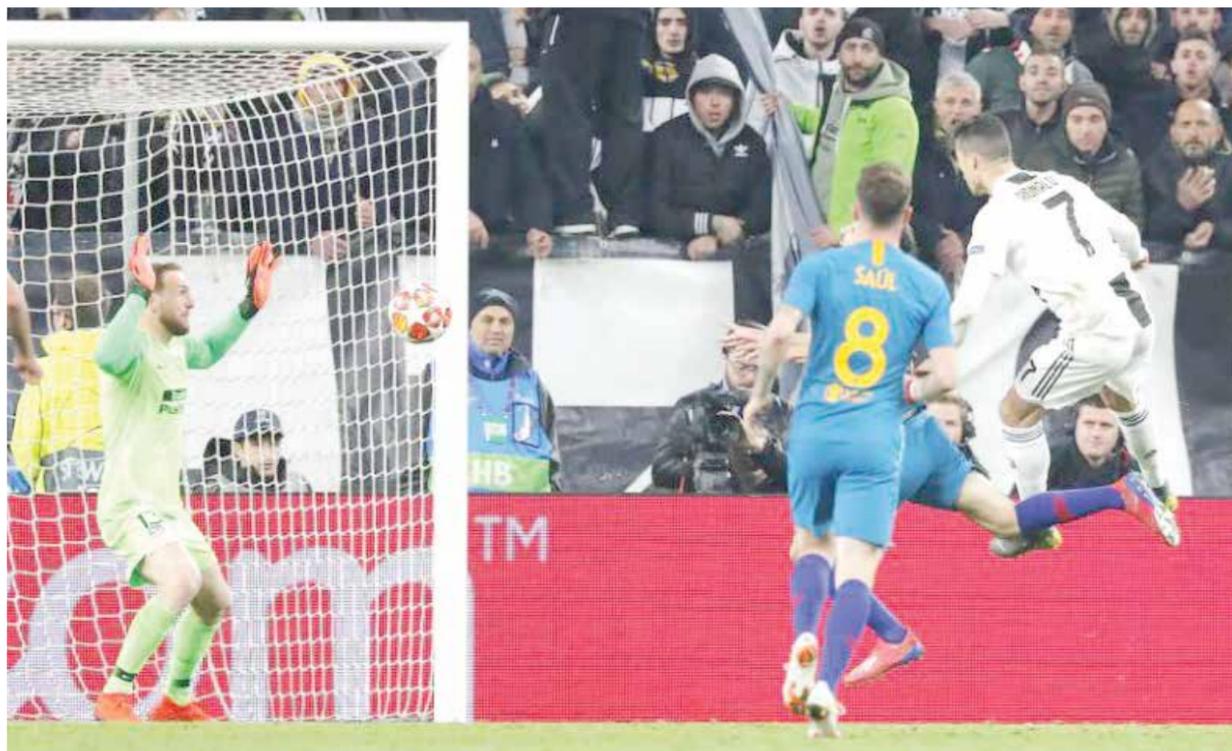
Osaka shocked in Indian Wells

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Hamilton predicts 'toughest battle yet' with Ferrari

Lewis Hamilton believes Ferrari have the edge going into the opening Grand Prix of the season in Melbourne, but the Mercedes ace remains quietly confident in his bid for a sixth world title.

The 34-year-old, who was dominant in 2018, is gunning to go one better than legendary five-time champion Juan Manuel Fangio and close in on Michael Schumacher's all-time record seven Formula One crowns. **To page 11**



Cristiano Ronaldo has boldly declared "that's why Juventus signed me" after scoring a stunning hat-trick to fire the Bianconeri past Atletico Madrid and into the Champions League quarter-finals. The Serie A title holders had a

That's why Juves signed me! - Ronaldo

European mountain to climb heading into the second leg of a last-16 showdown with La Liga opponents. Trailing 2-0 from a

disappointing showing on Spanish soil, the Italians were looking for a flash of brilliance from somewhere and found it in the form of

their Portuguese superstar. Ronaldo was to deliver the eighth Champions League treble of his remarkable career when such a contribution

was needed most. He had been snapped up from Juve in the summer of 2018 to produce performances such as that

he managed against Atletico, with the 34-year-old a five-time Ballon d'Or winner and European champion.

After keeping his current club on course to help him add to that enviable haul of honours, Ronaldo told Sky Sport Italia: "It had to be a really special night and it was.

"If we continue like this, we have not won yet but we have reasons to be proud and we are on the right way.

"That's why Juve signed me and I tried to do my best job.

"It's a magical night. It was a very difficult team to play but we showed that we were a very big team. We proceed step by step, we will see."

Juventus are now into the last eight and can look forward to the quarter-final draw on Friday.

It could be that Ronaldo is handed another emotional reunion with familiar faces at that stage.

He has been a regular thorn in Atletico's side down the years and enhanced that record with his spectacular showing at the Allianz Stadium on Tuesday. **Goal**

WANDERERS FANS WANT CEO OUT

By Alex Chilumbwe

Mufulira Wanderers Supporters Society National General Secretary Mumba Mwila has accused club CEO Iden Zulu of interfering with the coaching staff and has called for his suspension.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, Mwila stated that the supporters society wrote to the club executive through its chairman Milupi saying failure to dismiss Zulu

would result in fans boycotting all games at Shinde stadium.

"As your leaders, we have not sat quiet on the matter. We sent a formal letter on the 6th of March, 2019, to the exco through the club chairman Mr. Milupi. As an organisation we could only wait for a formal response which has not been forth coming. What was contained in the letter was the immediate suspension of the CEO for interfering in the work of the coach.

Due to non response from the Chair, we are now contemplating of taking plan B. We have as well given the club exco an ultimatum up to this Friday or we shall boycott watching the games at Shinde," read the statement. Mwila further said that a follow up letter accompanied by the first one would be written and be hand-delivered to Milupi today.

"Let me also state that deputy chair talked to the club chairman last

Saturday while he was in Lusaka and he promised that action will be taken against the CEO by Monday, but surprisingly nothing has been done to that effect. A follow up letter that will be hand-delivered be given to the club chairman so that he presents it to the club executive," said Mwila. Mighty Mufulira Wanderers are 8th with 5 points on the log in Stream A. They have one win, two draws and three losses in six games.

