

My silence in govt doesn't mean I'm afraid I'M PUSHING MMD VALUES - MUTATI

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SDA Dorcas mothers wave at UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and wife Mutinta during the Muluse Dorcas Rally in Lusaka's Chongwe area on Saturday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Changala apologises to Professor Lumumba on behalf of Zambians

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Civil rights activist Brebner Changala has tendered an apology to Kenyan Professor Patrick Lumumba who was banned by government

from entering the country on Saturday, assuring him that sooner than later he will visit Zambia when a sober government takes charge of Zambia. On Saturday, the renowned Kenyan Professor was banned from entering the country on

grounds that his visit posed a national security risk. Professor Lumumba had been invited to attend a graduation ceremony at Eden University and later feature on a Diamond TV-organised discussion forum on Chinese Investments in Africa. To page 2

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Maggy attributes increase in debt to Chinese efficiency

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Business & Corporate Advisory



By Mirriam Chabala

Opposition political parties are insisting that government has sold the country to China due to Zambia's indebtedness to that country because they do not want development, says Minister of Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela. And Chitotela has disclosed that government has sub-contracted four local contractors for the construction of a new Copperbelt International Airport under the 20 per cent policy for designing and rehabilitation works. Responding to opposition members of parliament, among them Livingstone UPND member of parliament Mathews Jere, who sought clarification on Zambia's debt to China, and if the loans government was contracting from that country were insured, Chitotela wondered why Zambians were so concerned about Zambia's debt to China when the country was owing more to Western countries. Chitotela told opposition MPs after updating the

Skepticism over China irritates Chitotela

House on the progress made on the construction of the US \$360 million Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) upgrade project, and the Copperbelt Airport in Ndola, to stop peddling lies about China's interest in African countries like Zambia. "Let me make this very clear, Zambia is our country. We need to have limits in terms of politicking. We all know that international loans are guaranteed and secured by the international insurance companies, like in the case of this loan. It is insured by the International Insurance Company of China. This loan is fully insured, Mr Speaker, and we know what happens if you go to borrow money that you fail to pay or so, the insurance company comes in to pay. That's why the risks are covered. Zambians must be assured that these properties, all what we are executing

[is insured]. And I must emphasise, Mr Speaker, these fights against China that Zambia... According to the Minister of Finance, she did state that the total debt is about US \$9.4 billion and out of this, the money owed to China is less than US \$3 billion. Why are we not talking about where we owe more than US \$6 billion to say, 'they are buying the country?' Why are we following a country that has just lent less than 10 per cent of our GDP that they are talking over the country?" Chitotela asked. He insisted that the opposition had resorted to lying about China's interest in Zambia because they had no other message for the people.

"Mr Speaker, this is purely a political machination because the Chinese government is actually assisting African countries to develop, and our friends in the opposition are scared, because they will have no message to tell the Zambian people. So, now, the only thing [they have to do] is to scandalise the government so that, maybe, they can deter the Chinese government from assisting African governments to develop so that they will have a message to tell the people out there. But in Zambia, people are very alert and they know that there is no government on this earth that would want to govern the people and then you want to see the

same country that you want to govern. It doesn't happen like that," Chitotela said. "And the question I am asking, Mr Speaker is, why are we talking about the US \$2.8 billion that we owe to Chinese that, 'we have sold the country' when we have huge amounts that we owe to the Western governments, which is in excess of US \$6 billion. Who can then buy Zambia between the one that you are owing less than 10 per cent of the GDP and the one that you are owing more than 30 per cent of the GDP? Who can buy between these two? We must not politic because we know that the Chinese nationals are interested in seeing that African countries develop." And responding to a

question from Mumbwa independent member of parliament Machila Jamba, who wanted to find out how many Zambian-owned companies were participating in the projects involving the construction of airports, Chitotela said four Zambian companies had been sub-contracted for the construction of the Copperbelt International Airport in Ndola. "Last time when I issued a statement, I did provide data on the construction of the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in terms of how many Zambians and how much money has been given to the local sub-contractors. But I paid more attention this time on the new Copperbelt International Airport. We have four companies that have been sub-contracted. These are; M & N Industrial Mechanical Ltd, whose jobs are enclosure-access roads. You may be aware, Mr Speaker, that the construction of airports needs specialization. The second company is AFRICOS Construction and Supply Ltd; their main works are earth drainage and also number three; AFRICOS Construction and Supply Ltd, the concrete U-shape and the open ditch. Number four; AFRICOS Construction and Supply Ltd, brickwork. And the total amount paid, Mr Speaker, to this local contractor is 121,231,235. I wish to inform the House that the contractor for the Copperbelt International Airport is AVIC International. The contract sum is 37,921,694 with a contract period of 36 months. However, a few local contractors have been sub-contracted under a policy of 20 per cent," said Chitotela.

Changala apologises to Lumumba on behalf of Zambians

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Civil rights activist Brebner Changala has tendered an apology to Kenyan Professor Patrick Lumumba who was banned by government from entering the country on Saturday, assuring him that sooner than later he will visit Zambia when a new government, with serious ambitions for the people, takes charge of Zambia. On Saturday, the renowned Kenyan Professor was banned from entering the country on grounds that his visit posed a national security risk. Professor Lumumba had been invited to attend a graduation ceremony at Eden University and later feature on a Diamond TV-organised discussion forum on Chinese Investments in Africa. Commenting on the development in an interview with News Diggers, Changala said he was concerned

with the conduct of the PF government because they had messed up the good name of the country. "I'm seriously concerned about the PF government's conduct. They have done too many criminal activities in our name as Zambians. They have messed up our good name in many areas to preserve their criminal conduct. I'm not very happy. Professor Lumumba is one of Africa's intellectuals, inspirational speakers, ideological movers and a pillar for many young citizens who want to live a decent, positive and productive lives. To be chased away from Zambia by the immigration, by Ministry of Home Affairs, in our name, committing this heinous crimes against ubuntu, in our name is absurd and totally unacceptable," he said. And Changala wondered

what security risk Professor Lumumba posed on Zambia with his intellectual mouth. "I know they are scared of any individual who will come to this country to alert them about their bad behaviour, their undemocratic behaviour, their criminality, their corruption. At home, they are able to tame the people of Zambia in the name of public order act while they root the treasury, they destroy and dismantle democracy. But I want to warn PF, what goes up, comes down. Sooner than later the people of Zambia will not accept to be used in any way to protect their unbecoming behavior. What security risk is Professor Lumumba other than his own mouth? What security risk does he pose to Africa? Nothing. He

is an African intellectual, anti-corruption fighter. And to embarrass this country is totally unfair," he said. Meanwhile Changala apologised to Professor Lumumba on behalf of Zambians saying he did not support government's actions. He assured him that sooner than later he would visit Zambia when a new government with serious ambitions took over the administration of the country. "I want to disassociate myself as Brebner Changala, as a citizen in whose name Professor Lumumba was deported. And I want to render an apology to him as Brebner Changala. And on behalf of many progressive citizens who were ready to listen and learn something

from him, we want to tender an apology to him and the Kenyan people that we do not support the behaviour and conduct of our own corrupt regime," said Changala. "If anything, its good that the government has exposed itself because what they have been reading or hearing could have been rumours, now they have confirmed that we have intolerant, repressive and undemocratic elected regime in this republic. And if he can accept my apology on behalf of all progressive Zambians, it is a disaster but I can assure him that sooner than later he will visit our country when normal people, with normal character, with serious ambitions for ubuntu and Africa, take over the administration of this country."

Police arrest another Chinese for drilling Zambians in military training

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Police in Southern Province have arrested another Chinese and a Zambian owner of a security company called Alert Safety, for drilling Zambians in illegal military training at a secluded camp near Livingstone. The development bring the total number of those arrested to 11, in a case where police also confiscated an assortment of fire arms. "We have arrested another Chinese national and

a Zambian director of Alert Safety Security in Livingstone, who are both suspects in the case of unlawful drilling eight shotguns and pistol were recovered. This now brings to eleven the total number of suspects who are helping with police investigations with two Chinese nationals and nine Zambians. We have constituted a combined team of District Joint Operations Committee (DJOC) to probe the matter," said Southern Province Police Commissioner

Bonny Kapeso in a statement yesterday. On Saturday, Kapeso disclosed that the Chinese trainers had imported military fatigue gear for the Zambians trainees from China. "Upon investigations, one pistol, seven shotguns and one big air gun with a box containing shotgun ammunition were recovered allegedly owned by the security company proprietor. The group has been conducting trainings without clearance from

the police because the uniform used looks similar to the one used by Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA)," said Kapeso in a statement. "They set up camp 10km north of Livingstone's weighbridge and two kilometres off Great North Road. Police are waiting for the owner of the security company to establish ownership of the guns since he is based in Lusaka. All the eight suspects are in police custody helping with investigations."

Negative sentiments on social media affecting Kwacha – Haabazoka

By Abraham Kalito

Economics Association of Zambia president Dr Lubinda Haabazoka says the Kwacha will continue depreciating against major convertibles because of the numerous negative sentiments from the public on social media. And Haabazoka says the introduction of sales tax is progressive. Speaking during the 2019 budget analysis meeting, Friday, Haabazoka urged Zambians to be careful what they posted on social media saying it could affect the performance of the Kwacha. "I would like to emphasise that Zambia's economic growth or Zambia's economic performance cannot be seen or the factors that affect Zambia's economic performance are not the same as in 2000. Zambia has issued a Euro-bond, and when bonds are trading on the market, nobody does fundamental analyst, nobody will calculate all those ratios for you. People look for noise, people look for information. So, you should be aware that if the bond performs very badly because of a story or a tweet, that is going to affect the performance of the Zambian kwacha because that investor that wanted to bring in forex is going to be disturbed, is going to have a wait and see approach. And that forex is not going to land in Zambia and the currency will suffer," Haabazoka said. "For example, it's not a crisis but what is happening to the Kwacha it coincided with tweets and Bank of Zambia is here they know that they have been doing open market operations meaning they have the forex, but the Kwacha is still losing value because people that wanted to bring

in money are scared of what we are discussing. People that are in Zambia, that had Kwacha investments including some of the people that are here are already running to buy forex. This is what I wanted to share with you as an individual, those that want to learn more about the influence of noise should learn more about efficient market hypothesis and technical analysts. Kwacha will continue to fall, fall and fall because there are a lot of negative sentiments from Zambians that influence the urgency with which potential investors would invest the country. The develop a wait and see approach and as long as we continue doing that, Kwacha will be affected." Haabazoka however, expressed shock over government decision to spend K22 billion in debt servicing. "It's quite alarming that about K22 billion is

allocated towards debt servicing. But like I said, these interactions should be aware to the fact that in economics, you have a lot of ideas. And since the PS, honourable Minister is here, I would like to say that certain debts can actually be converted into PPPs. I believe that there is a place for government in business and there is also no place for government in businesses. For example, there is a lot of, please don't attack me, I know that in Zambia there are a lot of sentiments, I do not know why government should own for example an airport terminal," he said. "The Zambian government can still own the runway, the airport but I think if that debt is to move on the balance sheet, we increase the debt, but we can look at how the financiers can be convinced, or other parties can be convinced to take such projects into PPP. I know there are

rumours to say, but this is what I am telling you from an economic perspective. There are a lot of projects, hydro-electric stations, which I think ZESCO should not own because I think ZESCO should employ more people. ZESCO will spend money renovating such, if we have Maamba as an example of an independent of ZESCO and providing energy, so government should look at such projects that can be converted from debt to remove them off balance sheet through PPPs." And Habazoka says the introduction of sales tax is progressive. "Coming to the budget, you know as economists, especially if you reach the level of permanent head damage, you know that there is always a solution to a problem. And the greatest characteristic of an economist should be such that you never think you are going in danger

any time. So, coming back to austerity measures and the national budget, I think I would like to say that colleagues from the Ministry of Finance are even more revolutionary than I can be because I never thought that they can bring everybody on board to participate and fund government expenditure or government operations. When you look at the budget that was announced today (Friday) for 2019, I think it reflects the economic conditions both globally and domestic. And when you look at the current situation where we are, I think we are where we are because for over 20 years we neglected infrastructure development in this country," he said. "I would like to disagree with my colleagues who said that sales tax is a very bad thing. You know Zambia is a country that is developing and there are a lot of loopholes in

which people can run away from paying taxes. And I am telling you if ask people from the Zambia Revenue Authority, you are going to know that there are people that even have no address, physical address as companies but every month they will be very keen to go and claim VAT refund. I think that moving from VAT to sales tax is going to ensure that government saves over a billion US Dollars in VAT refunds from. From the mining industry alone, the Zambia government is going to \$700 million, those figures are official figures, and everyone can check. In terms of mine policy, I didn't expect any movement in that area because you know colleagues are very strong, but I think those that loved windfall tax, will know that indirectly windfall tax has come, and it kicks on when metal prices, copper prices are above \$7500."

NIPA responds to court action by 31 students demanding revised marking of their law examinations

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Registrar has asked the Lusaka High Court to set aside the matter in which some law students are seeking an order to

compel the institution to remark all Insurance Law examination papers. In this matter, 31 law students have sued NIPA in the Lusaka High Court, seeking an order of injunction to restrain

the institution from proceeding with their 19th graduation ceremony, which was scheduled, and already took place last Thursday, until matters surrounding the Insurance Law course were

exhaustively resolved. However, NIPA's Registrar Maxwell Saya stated in an affidavit in support of summons to stay the application pending hearing of his summons to set aside the statement of claim for irregularity, that if the ex-parte application for an order of injunction was granted, the application to set aside the writ of summons and statement of claim would be rendered an academic exercise. Saya stated that if the application for an order of injunction was not stayed, it would prejudice the reputation of the institution and the interest of the 1,400 students that graduated, Thursday. He stated that in any event, the institution had instituted a remark of the plaintiffs examination scripts, the results of which were now known. Saya further stated that

he was further advised by counsel and verily believed that the said writ of summons and statement of claim did not disclose a reasonable cause of action as required by the mandatory rules of the court. He stated that the failure to clearly disclose the facts that had given rise to the right to the reliefs sought by the 31 students granted the court authority to order that the action be stayed or dismissed. Judge Sharon Newa has since set October 2, 2018, as a date of hearing the students application for injunction. NIPA has appointed Messrs JB Sakala and Company as its advocates in the matter and they have since filed a certificate of urgency for the determination of the application to set aside writ of summons and statement of claim for irregularity.

Being quiet doesn't mean I am afraid, speed kills – Mutati

By Diggers Reporter

MMD faction leader Felix Mutati says it is important to be patient because speed kills. Addressing supporters in Chipata recently, Mutati, who is also Works and Supply Minister, said as an opposition leader who was working in the PF government, it was unwise to do political "gymnastics". "You have told me that I should not fear, and I do not fear. In leadership, I am part of a Cabinet, I must be able to contribute fundamentally through Cabinet, not for me to stand on an anthill and do gymnastics to show that I am clever. My job is to bring the values of MMD to be debated and dealt with within the context of Cabinet. So ngati mwa ona ati zee, si manta iyayi

because ti sebenza mukati (so when you notice that I am quiet, it does not mean that I am scared, no, it is because we are working on the inside)," Mutati said. He said no matter how much some people insulted, they would never be president if God did not allow it. "You taught me how to work and you have said to me, it is important to be humble, to be patient and to work hard, speed kills. So it doesn't matter what anybody says, Mutati and President Lungu are tight, its sim and phone. We have to deliver for the people of Zambia. You have said, and my national secretary has said many times that leadership is ordained by God, it doesn't matter how much you shout, it doesn't matter how much you insult. If God hasn't allowed you to rule, you will never rule," said Mutati.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Mount Meru Petroleum Zambia has sued Chimnkoms Management Limited of Chibombo district in the Lusaka High Court for failing to pay over K600,000, being an amount due after drawing diesel and petrol from the company's Chibombo filling station.

In a statement of claim filed, September 26, the oil company stated that through an agreement entered between the two companies, Chimnkoms was upon making an advanced payment, allowed to draw diesel and petrol from Mount Meru's Chibombo service station. They stated that Chimnkoms however, proceeded to draw diesel and petrol from the filling station without first having made the necessary advance payment.

"Without making necessary advance payment and contrary to the terms of what had been agreed between the two companies, Chimnkoms drew diesel and petrol from Mount Meru's Chibombo filling station without first having made the necessary advance payment," read the statement of claim.

The oil company stated that as at August 10, this year, there was an amount of K637,369 due from Chimnkoms for the diesel and petrol that they had drawn between June 20 and March 3, 2018, from Mount Meru's Chibombo filling station.

They stated that despite numerous demands and reminders, Chimnkoms had neglected to pay the said amount.

The oil company further

Mount Meru Petroleum sues client over K637, 000 debt

stated that Chimnkoms had also issued to them two cheques dated July 12, 2018 for K25,000 each

as part payment but the said cheques were both dishonoured by the bank when they were presented

for payment.

They disclosed that despite having been notified of the dishonour of the said

two cheques, Chimnkoms had refused to replace them adding that they had suffered loss and damage

as a result of Chimnkoms actions.

They are now claiming for payment of K637,369, being payment due from Chimnkoms, K50,000 being the value of the two cheques which were dishonoured by the bank, interest, costs and any other reliefs the court may deem fit.

We also deserve salary increments - JAWUZ

By Mirriam Chabala

Judicial and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (JAWUZ) president Peter Mwale says government must increase salaries for civil servants across the country, arguing that a pay rise for the President and other top government officials is an indication that the treasury has enough money to improve workers conditions.

In an interview with News Diggers, Mwale charged that the upward adjustment of President Edgar Lungu's monthly salary and allowances was also a demonstration that salary increments were an exception to the imposed austerity measures.

"If you look at the people who have given themselves salary increments, they are comfortable and I don't even understand why they can increase their salaries to those levels when civil servants don't get enough

money. And I know, I am very sure that they are even planning to impose a wage freeze on civil servants. But we are saying that if themselves are able to award themselves very good and hefty salary increments then impose a wage freeze on majority civil servants, that is not fair, it is a worst evil ever in the history of our country. There is no way that poor civil servants can be told to tighten their belts in the name of austerity measures and that government is unable to increase salaries. I want to see how much civil servants are going to be given as salary increment. Believe you me, if we are not going to be given a very good living wage as civil servants then definitely there will be a problem, we are not going to accept it," Mwale warned.

"Government has demonstrated that it has

got money. How have they demonstrated that they have got money? First of all, they have awarded themselves very good salaries, and they have also procured very expensive vehicles for themselves and they get very good allowances. But when it comes to civil servants, you will see... they are going to tell us that 'no we don't have money to give civil servants'. I know that right now, as public servants and unions in public service we are preparing for negotiations and we are aware, we have information that they may not give us any increments for 2019. that's not right! That's not fair! If themselves can sit and award themselves that kind of increment, what will be difficult for them also to do the same for the lower civil servants on the ground who are working and suffering? Civil

servants who have been subjected to many taxes." Mwale said it was unfair for government to have come up with austerity measures targeting only the civil servants.

"We are demanding that let justice be seen to be done by giving a living wage to the civil servants on the ground. We are not going to accept anything in the name of austerity measures. As I said and I will still insist that these austerity measures are meant to be used to disadvantage majority civil servants and you have seen. They have awarded themselves salaries and backdated and now today they can tell us that there are austerity measures and that government has got no money. Really we want to see a very good portion of money going to the civil servants salary. Look, our housing allowances are very low. Our transport

allowances are very low, our salaries are very low, coupled with the high cost of living. All these things, how do they expect the civil servants to survive? How do they expect the civil servants to not be corrupt? We are really suffering, it's not right! It's not fair," Mwale insisted

"The people in government should find it in their hearts the way they are giving themselves salary increments, they should also do the same to us. In fact to me, if they were very prudent and very sincere, they should just announce that they have also given civil servants a salary increment of maybe about K5000 across the board. That would even be better than civil servants going to negotiate, then using the negotiations to cheat us and delay the negotiations. Themselves do they sit to negotiate? No, they just thought and awarded themselves that increment but us they want us to go and sit with them before they can increase our salaries."

Meanwhile, Mwale wondered what the emergency was to increase the President's salary under austerity measures. "And someone would ask really what was the emergency in increasing the President's salary? Because like I said these are people who are very comfortable, even if they don't have any salary they have got very good conditions that fever them in this economy. So do they need an increment? No! But civil servants deserve the increment because they are workers and they are working and they deserve the increment more than those on top in the government because those people can go without salaries even for two or three years and there can be no difference," said Mwale.



President Lungu (l) being welcomed by PF Supporters at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport when he returned from the 73RD United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Saturday. - Picture by Salim Henry

By Zondiwe Mbewe

ADD president Charles Milupi has charged that the statement by Southern Province Minister Edify Hamukale that 'PF has indeed put more money in people's pockets' is an hallucination because the ruling party has reduced even the little that Zambians had.

And Milupi has urged leaders to make well thought out statements as opposed to saying things to please their appointing authorities.

On Wednesday, Hamukale said when debating President Edgar Lungu's address to Parliament that the Patriotic Front has indeed put more money in people's pockets as can be seen from the value of properties in Zambia going up as a result of tarred roads.

But in an interview with News Diggers! Milupi said the statement was

Hamukale is hallucinating to please Lungu – Milupi

ridiculous and the minister was deliberately hallucinating for the benefit of those who appointed him.

"That's an absolutely ridiculous statement to be made by someone who ought to know better. The minister is deliberately hallucinating for the benefit of those who appointed him. The value of rentals is reflective of the state of economy. Whether people can afford or not afford. If he just carries out a very quick research, he will find that most people who have properties, whether they

are on a tarred road or not, they have difficulties getting tenants in those properties. Even if they are able to get tenants the amount of rentals that they are able to demand has drastically reduced. Whether the property is on a tarred road or not, what rent you can get is whether those people have sufficient resources to get to afford the rentals," he said.

Milupi insisted that the country's economy was in a crisis at the moment.

"Because of what PF has done to the economy, driven down the economy,

and this is serious, there's no way we can bury our heads in the sand. Our economy is in a crisis at the moment. We are an over borrowed nation, we have seen movements in our Kwacha going the wrong way, people in formal employments have drastically reduced, even if those with the best degrees, college diplomas, they are failing to get employment. So I don't know what this minister is talking about. They must be careful," he said.

And Milupi urged leaders to make well thought out

statements as opposed to saying things just to please their appointing authorities.

He said PF had actually reduced the little that Zambians had in their pockets since they came into power.

"We expect our leaders to make well thought out statements. Not statements meant to please the appointing authority, which is what that statement is all about. PF from 2011, even though they promised that there will be more money in people's pockets, in

practical terms, we have seen them reduce even the little that was already in the pockets. Remember they promised lower taxes also, but we have seen the proliferation of so many taxes," he said.

"Let us look at the crisis that is facing this nation. In the midst of this crisis, where the money is not there, we are failing to pay civil servants on time, we are failing to pay retirees, it's a wonder that under those circumstances, we still have a government that has continued with their expenditure rate, we still have a President that still goes to New York in a private plane. [John] Magufuli who is doing very well in Tanzania, goes on a commercial plane."

Meanwhile Milupi observed that government always pushed for what they wanted regardless of its impact on the treasury.

"The salaries were increased (for President Lungu and other officials). And those are constitutional office holders. They were already very well-paid and they go to increase their salaries. Civil servant salaries have not increased. So there's a disconnect in this country between reality and what these people want. They are so insensitive to what's happening in this country that they push ahead for what they want regardless of its impact on the treasury," said Milupi.

2019 budgetary allocations elate ministers

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Cabinet Ministers have expressed happiness at the proposed 2019 national budgetary allocations by Minister of Finance Margaret Mwanakatwe, saying it was impressive and well presented.

On Friday, government unveiled a record-breaking K86.8 billion national budget for next year expected to be supported by increased tax revenues amounting to K47 billion, nearly K6 billion more than last year's budget.

But speaking to ZNBC shortly after the budget presentation at Parliament Friday, Fisheries and Livestock Kampamba Mulenga said K5.4 billion would be adequate for implementation of programmes under her ministry.

She added that she would do her best to ensure that the monies allocated to her sector were put to good use.

"Very well presented budget. For our sector, fisheries and livestock, we have been allocated K5.4 billion which is very adequate. After a long time, a small ruminant under my sector have actually been recognised. And this is very important for our sector especially at the time when we have the export of goats to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And also aqua culture has also been recognised as an economical driver in my sector. So as minister in charge of fisheries and livestock, I must say I'm very happy and we will do our best as a ministry to ensure that the monies that

have been allocated to my sector are placed to good use," she said.

Minister of Labour and Social Security Joyce Nonde Simukoko said she was happy that her ministry had been considered significantly in the budget.

"As you all know, we are all part of the budget as the cabinet and a lot of things were debated and we agreed on what has been presented. I'm very happy that we have been included in the budget, that we conclude the labour code this year. And also the issues of inspection, we need about 1000 inspectors for us to cover the whole country but we only have 50. So the budget is saying [that] we should be supported so that

we have as many inspectors as possible so that we can touch all the corners of Zambia where there is economic activity, where the workers are employed so that we can make sure that they are well looked after by their employers. As it is now, it has been very very difficult. So the ministry of labour has adequately been featured in the budget and it will be up to us to work hard," said Simukoko.

And Southern Province Minister Edify Hamukale said the budget was simply impressive, well thought through and full of consultation.

He added that most of the monies had been allocated to sectors that would

stimulate growth in the economy.

"This budget is a very impressive one. Well thought through and full of consultation. We feel that most of the monies have gone to sectors that will stimulate growth and that growth will answer back to social inequalities that include unemployment, poverty and illiteracy. Looking at agriculture, the maputo protocol requires that all member countries invest or commit around 10 percent of their national budget to agriculture. But I think that the budget has exceeded that expectation because we are around 11 percent of the national budget, when you add livestock together

with agriculture," said Hamukale.

"Secondly, with huge investments in the area of infrastructure, tourism and these are economic sectors that answer back to the 7NDP, creating employment, reducing poverty and ensuring that all the inequalities are minimised as much as possible, bringing everyone on board. The other excellent component is that the social services sector will be stimulated. It caters for both urban and rural. And looking into the future, we feel that this is a budget that will answer back to the need of Zambia to industrialize, to manufacture. So we are extremely happy."

Halt card renewal exercise, until court determines legitimate MMD leader Nevers tells Mutati faction

By Mirriam Chabala

Dr Nevers Mumba says the Felix Mutati-led MMD faction must stop going round the country organising conferences and card renewal exercises until the courts determine the legitimate leader of the former ruling party.

And in an interview with News Diggers, Dr Mumba who is both former Vice-President of Zambia and High Commissioner to Canada, said he is not bitter with former President Rupiah Banda for recognising the Works and Supply Minister as the true leader of the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD).

"The question is what is their rush? What are they scared of? Is it the court case? And we agree with the police that there is no need for them to create another crisis on top of another. The truth of the

matter is that Felix Mutati is not the president of MMD. It's just that we do not want to create a crisis, so we are going to allow the arms of the State in this case the police to make judgment," Mumba said.

He charged that Mutati and his team were exhibiting strange desperation.

"Listen, there is desperation going on with our colleagues and I fully understand their desperation. They know that they are illegitimate and they may want to make themselves legitimate by having events in the name of MMD in districts where the police have not been adequately informed. But we are not aware that the police across the country have been informed that that group cannot have meetings anywhere in the country until the case is disposed off. And we agree with the police and we think that they are

doing the right thing in terms of avoiding violence and extra judicial processes of solving problems. Because if police don't do their part then our membership in those Provinces can rise up against that group and injure each other or even kill each other," he said.

"However, I am not surprised that they are having this meeting because there is a desperation. [Look] there is a court case which is coming next month... so our advice to our colleagues is that let them be at peace and let the courts address themselves to this matter and in two weeks from now, they are going to know the correct position. So we can just ask them to relax, trust in God and that way, we are able to create peace amongst ourselves."

Asked if he was unhappy with former President Rupiah Banda for recognising Mutati as MMD

president, Mumba said the former Head of State was at liberty to publicly endorse anyone he chose.

"Anybody can recognise anyone. There are very good people who have recognised capable leaders depending on their personal interest and I think President Banda has his own interests, those interests dictate who he supports. But I am not bitter against him, I am not upset. If I was bitter against the former president you would have seen it by now. President Banda is my elder brother and he's a former president of our party and of our country so I have to give him that respect. But as for his political decisions, he's just like any other Zambian who can decide to recognise anybody depending on his personal interest. But that does not affect me, what affects me is the truth and the truth is about to come out," said Dr Mumba.

By Abraham Kalito

The kwacha's depreciation will in the long-run negatively impact mealie meal prices, says the Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ).

The kwacha has continued depreciating against major currency convertibles to breach the K12 per dollar psychological barrier for the first time since October, 2015.

According to financial market players, the kwacha breached the K12 psychological barrier per dollar to trade above K12.00 on account of continued heightened demand for dollars on the local market with correspondingly limited supply of the greenback.

The local unit was seen trading at K12.26 and K12.31 by end of day, Friday, for bid and offer respectively, according to the Bank of Zambia, down from an average of K10.99 and K11.06 per dollar 10 days prior, representing an around eight per cent devaluation of the local currency.

In an interview, MAZ president Andrew Chintala said that the depreciation of kwacha has currently not negatively affected the sector because raw materials are sourced locally.

However, upward mealie meal price adjustments could be made to cushion some millers' increased cost of procuring equipment into the country, according to Chintala.

"When you talk about the depreciation of the kwacha, obviously, there are millers who have just imported equipment to enhance their operations. These will obviously be affected, and they will do everything possible to ensure that they cushion the impact. This will definitely have an impact in one way or another in terms of affecting the supply factors as far as I am concerned. And yes, in one way or the other, millers are feeling the pinch, but I cannot

Weak kwacha could trigger increased mealie meal prices, warn millers

attribute that to be the reason that would affect product pricing. Indeed, when you look some other products, especially when you need to talk about the export of certain other products because we are not importing anything at the moment, that's the beauty about it. So, the impact that this will have on millers should be about servicing the facilities for those millers that have currently started operating," Chintala explained.

"Unless there are other factors that will determine the final pricing of the

commodity; unless some of these commodities were to move in terms of pricing of maize and other sources of raw material, but as it is, it's practically a bit difficult because the market seems to be stable though the suppliers of the commodities are very, very slow, it's a better position than last season. I think for this next [season], we expect the [maize] prices to be as they are currently, if the kwacha does not depreciate further. So, the fundamentals change overnight but the prices should remain the same. The maize marketing

season is on-going, and I think so far, we have done well in ensuring that we continue supplying, but I think the supply is slow I must admit that. But I think we are getting what we need for our day-to-day operations. But we expect this situation to improve and the supply of raw materials to improve as well and to have a better situation in as far as supply is concerned. It's a matter of concern, but we are buying what we need for our day-to-day operations."

He urged government to institute measures to

ensure that raw products, including maize, are not exported.

"As an association, you know, government is promoting value addition and in as far as value addition is concerned, we are against the export of maize in its raw form. And the reason why we are against the export of maize is very simple. One, when I export maize, you are also exporting the other by-products that come from maize when you mill it and you also export jobs, too. This is why we have welcomed the move by government to export

value-added products. Because that is positioning ourselves in terms of regional trade is concerned where we have to send our mealie meal and, thereby, creating and returning human resource within the country and retailing some other brands. So, we would like to see a situation that government puts in other measures to see to it that only the finished products leave the country other than the raw materials because by so, we will be returning the jobs as well as encouraging the sector to grow in terms of the capacity," said Chintala.

Retail prices of mealie meal in Lusaka currently remain stable hovering between K75 and K84 in some outlets per 25Kg breakfast bag.

But the national average prices of the staple commodity has steadily increased to a one-year high, with a 25Kg breakfast bag now costing an average K80.45, according to Central Statistical Office (CSO) data.

Mwanakatwe attributes debt increase to Chinese efficiency

By Abraham Kalito

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says government debt has been increasing because Chinese contractors are very efficient in service delivery, a situation she says attracts an increase in Per capita income (PCI) and puts pressure on state coffers.

And Mwanakatwe says government will work towards significantly reducing arrears to avoid stifling the private sector. Reacting to interrogations from stakeholders following the 2019 budget presentation in Lusaka, Mwanakatwe said Chinese contractors are usually quick in implementing projects, adding that their effectiveness usually

contributes to an increase in debt.

"And One of the reason why the debt has gone up, it's because some contractors mainly Chinese, if you say do this in five years, they are super-efficient, they will do it in three years. Once it's done in three years, the IPCs start coming. When the IPCs start coming, you need to pay up. They are quick, they are efficient and unfortunately sometimes, it works in a way that puts more pressure on our coffers. 80 per cent of loans, of debts contracted is being, to be spent in Zambia, when we sign a loan for \$100 million road, that road is in Zambia. It's not in China, it's not in UK. It's not anywhere. It is here,

so that money contracted has been spent in Zambia," she said at the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) budget analysis event.

And Mwanakatwe says government will work towards significantly reducing arrears to avoid stifling the private sector. "Arrears dismantling; 2016, K19.6 billion arrears; 2017, K12.7 billion, that's how much we dismantled. 2018, K13.9 billion. There is not a big difference between the two. We are hell bent on dismantling arrears. That's why we have said domestic borrowing from 4 per cent to 1.4 per cent, that's where we want it to be because we don't like stifling the private sector.

And we want to ensure that we as government are not the ones causing the MPL as existing right now. Ok down to 11.9 per cent, vis-a-vis 13 percent the previous year, but still above the ten per cent ratio. We need to make sure that we are not causing the MPLs. That's why debt dismantling, very important for us and ensuring that we are not stifling the domestic economy and ensuring that we are not over borrowing in the economy. So, we will continue to dismantle the arrears that we have accumulated over the years. And this is why we are saying anything that own domestic borrowing, anything that is 80 per cent complete, we complete," she said.

"There are many contracts where we borrow, that is external borrowing. So, when we say 80 per cent complete, we are talking about money that government is going to spend from the budget. So, what we shared with you today in terms of the allocations it is money that is made by us. We have direct access from customs, or exercise, or non-tax that's our money. External borrowing, I shared with you the figure. I think it was 30.1 billion, that is money we are going to pay for

interest payment and loan repayments."

Meanwhile Mwanakatwe said government would introduce Financial Management Information System in the Ministry of Community Development and Social welfare to ensure that fund are accounted for. "Now IFMIS is working. We have sorted out IFMIS now, it's up and running. It took us a bit of time because we had to go back ten years and go and recreate data that we had lost. Now in testing public finance management, If you look at social cash transfer, there is no IFMIS there. There is no IFMIS, money comes into the country, it goes straight to community development. So, the forensic is what we are going to rely on to ensure that community development used IFMIS in the ministry not in my ministry because the money does not come to my ministry, it goes straight to community development," said Mwanakatwe.

"We signed the agreement, whether it was a grant or a loan, we signed as government but the money doesn't come to us it goes straight to the recipient. That's not all grants, but this particular social cash transfer was going straight to the beneficiaries."

Police arrest soldier for beating cop who attempted to arrest him

By Daniel Chansa in Ndola

A Zambia Army soldier has been arrested for beating a police officer who attempted to arrest him for misconduct.

Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga said the incident happened on Saturday night right at Ndola Central Police station.

She identified the military officer as Corporal Allan Mwaanga aged 28, of Hse No. 116 Targagan Barracks,

service No. 103469.

"We have a report of assault occasioning actual bodily harm number 8670/18 which occurred on September 28, 2018 around 23:20 hours at Ndola Central Police Station. The complainant is a Police Officer Chisowa Mubanga of Mobile Unit, whose address is House No. 1137 Chinese Complex, Ndola, aged 30 years. He reported that he was assaulted by a soldier Allan Mwaanga

aged 28, of Hse No. 116 Targagan Barracks, service No. 103469, Rank: Corporal, Unit: Provost Headquarters," Katanga said.

"The soldier head butted the Police Officer twice on the face thereby causing bruises. This happened when the Police Officer wanted to arrest the soldier for misbehaving."

Katanga said a docket has been opened, while the soldier has been detained.



CSOs protest outside Parliament during the presentation of the 2019 National Budget on September 28, 2018 – Pictures by Tenson Mkhala



L - Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe and her husband Mupanga arrive at Parliament building for the presentation of the 2019 national budget, R - SDA Dorcas women sing during the Muluse Dorcas Rally in Lusaka's Chongwe East on Saturday – Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

Weekend in Pictures



Suspected PF cadres arrested for attacking CSOs protesting outside Parliament on Friday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Arrested Chinese national with his military students and fire arms



SDA Dorcas women sing during the Muluse Dorcas Rally on Saturday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

On Thursday last week, a miracle happened at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The minister, Honourable Stephen Kampyongo went against all expectations and tradition to allow civil society organizations conduct a protest against the Patriotic Front's bad governance practices.

The most shocking part about this development is that earlier, the Lusaka Division Police Command had rejected the notice of protest by the nine NGOs which include NGOCC, ACA, Transparency International, ActionAid, ZCSD, GEARS Initiative, Caritas Zambia and several eminent civil rights activists. The police advised that it was against public safety for them to allow a protest on the day that the 2019 national budget would be presented to Parliament.

But on a mere appeal to the line minister, Honourable Kampyongo overruled the Police Command's decision and ordered that the protesters must be allowed to exercise their constitutional right to air their grievances through a peaceful demonstration, as they wished.

This is a miracle, because what happened to Prof Patrick Lumumba on Saturday is what we are used to. Why Honourable Kampyongo did the unthinkable, we may never know. Whatever the catch to this was, we can only speculate that he woke up on the

Kampyongo must make miracles a permanent feature

right side of the bed. Surely, whoever tickled his fancy to produce this effect must share the antidote to the venomous hostility that we are accustomed to from this regime.

This is a minister who has exhibited no nonsense militancy towards any form of public disapproval to how our country is being governed. The only groups that have been given leeway to air their grievances through public protest are PF youths who are usually sponsored by either State House or internal party faction leaders - as we saw on the anti-Felix Mutati demonstration.

Outside that, any other group that has attempted to exercise

this democratic right, political or civil society, has either been brutally chased or arrested. This is exactly what happened the last time when these same CSOs attempted to protest at the same venue. The participants were mercilessly beaten and locked up for merely saying government shouldn't have spent US\$42 million on fire trucks.

In fact, on the same day that the minister was overturning the police decision to allow the Budget protests, police were arresting renowned musician and activist Maiko Zulu who attempted to do a one-man protest against KCM and Vedanta. We are 100 per cent sure that the arresting officers did

not even understand a thing about what Maiko's protest was about, they just saw him carrying a piece of cloth with something like "Zambian Crimes" written on it and they said "arrest him!"

This is what is happening in Zambia. There is a combination of exceptional ignorance and a bootlicking marathon; because in our view, this protesting dreadlocked Rasta is a man police should have been protecting if they understood why he was demonstrating.

It is for this reason that we are describing what Honourable Kampyongo did as a miracle. His decision went against the rules of bootlicking and dictatorship, which is what we know the PF

to be. Mr Kampyongo sir, not everyone will appreciate the greatness of what you did. Probably, even the protesters themselves will not realize how lucky they were because they think it's not a big deal since it's their right. But we are probably closer to reality than they are - as we will show in our opinion about the 'deportation' of professor Lumumba in tomorrow's opinion - so allow us to give credit where it is due.

We know how brutal you can be sir when you choose to abuse the authority of your office. Your constituency in Shiwang'andu is known for all the bad things when it comes to violence; your rivals have been stoned from

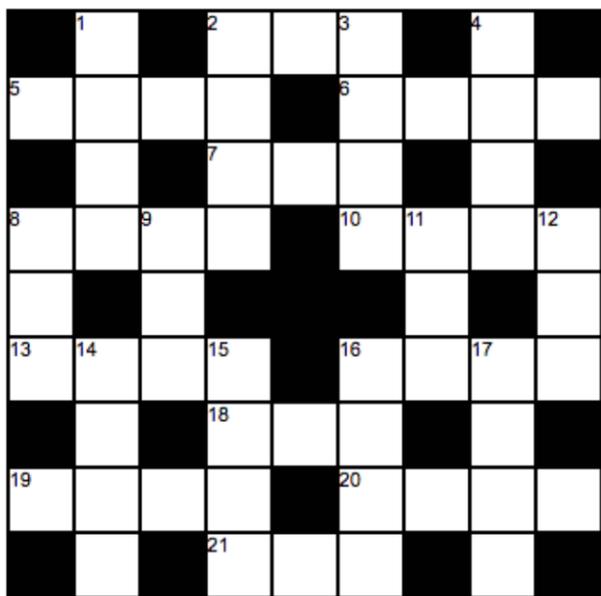
campaign helicopters in the past and we still recall how you defended those atrocious activities by your henchmen.

Last Friday the PF showed us a snippet of the long gone and forgotten democracy. That is how it should be always. Those who wield political power must develop not only a thick skin, but also very attentive ears to hear the opposing views of the governed.

Our message to the police is that they must stop making wrong decisions to please politicians because when the men and women they are trying to please overrule them, they are the ones who end up being embarrassed and looking like they don't want to follow the law. Please bwana Inspector General and your commissioners, just follow what the law stipulates, add nothing else. Don't apply the law according to how it will sit with a minister or President. In a Christian nation, we can't be hearing about police denying congregants a permit to worship.

We were glad to see a professional application of the law when police arrested PF cadres who went to confront the budget protesters. This is how it ought to be. Now that the protesters conducted their business peacefully, next time they come to seek clearance to demonstrate, don't deny them. They have shown that they are law abiding citizens.

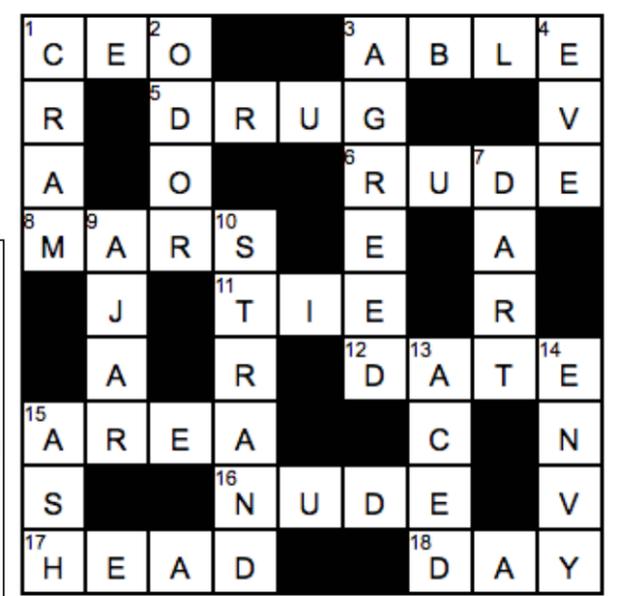
Crossword puzzle 198



"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."
- Martin Luther King Jr.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Feel poorly 5. Untruths 6. Lying atop 7. Supply with weapons 8. Sharp blow 10. Glimpse 13. High male singing voice 16. Shrek, for one 18. Drops on grass 19. Poker variety 20. Easy stride 21. Bro's sibling | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lass 2. Memo abbr. 3. Abnormal swelling 4. Additional 8. Large body of water 9. Beautiful creation 11. Scrambled or poached food 12. A dessert 14. Behind schedule 15. Bookie's concern 16. Hooting birds 17. Thick twine |
|---|--|

Solutions to puzzle 197



Reader's feedback

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.

PF's deportation of renowned Kenyan Prof Patrick Lumumba

Dear Editor,

"What a foolish example of Laura Miti's expulsion from SA. That was purely

permit papers-related issue. And what security risk can anyone attribute to Prof Lumumba? Last time it was someone refusing to put on her own panties. What next?" - Friday Kashiwa

"Dora ubufi. Laura's denial of entry in SA had nothing to do with security reasons. It had everything to do with the validity of her permanent residence permit." - Micky Jericho Nsangwe

"Is he a criminal? What wrong did he do? Just attending a graduation and accepting an interview becomes an issue of denying someone entry? You need to be thorough in your explanation so that you do not make us become very suspicious." - Blessing Pambwe

"I am embarrassed! Sorry, professor. Our leaders do not know who you are and how we look up to your ideals and integrity." - Bashi Jay

"So much wealth of knowledge denied entry. So many students were itching to learn from the most revered professor. Don't we want to learn how to effectively govern ourselves?" - Mike Phiri

"In the future, some people will be denied access to other countries also for security reasons. What goes around comes around." - Andrew Simate Sitali



Police's arrest of Chinese, Zambians for illegal military drilling training

Editor,
"Nothing is good about China no matter how you will defend them." - Alfred Chibwe

"The Chinese are becoming more powerful than everybody else because they have more capital investments here in Zambia; they are owning land on tittle deeds, yet we are being issued occupancy licenses. And if this is not stopped, they will be in charge of everything, whilst we are folding hands." - Mwachisama Mwachisama

"Government must serious tame these Chinese guys before things get out of hand and Africans react, this is getting out of hand. They are not the only foreigners in our country, but yet they are always the only foreigners raising our BP." - Pastors Stungu David

"Why are we allowing Chinese to feel free to do whatever nonsense they want to do; what is wrong with the brains of our leaders???" - Felix Kasenge

2019 budget

Editor,
"Worst budget ever. No relief for workers, turnover tax now 4 per cent from 3 per cent, Withholding tax 20 per cent from 15 per cent on dividends and others, PAYE, no change. Sad." - Mwimanenwa Kamona

"A speech full of lies and hoodwinking. Austerity measures that only work on paper!" - Nawa Njekwa

"Zambians subjected to yet more harsh conditions. No measures to poverty reduction." - Davy Nyoni

"Amidst the so called austerity measures, the defence budget is increased. Are you planning to go to war? Or is it for siphoning at election time?" - Mwanakatwe Chulu Sikasula

"I was expecting some good news on PAYE, but nothing." - Maimbolwa Kamanga

"Too many and higher taxes on innocent citizens, while yourself (ECL), you increase your salary when we're in this mess because of your poor leadership. We have austerity measures but you hike your salary!" - Poza Nom

"Okay budget is fine, but tax is too much; this is colonialism starting again." - Brezzah Ngosa

Death toll in Indonesia quake-tsunami tops 800

The death toll from a powerful earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia leapt to 832 Sunday, as stunned people on the stricken island of Sulawesi struggled to find food and water and looting spread.

The new toll announced by the national disaster agency was almost double the previous figure. Indonesian vice-president Jusuf Kalla said the final number of dead could be in the "thousands" as many regions have still not been reached.

"It feels very tense," said 35-year-old mother Risa Kusuma, comforting her feverish baby boy at an evacuation centre in the gutted coastal city of Palu. "Every minute an ambulance brings in bodies. Clean water is scarce. The minimarkets are looted everywhere."

Indonesia's Metro TV on Sunday broadcast footage from a coastal community in Donggala, close to the epicentre of the quake,

where some waterfront homes appeared crushed but a resident said most people fled to higher ground after the quake struck.

"When it shook really hard,

we all ran up into the hills," a man identified as Iswan told Metro TV.

Indonesian president Joko Widodo arrived in the region Sunday afternoon to see the

devastation for himself.

In Palu city on Sunday aid was trickling in, the Indonesian military had been deployed and search-and-rescue workers were

doggedly combing the rubble for survivors -- looking for as many as 150 people at one upscale hotel alone.

"We managed to pull out a woman alive from the

Hotel Roa-Roa last night," Muhammad Syaugi, head of the national search and rescue agency, told AFP. "We even heard people calling for help there yesterday."

"What we now desperately need is heavy machinery to clear the rubble. I have my staff on the ground, but it's impossible just to rely on their strength alone to clear this."

There were also concerns over the whereabouts of hundreds of people who had been preparing for a beach festival when the 7.5-magnitude quake struck Friday, sparking a tsunami that ripped apart the city's coastline.

A Facebook page was created by worried relatives who posted pictures of still-missing family members in the hopes of finding them alive.

The disaster agency said it believed about 61 foreigners were in Palu when the quake struck, with most accounted for and safe.

Three French nationals and a South Korean, who may have been staying at a flattened hotel, had not yet been accounted for, it added.

Amid the levelled trees, overturned cars, concertinaed homes and flotsam tossed up to 50 metres inland, survivors and rescuers struggled to come to grips with the scale of the disaster. **YAHOO**



Macedonians vote on whether to change country's name

Macedonians have begun voting in a key referendum on whether to re-name their country North Macedonia in a bid to settle a long-running row with Greece and unlock its path to NATO and EU membership.

Polls for some 1.8 million voters opened at 7am local time (5GMT) and will close at 7pm. The question on the referendum ballot is: "Are you for NATO and EU membership with acceptance of the agreement with Greece". The referendum is not binding, but a 'yes' majority would give parliament a political mandate to change the constitution.

If the deal is passed through the referendum and is ratified by two-thirds of MPs, the Greek parliament will be called on to give the final stamp of approval.

While the Macedonian government plans to call any significant majority in favour of the deal a success, the right-wing opposition may question the vote's credibility if turnout is below 50 percent.

Macedonia has struggled for recognition of its name since its birth in 1991 when the landlocked country declared independence from Yugoslavia. Greece, which has its own northern province called Macedonia, has always maintained that Macedonia's name represented a claim on its territory. It vetoed Macedonia's entrance

into NATO and the EU, and forced it to enter the United Nations under a provisional

name as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or FYROM.

Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev argues that accepting a new name is a price

worth paying for admission into the EU and NATO. **ALJAZEERA**

Brazilian women rally in force against presidential frontrunner Bolsonaro

Hundreds of thousands of women turned out for a wave of nationwide protests in Brazil on Saturday against the candidacy of the right-wing frontrunner in next week's presidential election, Jair Bolsonaro.

The controversial Bolsonaro, who was released from hospital on Saturday after being stabbed and seriously wounded by a left-wing activist during a rally on September 6, is currently leading in opinion polls.

Marches organized by a social media campaign under the hashtag #EleNao (Not Him) began in earnest around 1800 GMT in dozens of cities including Rio de Janeiro, where thousands of women converged at vast Cinelandia square, to be joined by a column of others marching from the Avenida Rio Branco,

a major thoroughfare, AFP journalists reported.

Small groups took to the streets even earlier in Sao Paulo and other locations. Demonstrations also took place abroad, from Dublin and Paris to Budapest and Beirut. Superstar Madonna proclaimed her solidarity with the cause in an Instagram post that included the hashtag #endfascism.

The Time's Up movement which supports victims of sexual abuse tweeted its support: "To our sisters in Brazil: We are all in this together. We see you and hear you. We are with you."

"Women of Brazil, women outside Brazil, all women, it's time to join in," said Ludimilla Teixeira, one of the march organizers.

"Either we join now to fight or we're going to gather to



Demonstrators in Rio de Janeiro were among the hundreds of thousands who protested in dozens of Brazilian cities against right-wing presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro

mourn later."

By the time the women

headed home, organizers said that at least a half million

took part. Police did not offer figures. **AFP**

Zambian refs get FIFA praise

By Alex Chilumbwe
 FIFA Referees Instructor Celestin Ntagungira says Zambia's representation at the two FIFA World Cups in 2018 by Janny Sikazwe and Gladys Lengwe indicates there is something right being done in Zambian football. During the closing ceremony for the FIFA sanctioned referees assessment at the Olympic Youth Development Centre, Ntagungira urged FAZ through the referees department to identify prospective heirs to Sikazwe and Lengwe. "Sikazwe officiated at the 2018 FIFA Men's World Cup in Russia while Lengwe was at the centre of proceedings at the FIFA Women World Cup in France. The two should not be the last so there is need to find others who will do even a better job. There are a lot of them that can manage given proper training," said Ntagungira. "Congratulation to FAZ and Referees Association for having two World Cup

referees (Sikazwe and Lengwe). It is not easy to have two world cup referees meaning somewhere people put up good strategies. This is a good achievement for Zambia. It is also a challenge because you have to think, after Janny and Gladys, who will be the next?" Summed Ntagungira. And FAZ Referees Manager Welly Chikuka who spoke on behalf of FAZ President Andrew Kamanga challenged assistant referees to step up to increase representation on the international scene. "You can see right now that Janny is a loner, he moves alone. The reason is simple, FIFA has not recognized any of you as FIFA assistant referees to partner with Janny," said Chikuka. Kamanga was referring to Sikazwe not being partnered with Zambian whistle-men on his international assignments. "I am aware that FIFA would like to pair the referees and for them to pair the referees, it is not automatic any of you

will be paired with Janny just because you come from the

same country. When you perform to a standard which

is acceptable worldwide they will pair you with a

top referee like Janny and Gladys," advised Chikuka.



Neymar scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain produced a record eighth consecutive victory at the start of a Ligue 1 season with a 3-0 win at Nice on Saturday 29th September 2018



Raheem Sterling stars as Man City sink Brighton. Eurosport

LeBron James will suit up for Lakers' pre-season opener

Los Angeles Lakers fans will get a first chance to see newly acquired superstar LeBron James playing in

the team's purple and gold in a pre-season game on Sunday -- but if they blink they could miss it.

Lakers head coach Luke Walton confirmed in comments on the team's website on Saturday that four time NBA Most Valuable Player James will play in the exhibition opener against the Denver Nuggets in San Diego.

"It will be more than one and less than 48," Walton said of how many minutes James might play.

At practice earlier this week James indicated that even with a new team he didn't

think he needed too much pre-season action at this stage of his career.

"I don't need pre-season games to get ready," he said. James played just one pre-season game last year for the Cleveland Cavaliers as he recovered from a left ankle injury. Over the past three years he has made just six pre-season appearances. James, 33, joined the Lakers in July on a four-year, \$154 million deal sealed just weeks after his Cavs were beaten by the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals for the third time in four years. *AFP*

Green Buffaloes to face Young Buffaloes in Barclays semi

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Army sides go head to head as Green Buffaloes face Young Green Buffaloes in the semi finals of the Barclays cup tournament. On Saturday, Micheal Musonda scored a brace for Young Buffaloes either side of a Tafadzwa Rusike strike to beat ZANACO FC 2-1 and secure a place in the Semi finals. Meanwhile, Green Buffaloes beat Green Eagles 1-0 in their 'friendly forces' encounter of the tournament. It was a tight game until Jack Chirwa defied Eagles defence in the 84th minute to book a date with Young Buffaloes. Young Buffaloes coach Josphat Mulenga expressed happiness in the win and talked about the possibility of playing their senior

counterparts in semi finals. "They have proved to everyone that they are a good side both defensively and offensively. Few people had trust in us but we have managed to qualify. Now we got to worry about the awkwardness and possibility of meeting our seniors in the semis. I think it is going to be interesting," said Mulenga. Senior Buffaloes coach Biltone Musonda knew better than to underrate the junior side in his remarks. "Of course it will not be an easy game for both of us. Juniors will want to prove a point to their seniors and so will be seniors. They are a good side with great endurance and experience. I will just have to be prepared for any result because even those that have not qualified for semis were also training and playing

for a win," said Musonda. In another result, Nkana got ZESCO packing after a great talent display that saw Nkana win 2-1 through Idriss

Mbombo in 51st minute and in two minutes of additional time. Maybin Kalengo scored for ZESCO in the 44th minute respectively.

Sevilla fans injured after fence collapses at Eibar

Eight soccer fans were taken to hospital in Spain on Saturday after a barrier collapsed at La Liga side Eibar's Ipurua stadium as Sevilla supporters celebrated a goal during a 3-1 win.

"In the end, and pending confirmation from the emergency services, eight Sevilla supporters have been taken to Mendaró hospital. None of the injuries are serious," said Eibar in a statement on their official Twitter account.

The barrier collapsed as dozens of travelling supporters standing behind the goal spilled on to the pitch after Ever

Banega converted a penalty in the 58th minute to put Sevilla 2-0 up.

Play was stopped for eight minutes while stewards and emergency services attended the supporters.

In a message on Twitter, Sevilla dedicated the win to the fans affected.

"Three goals and three more points in Ipurua. The victory is dedicated to our supporters who suffered today in the accident in the stand. We hope they recover soon," said the club. *Supersport*

SVEN GOES

LOCAL

By Alex Chilumbwe
Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandenbroeck has cast his net wide in scouting for players, opting for a mesh of experience and youth as he prepares a squad to face Guinea Bissau in an AFCON qualifier game on 10th October. The local assemblage of Chipolopolo stars went through the paces at the Barca Arena Futsal Complex in Lusaka, with 19 players reporting for duty on Friday. Vandenbroeck was without ZESCO United's Simon Silwimba and Lameck Banda while ZANACO's Mangani Banda was also yet to report for camp. Luka Banda of Napsa Stars had reported for duty but went away to undergo some medical check-ups.

The youngsters from the developmental sides like Under-17 and Mazabuka United midfielder Alex Mwiinga, Francisco Mwepu and Benson Kolala were also part of the squad and looked at home. Vandenbroeck has summoned 24 players for a local camp as he shuffles his cards ahead of the October 10 Africa Cup qualifier against Guinea Bissau at the National Heroes Stadium. The Chipolopolo trainer is expected to name his squad for the Guinea clash in the next few days. Other possible inclusions were excused to feature in the weekend's Barclays Cup quarterfinals that took place in Kitwe. The teams involved are

ZESCO United, ZANACO, Green Buffaloes, Nkana, Power Dynamos, Young Green Buffaloes, Mufulira Wanderers and Green Eagles. (FULL LIST) (GOALKEEPERS) Charles Muntanga (Nkwazi), Mangani Banda (Zanaco) (DEFENDERS)

Simon Silwimba (Zesco), Jimmy Chisenga (Red Arrows) Isaac Shamuji (Buildcon), Luka Banda (Napsa Stars), Lawrence Chungu (Buildcon), Liaison Thole (Kabwe Warriors) Mwilla Phiri (Lusaka Dynamos) (MIDFIELDERS)

George Simbayambaya (Red Arrows) Henry Besa (National Assembly), Benson Kolala (U20) (Nchanga Rangers), Clement Mundia (Kabwe Warriors), Alex Mwiinga (U17) (Mazabuka United), Jeff Banda (Nkwazi), Bruce Musakanya (Red Arrows), Webster Muzazu

(Forest), George Chaloba (National Assembly) (STRIKERS) Danny Silavwe (Napsa Stars), Lameck Silwaba (Buildcon), Lameck Banda (U20) (Zesco), Thomas Banda (Napsa Stars), Joseph Phiri (Red Arrows), Francisco Mwepu (U20) Kafue Celtic)

The Catalan giants dropped points for the third La Liga game in a row as Messi sat out the game from the start.

Lionel Messi believes Barcelona need to improve defensively after Saturday's 1-1 draw with Athletic Bilbao saw the champions drop points for the third consecutive La Liga match.

Messi was left on the bench for the first half, with Ernesto Valverde seemingly resting him ahead of Wednesday's Champions League trip to Tottenham.

Without their talisman, Barca lacked creativity at Camp Nou and deservedly trailed 1-0 at the break thanks to Oscar De Marcos' goal.

Messi was introduced early in the second period, hit the post and ultimately set up Munir El Haddadi for the late equaliser, but he was left unimpressed by Barca's back-line.

When asked if Barca are being hampered by nerves, Messi said: "There is no anxiety. This is just the beginning [of the season]."

"We only feel anger for the last two results. We did a good first half at Leganes and we lost. We create situations to win.

Lionel Messi demands better from Barcelona defence after Bilbao draw

"We are aware that we have to be stronger in defence and not concede goals in all matches."

Barca have kept one clean sheet in their last five matches, a 4-0 drubbing of PSV in the Champions League, in which Messi hit a hat-trick.

The draw at the Nou Camp continued a run of seven dropped points in the last three league games.

Ernesto Valverde's side drew 2-2 with Girona last weekend, before being downed by bottom club Leganes in mid-week.

The draw with Bilbao could now see Barcelona lose their place at the summit of the Spanish top flight and Valverde says his side have much to improve on.

"A difficult week because we have not achieved the objectives," he stated.

"But there are things that I think we can improve, above all, our offensive balance." *goal.com*



Sturridge strikes late to earn Liverpool Chelsea draw on Saturday, with his 89th-minute effort cancelling out Eden Hazard's fine first-half finish.