

YOU'VE 3 MORE YEARS TO SUFFER

...for voting for Lungu, learn and vote wisely in 2021 - GBM

Story page 4

Walk the talk after Day of Prayer, Fr Chikoya challenges politicians

By Zondiwe Mbewe

CCZ general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya has urged the Church to come out of the comfort zone and proactively be useful to the society by condemning anything that does not favour humanity.

And Fr Chikoya has urged political players to walk the talk after the national day of prayer tomorrow. **To page 11**



L-r: Energy Minister Mathew Nkhuwa, Total Zambia Managing Director Olufemi Babajide, President Edgar Lungu, Total Zambia Chairman Pierre Yves-Sachet, Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe, and French Ambassador to Zambia Sylvain Berger, during the official opening of Total Zambia New Head Office in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



NRDC students show outrage to during a demonstration in Lusaka yesterday. The Students were protesting against a newly introduced academic system that will prevent those who fail to clear subjects from progressing to the next level with 'arrears'

Hippo culling move may make it impossible for US to help Zambia raise conservation funds – Foote

By Zondiwe Mbewe

US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote says the move by the Zambian government to start hippo culling without any published

scientific analysis to justify the decision, may make it difficult, if not impossible, for him to attract investment that can help the country's conservation sector. **To page 10**

Wynter says he doesn't believe that the ACC targets opposition leaders with fabricated cases

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Headman sues Chief Shakumbila, 3 others for fraud

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A headman of Shaputu village in Shibuyunji District has sued Chief Shakumbila, three headmen of his chieftom and AVLOW Development Limited in the Lusaka High Court for fraudulently signing an MoU to surrender over 7,000 hectares of land to the State for purposes of establishing an agricultural development

company.

Charles Shaputu, who is claiming for an order that that the said Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is null and void on account of fraud, says the purported conversion of 7,650 hectares of land is illegal because the law only allows a maximum of 250 hectares of land at a time. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, October 11,

Charles Shaputu stated that sometime between 2009 and 2017, Chief Shakumbila, headman Sitali, Mulowa and Shichumpa Lubanje falsified an MoU by fraudulent means.

He stated that the said MoU was purporting to say that the community where the headmen presided had signed to consent the handover of 7,650 hectares of land to the state for

purposes of establishing an agricultural development company, when in fact the community had never signed such an MoU.

Shaputu stated that Chief Shakumbila was a shareholder in AVLOW Development Limited and, therefore, intended to collide with the three headmen, Sitali, Mulowa and Shichumpa Lubanje to fraudulently disperse people from the said

traditional land.

"The defendants without consent from the community, prepared a list of villagers who purportedly consented to having signed to hand over the land to the State for purposes of converting it to State land when in fact almost all the villagers on the list have denied ever having signed the said documents. Others are illiterates who have

never been to school, but their names and signatures appear on the said list," read the statement of claim.

"The said application documents were purportedly issued to the Town Council for presentation before a full council for approval to Ministry of Lands to have the land title deed in the name of AVLOW Development; at the time, the said company had not been registered with PACRA and, therefore, was non-existent."

And Shaputu stated that the purported conversion of 7,650 hectares was illegal in that the law only allowed a maximum of 250 hectares of land at a time.

He further stated that a recent search at Ministry of Lands had revealed that the Commissioner of Lands was in the process of issuing title in favour of AVLOW Development, which ultimately would lead to the community being dispersed from the land they had lived on from time immemorial and without their consent. He now claims for an order that the said MoU intended to surrender the traditional land was null and void on account of fraud, as well as, an order that the intended processes of title in favour of AVLOW, was illegal, null, void and should be quashed.

Shaputu is further seeking for an order of injunction restraining the defendants from interfering or attempting to displace him, his villagers and other affected villages in Shakumbila chieftom.

Prof Luo too aggressive for education ministry - UPND

By Mukosha Funga

UPND deputy spokesperson Patricia Mwashingwele says Minister of Higher Education Professor Nkandu Luo must be moved to another ministry because she is too aggressive to handle children.

And Mwashingwele says her party will not support the "useless" 2019 budget.

Meanwhile, Mwashingwele says the police service has been infiltrated by cadres.

Speaking on UNZA Radio's Lusaka Star, Monday, Mwashingwele observed that Prof Luo did not understand students' needs.

"She doesn't put herself in the shoes of the students and she doesn't negotiate with them. The problem is, she wants to use decrees and she wants to use the power vested in her. Even in our homes if we did that, we would never have peace. She must have the heart to negotiate with the students. She must have the heart to listen to their plight. When students say their meal allowances have been delayed, maybe we need to go to the details, it is K22.50 per

day, if we put it in the dollar term today, it is something like \$1.50 per day that the students are asking for, we budget for it every year, it is not that they are asking for a favor, it is their right, they have been given a loan. So for it to be delayed, and they have no mouthpiece, like a students' union, so when they take that route, she should have been the first one to understand what went wrong. Unfortunately, she has been the first one to condemn the students and even politicize it," Mwashingwele said.

"There is nothing political about hunger. You know, the PF themselves would say hunger is not your friend, you can never be at peace when you are hungry. You can never study peacefully when you are hungry. Everything hinges on food first then we look at other things, health, education will come later. So she is supposed to understand. She needs to have a heart for the students, she is too aggressive for that ministry. She is not paying attention to the students' needs and to understand and negotiate. Maybe, she should be given a different ministry, not to

deal with our children."

And Mwashingwele said her party would not support the useless 2019 budget.

"There is nothing for the Zambian people in that budget. Why do I say that? Key ministries like health have seen a budget cut. People may want to know that health has only been given nice per cent when in the Abuja agreement, we agreed that at least minimum would be 15 per cent. Look at education, it has been reduced from 16.2 to 15.3, agriculture, where our food lies has been given 6.2 and giving back the debt, you can add all this together and find that actually, servicing of debt is far much higher than our key ministries put together. Where we have our social services, all that has been beaten by the issue of giving back what we owe," she said.

"This budget has become completely useless for the Zambian people. And what are we saying as UPND? We cannot support a budget like this. We want it to go on record that as a party, we do not agree with this budget. For me, I wouldn't give money to buying ammunition and

tear gas."

Meanwhile, Mwashingwele said the police service had been infiltrated by cadres.

"The problem with the current police service, I don't know if I should even call it a service, is that they have been infiltrated by cadres. And we can't run away from this fact. We have the professional police and we have the PF cadres enrolled into the police service. That job is not for cadres...law breakers are found across the political divide so if a person from the UPND, including myself and my president, if they break the law, the police must enforce the law. If the PF, including their members of parliament and ministers, if they break the law, the law must take its full course. But when you put in political cadres into the police service, it means you are trying to protect one political party that is in government at that particular time and you deny those who are professional a chance to do the right thing," said Mwashingwele, who also called for the arrest of officers responsible for Vespers Shimunzila's death.

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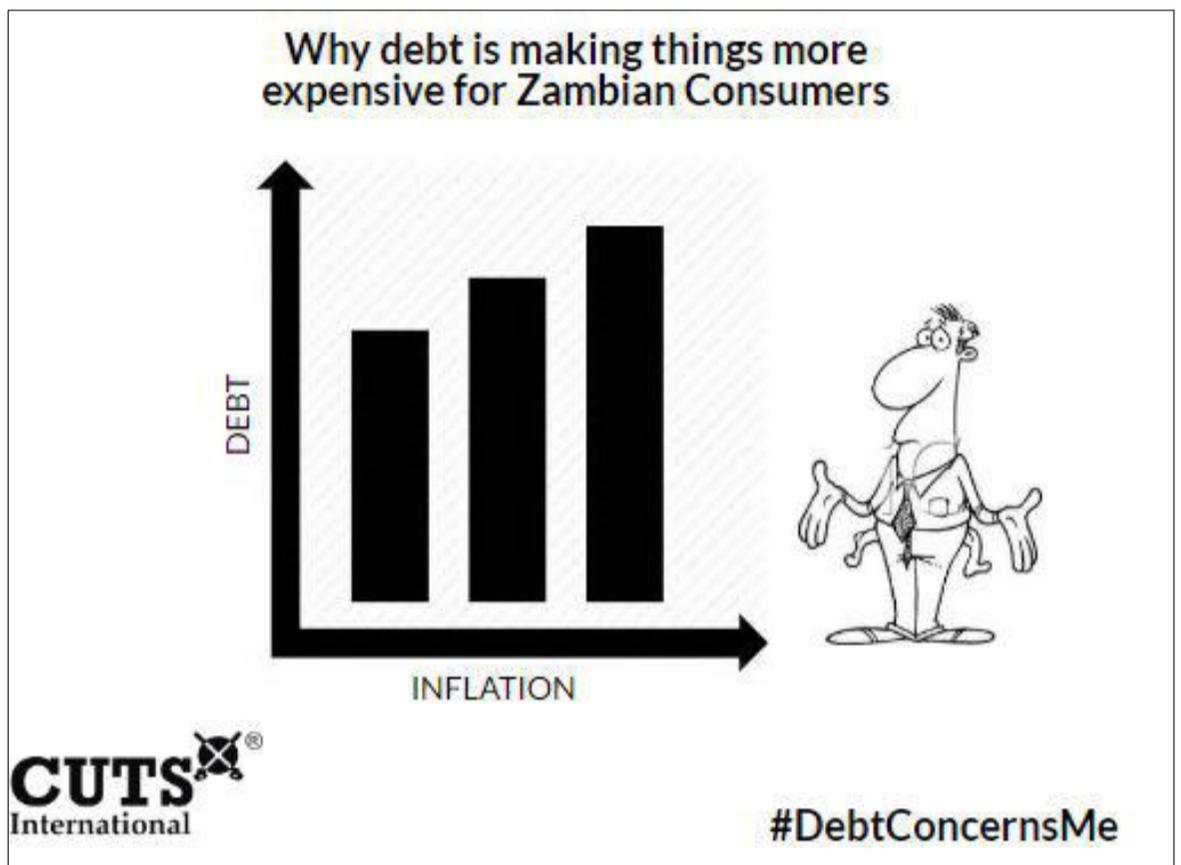
Why debt is making things more expensive for Zambian consumers

The adverse effects that high government debt has on everyday life are widespread; however, much of it goes unnoticed. In the immediate term, the impact of government debt on consumption is not very noticeable, but in the long run, the effects of it can be just as hard hitting as the increased tax burden we discussed last week. In continuing the series on how debt concerns you, this article explains the linkage between high government debt and inflation and what that means for consumers in their everyday lives. Over the course of a month, you buy lots of different things, the price of which is impacted by a number of different factors, such as the cost of labour, the exchange rate and costs of doing business in the country, such as taxes.

At 7.9%, September overall inflation, the rate at which prices increased in September, was stable -- just below the target of 8%. However, this year we have seen food prices rise 8.6% from the year before; and last week Monday we saw fuel prices rise from K13 to K16. The country's debt levels are not the only cause of price increases, but debt is at the heart of many of the reasons and provides the explanation for why we can expect further inflation. According to the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection's (JCTR) Basic Needs Basket (BNB) for the month of September, an increase in the cost of living is expected from the current K5356 for a family of five.

The importation of oil dominates many other expenditures and forms a major part of Zambia's import bill. Because of this, adjusted fuel rates are expected to negatively impact the prices of essential goods and services such as food, water, sanitation, electricity, health care and housing.

Debt has a strong link to the stability of the Kwacha, which, in turn, impacts the everyday lives of consumers through inflation. Over the past few years, the Zambian government has been issuing bonds. When a government issues a bond, it is accepting a loan to finance certain activities. Foreign investors buy government bonds in order to make money through interest repayments. These investors assess whether to invest in a country by assessing how likely the country is to default, that is, not pay back its debt. This assessment is done by analysing the economy's immediate and long-term performance. Foreign investors assess the country's financial position, plans for managing debt



and prospects for growth through documents such as the medium-term expenditure framework and budget.

Lately, investors have been becoming concerned about Zambia's debt levels being unsustainable. We see this in the high interest rates on Zambian debt. We also saw evidence of this in September when investors drastically reduced investment in government bonds. As buying bonds requires converting foreign currency to kwacha, demand for the kwacha fell, contributing to the depreciation of the Kwacha by 20% from K9 to K12 to the dollar that month.

When a currency is weakened, importing goods become more expensive. Zambia being a country that is heavily reliant on imports will be adversely affected by the depreciation of the currency. This means that anything imported becomes much more expensive. The increase in petrol prices, driven by a combination of rising oil prices and Zambia's weak currency, is the most dramatic example of debt-fuelled inflation. However, food prices are increasing steadily, and as businesses adjust to higher import prices, more prices will increase in the near future, leaving Zambians increasingly squeezed.

The picture does not look very positive for the value of the kwacha. Firstly, the government has not offered investors reassurance that it is managing the debt position, as the kwacha has continued falling in value after the budget announcement on 28 September. Secondly, the country's foreign exchange reserves, which the Bank of Zambia uses to buy kwacha and stabilise the currency, are under pressure. The Minister of Finance announced that the reserves had fallen from \$2.1bn in December to \$1.8bn at the time of the budget and are

below target. As the reserves are needed to pay increasing debt servicing and petrol costs, the Bank's scope to manage the value of the currency is limited.

While inflation has been triggered by the depreciation of the kwacha in September, debt has created other long-term and emerging pressure on prices. Businesses pass on borrowing costs caused by high interest rates to consumers, as well as the risk of reduced cashflow due to government arrears. Furthermore, tax increases will also create inflation as businesses pass any additional costs of doing business.

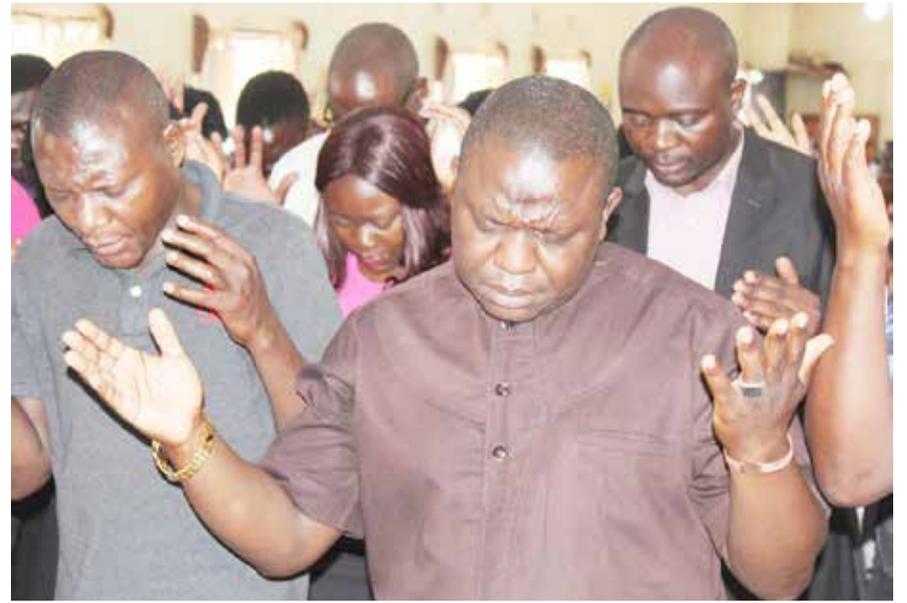
The last few weeks have shown just how the country's debt position is hitting ordinary Zambians pockets. Not only do citizens have to pay off the debt through increased taxes, incomes are being squeezed by inflation. And the country is in danger of entering a spiral as economic growth slows and investor confidence drops further, driving ever higher inflation. The budget offered an opportunity for the government to provide investors with assurance that the country was stabilising its finances. Instead it borrowed nearly K30 billion. If it is to stop inflation hitting ordinary Zambians, the government needs more transparency in the scale of the problem and more credible plans to address it. Otherwise, we will all pay.

Continue to follow the series for the next coming weeks and follow the conversation on social media #DebtConcernsMe.

Facebook - Consumer Unity Trust Society - CUTS Lusaka

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Harry Kalaba(r) in attendance as Bishop Wilson Phiri of Kabwe leads a church service at Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Mongu

You have three more years to suffer and pay for voting Edgar – GBM

By Mirriam Chabala
UPND vice-president Geoffrey Mwamba says the suffering that Zambians are experiencing is good for the next election because citizens would have learnt a lesson and paid a price for voting carelessly. And Mwamba says the PF is running government through Facebook and other social media network postings from Cadres and ministers.

Meanwhile, Mwamba says he is still going strong as UPND vice-president but only went silent because he travelled abroad to supervise his businesses. After months of Silence the vocal former defence minister returned and told Zambians to stop blaming President Edgar Lungu for the mess that the country has fallen into, but must instead blame themselves for experimenting with a

self confessed visionless leader.

“Zambians you should not blame Edgar, blame yourselves because Edgar told you that he had no vision but you said ‘iyo ni uyu wine ba Sata batupele (he’s the one that Sata anointed)’. So now you will pay the price so that those who voted for him can see and learn. It’s not all Zambians but those of you that made the mistake and voted for Edgar, you are going to pay the price. Mind you, you re only in the second you, you have three more years, 36 more months to suffer. So blame yourselves and that will be good because then whenever there will be elections, people will vote wisely, not through tribal lines or what have you. We don’t want that,” he said.

“It has never happened in the history of this country where Zambians go completely without a meal a day. I was just passing through Cairo road and you could clearly see the misery on people’s faces. This is unprecedented. And yet, the government officials today are the only ones rejoicing. But the ordinary Zambians who actually voted for them are suffering and they are suffering more than us in the UPND who never voted for them. Us we prepared ourselves mentally and physically that if Edgar ruled us we were going to suffer.”

And commenting on the incident where the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) PS ordered his Northern

Province counterpart to exculpate himself to State House officials Kaizer Zulu and Freedom Sikazwe as well as a PF cadre Munir Zulu, GBM said this was all proof that the country was being government PF cadres.

In a recorded phone conversation between PSMD PS Boniface Chimwali and the Northern Province Permanent Secretary Elias Kamanga, the former was heard remonstrating the latter for suspending his deputy without permission from President Edgar Lungu’s advisors.

GBM told News Diggers! in an interview that anything was possible under President Lungu’s PF.

“There is no way a civil servant can go and get permission from a fellow civil servant to suspend someone who has committed an offence. It doesn’t happen that way. In any case, I am sure there are regulations that stipulate how a civil servant should conduct their affairs. But if you look at the whole puzzle of the [current] government, it seems they don’t even understand what civil service means. How can the PS for Northern Province suspend his deputy if he did not read the guidelines? If he read, he was in order. But why now should Mr Chimwali breath fire on Mr Kamanga? And why was he asking him to ask him to get permission from Sikazwe? In the first place, who the hell is Freedom Sikazwe? In any case, he’s a misfit even where

he is right now. It can only be Edgar Lungu who can actually have an advisor [in form of Presidential Affairs Minister] like Freedom Sikazwe, he is just a total clown,” Mwamba said.

“Those of us who know him, who made him actually to be what he is today, we cannot appoint him to that position. Even if the late Sata, May His Soul Rest in Peace, was alive, he wouldn’t appoint Freedom Sikazwe to the position of Presidential Affairs Minister. Anyway, it can only be Edgar Lungu, the President. So that’s why in the whole system of PF today, they have actually put people like Freedom Sikazwe, they have put Kaizer Zulu... and who is this Munir Zulu? I don’t think I know whoever the hell that he is, who is he? Isn’t he just that cadre doing all sorts of things on social media? My God! my God! How can we have a government that is run on Facebook?”

Meanwhile, Mwamba bemoaned the late delivery of farming inputs by the government, saying it would have a bad effect on next year’s harvest for the farmers.

“Look at the fertiliser situation. I was phoning Kasama to find out if the inputs have been delivered but up to now they haven’t started receiving the inputs. The way the farming pattern is is that come August – September, all inputs must be distributed to various depots across the country and they should have been distributed as at now. But

up to now, farmers have not received fertiliser. And the history of the rain pattern that I know of, by 24th and 30th of October, we must have the first rainfall. But when it starts raining and you haven’t received your inputs, where does that leave the farmer? If you receive your inputs in November or December, that’s not good for cultivation,” Mwamba said.

“In fact, the maize that has been produced this year hasn’t been as expected, yet we had very good rainfall. But FRA has even failed to buy the proposed 500,000 tones of maize for reserve. All this is because most farmers didn’t have a good yield this year. But I really feel sorry for my fellow Zambians, however, they must brace themselves for harder times because we’ve got about 36 more months before the next election.”

Asked why he had been so quiet politically for a while now, Mwamba said he had been making sure that his private business continues to thrive in other countries. “My dear, I am no longer a Zambian businessman. I am a South African and Zimbabwean businessman, so I have to go and look after my interests once in a while. So I always travel every month to go either to Zimbabwe or South Africa to go and look after my businesses. But there is nothing sinister about it, I am still with the party and I will continue speaking, especially on how much Zambians are suffering,” he explained.



A Limulunga boy reaches out to pluck some cashew fruits in Western Province

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has urged its members countrywide to shun the National Day of Prayer slated for this Thursday, saying the party will not participate in the event.

NDC vice president Joseph Akafumba stated in a statement, Tuesday, that party members should use this day to reflect on the pain and havoc that the PF had caused on Zambians.

“The NDC will not take part in the Day of National Prayer slated for this Thursday. In this regard, the NDC is urging all its members countrywide to shun this occasion. There is so much tyranny, bitterness, resentment and acrimony in the country! To therefore proclaim that the current

NDC urges members to shun Day of Prayer

leadership needs divine intervention to pacify the current problems the country is facing is nothing but blasphemous,” Joseph stated.

“To our members, we urge you to use this day to reflect on the pain and havoc that this regime has caused to your well-being. We urge you, our members, to use this day to mingle with the poor and the marginalised in society. Tell them about the NDC and its vision. Use

this day to remind people in all villages and regions that Zambia is under a police state and that, indeed, change is coming in 2021.”

Akafumba charged that the problems Zambia was facing had been caused by the Patriotic Front and its leader, adding that attempts to use political-induced prayers to unite the nation was the worst form of hypocrisy.

“President Edgar Lungu has never been serious on national dialogue

and reconciliation. The problems that this country is facing have been caused by the Patriotic Front and President Lungu. It is self-inflicted pain, like a toothache; its solution is removal and not ‘Panadol’ arrangement. Attempts to use political-induced prayers to unite the nation cannot work and is the worst form of hypocrisy,” Akafumba argued.

“It is blasphemous to claim that the current leadership

has dedicated this county to God in order for God to hear our prayers. Their actions are totally at variance with Christian teachings. The current crop of leaders have failed to inspire confidence in the general citizenry and should, therefore, not use Christianity to hoodwink its people.”

Akafumba further stated that, as a party, they were at pains in attending the National Day of Prayer because corruption,

vengeance and animosity was still strong in the country.

“There is injustice in this nation, which injustice has been caused and entrenched by this wreck less Patriotic Front regime. This regime has continued arresting opposition political leaderships with impunity on flimsy grounds. Those with divergent views and opinions are treated as enemies of the State. The country is completely divided and polarized owing to the injustice being perpetrated by the governing party,” he stated.

“The current regime is thus not sincere when they talk about reconciliation and forgiveness. In order to forgive and reconcile, the Patriotic Front regime must admit the wrongs that they have committed against the Zambian people. To, therefore, try and use the Bible to mislead Zambians into thinking that this regime is sincere in uniting its people is nothing but a farce.”

Akafumba observed that if the PF regime was truly and sincerely genuine in mending bridges, Zambians wouldn't have been divided. He also insisted that the NDC would only start participating in the National Day of Prayer when corrupt elements were purged from government.

Livingstone court dissolves marriage between wife and adulterous pastor

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Livingstone Local Court has dissolved the eight year marriage between a teacher and a pastor of Livingstone's Maramba area after the wife complained of her husband's infidelity.

Majory Bwalya, the teacher, told the court that her husband, a pastor was having an affair with a 54-year-old chairlady of his church, same age as her mother, adding that he once lied that he was going to Zimbabwe on a business trip, but had ended up staying at the said chairlady's house for two weeks.

The court dissolved the marriage of Bwalya, 32, who sued Pastor Mwiya Namunanga 38, for divorce after she refused to accept reconciliation, saying she had lost affection for him.

When the matter came up before Senior Local Court Magistrate Essau Daka and presiding Local Court Magistrate Ruth Liato, Bwalya told the court that she wanted to divorce her husband because of infidelity and threats on her life.

Bwalya, said the two got married on December 12, 2010, and Namunanga was charged K4,500 but only paid K2,000.

She said the two had a six-year-old child together.

Bwalya told the court that problems in their marriage started when her husband had an extra marital affair with a woman called Memory, who was in Lusaka.

She said she only knew about the affair when Memory sent her nude pictures with her husband at a guest house.

Bwalya said her husband apologised to her and promised her that he would cut ties with Memory.

She told the court that problems in her marriage continued when her husband started having an affair with a 54-year-old chairlady called Winnie, within the same church, same age as her mother.

Bwalya said she confronted her husband about the affair, but he denied.

“At one time, my husband got a set of sofas from the house and gave Winnie as a gift without me knowing that he had an affair with her. When I heard rumours about the illicit affair, I asked him, but he denied. Even Winnie's neighbours confirmed to me that they saw the man of God frequently visit Winnie and when I asked him, he said it was evangelism because Winnie was an evangelist,” Bwalya narrated.

Bwalya then said her husband started spending nights away.

She said he once lied that he was going to Zimbabwe for business, but when she checked his passport, it showed three days when he had been away for two weeks.

“I was told by Winnie's neighbours that my husband was at Winnie's and I should go and see for myself. I went there with his nephew to witness; I

found him halfway dressed. Upon seeing me, he rushed to bathroom and started bathing. Asked what my husband was doing, Winnie said he usually goes there to bath almost every day. After bathing, Winnie suggested that I should know the truth and that my husband must choose between Winnie, and I. But to my surprise, my husband said he wrote a divorce letter, but Winnie demanded that he should write a new letter, which he did,” she said.

In response, the defendant, Namunanga, said he was against divorce because he still loved his wife.

He told the court that there was too much interference in their marriage by Bwalya's relatives.

Namunanga said problems started in 2017 when his wife wanted K4,000 tuition fees, which he failed to raise. He said his wife then told him that she would divorce him after completing her degree programme at Victoria University in Livingstone.

Namunanga said all the allegations against him were baseless.

He said Winnie was the chairlady of church and an evangelist, hence they were spreading the good news of the gospel.

Asked by the Court if it was in order for a married pastor to bath at the chairlady's house, Namunanga said ‘not at all’, which sent the court into murmuring.

His wife then asked him to tell the Court if he did not father a child with Winnie,

which later died whilst in Lusaka, but Namunanga just kept quiet.

After hearing from both parties, the court granted the couple divorce after Bwalya refused to accept reconciliation, saying she had lost affection for him.

The court then ordered that

the two should share their property equally.

They further ordered Mwiya to be supporting his child with K300 effective October 31, 2018, as well as, to finish paying K2,500 dowry balance in K200 monthly instalments effective October 31, 2018.

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By Abraham Kalito

Civil Society for Constitutional Agenda (CiSCA) board chairperson Bishop John Mambo says government should abolish the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs and the National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Reconciliation because they lack relevance. In an interview, Bishop Mambo said the Ministry and the national prayer day were created out of excitement by President Edgar Lungu, adding that they have failed to deliver according to expectations. "The National Day of Prayer

Abolish Religious Affairs Ministry, demands Bishop Mambo

is also not relevant. It does not play its relevance because we pray daily it's not like we boycotted, it should be a day of giving and it's the whole day praying about the house of prayer and that. But the following day, the politicians will be insulting each other as usual; they will be calling each other names.

Look at the lips of those in leadership. If that Ministry is to be relevant, it means that my sister, Rev Sumaili, has a task in her hands because she has to advise the President on the language, the ministers and all that. The cadres who have hijacked the rule of law in this country, she should advise them! If this Ministry

operated, according to expectations, we would have now been saying that Zambia has transformed! But that's not the case; the President to-date fails to interact with his opposition counterpart. She [Rev Godfridah Sumaili] should have advised him on such matters as well," Bishop Mambo said.

"You know, I have heard her on Sunday Interview [on October 14] saying that stealing is bad. Look, Jesus used to point out the wrongs and say, 'you are a thief.' She shouldn't just say, 'stealing is bad,' let her say that, 'this government is stealing and that is bad.' If I have stolen, she should

point out that Mambo has stolen, then she should call Mambo to repentance. This Ministry should not have been created to start with. It was created out of excitement from the President. But now, all the Ministry is doing is consuming tax payers' money instead of giving direction to the country! Rev Sumaili should have been given a Ministry somewhere else. She is qualified to head a ministry, but not religious affairs. So, you don't just create a ministry just for the sake of creating it. This Ministry has failed Zambians! Because even this day of prayer, are the three mother bodies going to have one voice? Government should subject itself to the body of Christ."

He added that government should subject itself to the Church and seek guidance and reconciliation.

"...Not the other way round where they want the body of Christ to subject itself to government. It should have been each one of us being religious advisors by them drawing strength on what they need to do from the Church. The Church has been in Intensive Care Unit, sleeping, and as a result, politicians have taken advantage of us, they are even insulting and calling us names! In the past, insulting church leaders was a death sentence in itself. From inception, I was one of those who opposed the establishment of the National Guidance and Religious Affairs Ministry because the Church mother bodies, if you are doing their job, then you are supposed to have the self-regulation of the churches," explained Bishop Mambo.

"We know that there are those who are taking religion as a source of their livelihoods, lots of them. But if you are called to God, you will realise on a daily basis that you are not an angel. We confess our sins, our weaknesses on a daily basis. Now during our days, we had the traditional leaders who would talk to the young people to avoid doing what was wrong. We cannot leave out traditional leaders today. That's simply values because you cannot enforce national values from a ministerial position. It cannot happen. People cannot be subjected to national values; these have to be taught at a tender age." President Edgar Lungu gazetted October 18 every year as a day of National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Reconciliation, whilst also establishing the controversial Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs.



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It was another busy day but Uncle Joe wore his usual smile, got his stick and got up. It had been over a year since he saw anything but he had finally resolved that he would give his life the best shot nonetheless. There was no way he was going to allow a mere disability rob him of the many beautiful things life got to offer to a 47 year old dude like him. Just a year ago he was the finance director at Zambia's most decorated financial institution, the Bank of Zambia (BOZ). His life started to change following his surviving a road traffic accident when his car was hit by a truck near Chibombo when he was coming from a workshop that was took place in Kitwe. That accident left him with no scars but internal injuries that led him to lose his sight. Being unable to continue work, the Bank decided to retire him on health grounds and dully compensated him. From that moment onwards things changed fast for him because he had to start learning a new life, a life without sight. He had lost his sight but was by no means going to let that rob him of his vision. Coincidentally, the time the accident happened Uncle Joe as he is fondly called by his colleagues at work was just beginning to build his family a house in Lusaka's plush New Kasama suburb. Initially , Uncle Joe had planned to retire to farming when he reached 55 years but as things stood his retirement came earlier and it was time to row out his farming masterplan. On his mind was the business of Fish Farming. He wanted to become Zambia's biggest supplier fish on the local market so the land he acquired in

New Kasama was large enough to sit 25 large fishponds and a fish processing and storage plant. As they say 'when life gives you lemon, make lemonade', Uncle Joe decided to use the money he had compensated together with his savings to build his fish farming Business Empire. As expected, the beginnings were rough and tough but Uncle Joe's foresight and wisdom came handy and one of the most outstanding decisions that he made that made him the ultimate millionaire that he has now become was to make sure that he designed his business surrounding with his disability in mind. He made sure that the building at his factory had features that made work and circulation movements possible. Well, in our narrative he discussed Uncle Joe's story but in our society we have a lot of situations where the people with disabilities never get to have a chance to even get an education like Uncle Joe. They say Education is an equalizer yet that is only possible if we as individuals and institutions are considerate and responsible enough to realize that this world around us has people with disabilities and they too deserve and education in whatever circumstance they are in. They too need to enjoy life and have access to things we easily have access to. The creation of better inclusive environments starts with our own individual decisions such as not parking at a slot reserved for the disable when you know too well that you are able bodied. Beyond individual responsibility come corporate responsibility especially for

those people in decision making positions in Government and Private Companies. As a responsible person in a decision making position it would be commendable (actually you have a duty) to inquire how much considerations have been put for the people with disabilities in buildings being put up be it schools, churches, mosques, shopping mall, hospitals, office blocks, stations and even homes . It is not surprising to notice that a good number of building structure around our country have little or no consideration for a number of disabilities thus excluding the people with disabilities from enjoying their rights and freedoms. Dare to make a difference and think about disability whenever you are building or part of people who are building. Food for thought: imagine someone with a disability came to your home or office, how accessible is your building? Considerations for the disabled in buildings are not optional, they are a requirement of the law and should be enforced because their absence in most buildings have negatively impacted the society by excluding people with physical challenges from enjoying their rights to belong and associate freely and easily. 'In fact we have a moral duty to remove the barriers to participation, and to invest sufficient funding and expertise to unlock the vast potential of people with disabilities' - Professor Stephen Hawking Building is great investment, do it right. Wherever we want to go; our feet shall take us there.

By Mukosha Funga

Rainbow Party General Secretary Wynter Kabimba says if the Anti-Corruption Commission was fabricating cases against opposition leaders, he would also have been in court. And Kabimba says those who have branded him selfish are thieves whom he can expose if pushed to the corner. Speaking on Chingola's Iwave Radio, Monday, Kabimba said if he was a corrupt man, he would have been in jail today. "If I were a thief, I would have been in jail today. If I were corrupt, I would be in jail today. How come I am the only one without a fabricated case? Let's assume some of the cases against these guys are fabricated? How come

Wynter says he doesn't believe ACC targets opposition leaders with fabricated cases

nobody has fabricated a case against me? If the others are in court because Edgar doesn't like them and they are in the opposition? How come I am in the opposition and I don't have a case?" Kabimba asked. Asked whether it was because he did not attack President Edgar Lungu, Kabimba said, "Haven't I told you here that he is a blind president with a blind Cabinet? Don't you have OP here in Chingola that can file that report?" And Kabimba said those who were tarnishing his name were thieves.

"If it were true that Michael had fired me because I was not trustworthy and I was selfish, how come the same Michael said I should continue as a nominated member of parliament? You are right that there are people who are using this against me but even the people who are using this against me, just look at their character and compare it to me. Look at their levels of integrity and honesty and compare that with me. I restrain myself when I come to these issues because if I decided to pick these

guys, and I know them, the ones who peddle those stories, I picked them one by one and I told you what Michael Sata thought about them, they would not be politicians today, they would collapse tomorrow. And tell them what they forgot to edit in the Bible that even if they go to court, I can go and prove what I am saying," he said. "There are chaps who are thieves that are calling a clean man like me selfish, but he is a thief. There are chaps that are corrupt who want to lead this country today and they

are calling a man like me selfish. There are chaps that have stolen degrees from universities which do not even exist. And they are calling a man like me who has got an impeccable degree from the University of Zambia, and they are calling me selfish, what nonsense is that? I let go of PF purely on principle. Is PF any better today than it was when I was SG? The answer is no, it is not any better." He said there was nothing selfish about his character. "I let go of PF purely on principle. Is PF any better

today than it was when I was SG? The answer is no, it is not any better. It was not my mother's party, it was not my father's party, so I let go and I said if there is somebody who can do this job better than I have done it, please get them to do it. Is that the character of a selfish person? No. I said to Mr Sata, if you can find someone who is better than me, whom you can nominate, please do so, this is your discretion, this is your prerogative. Is that the character of a selfish person? The answer is no," said Kabimba.

When it was revealed that over US\$4.7 million aid from international cooperating partners towards the Social Cash Transfer programme had been embezzled, government trashed the expose as fake news manufactured by malicious media and doomsayers.

But this attempt to sweep corruption and theft under the carpet backfired soon after British High Commissioner Fergus Cochrane-Dyett disclosed that, in fact, his government had frozen all bilateral aid to Zambia owing to rampant corruption and fraud in government. The British went ahead to demand a refund of their money which was misused.

This embarrassing turn around of events sent State House into panic, leading to dismissals and unprecedented suspensions of civil servants. But to recover from the shame, government connived with State controlled private media to pull a fast one on the Zambian people. Screaming headlines were concocted to attack the integrity of the British Envoy.

These media houses, with the help of public newspapers and the national broadcaster, waged a vigorous propaganda campaign alleging that the British Envoy was hallucinating about the misused aid, because the money which the British were claiming to have been embezzled, was actually sitting in an account in ZANACO bank. They openly lambasted the British High Commissioner for 'lying' and exhibiting undiplomatic conduct.

The narrative that was given was that, although High Commissioner Fergus was going all over Twitter talking about money from the British Department for International Development (DFID) being embezzled, there was no donor aid that was misused because the "little" British contribution to the Social Cash Transfer

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Get it right, Zambia has not refunded Britain the 'stolen' US\$4.7 million

programme was untouched and still in the bank.

State House and the Ministry of Information even went ahead to hold a press conference at which they announced that government had easily given back the British their money because it had not even been disbursed to the vulnerable recipients. This painted a bad picture of High Commissioner Fergus, as he was portrayed as a greedy envoy who did not want British aid to help the poor people of Zambia. They tried to paint him as someone who didn't know what he was talking about.

As things stand today, the government of the Republic of Zambia has almost succeeded in convincing its citizens that the money which came from the British government, and was reportedly plundered, has been paid back in full. This is how foolish our government leaders think Zambians are. They don't treat citizens like discerning human beings capable of distinguishing the truth from misinformation.

Dear readers, the government has been lying about this refund. We know that many astute citizens already figured this out, but we want to correct the deception to those few who may find the facts around this matter a little confusing.

There are two cases here which the government has deliberately been mixing up in order to confuse citizens. Zambia received US\$4.7 million from the various cooperating partners, including Britain, which was disbursed under the Social Cash Transfer programme in 2017. This money was channeled to ZAMPOST, the agency that government had subcontracted to distribute the funds to the vulnerable citizens across the country.

But after discovering that this aid was not reaching the intended beneficiaries, the donors to the Social Cash Transfer Programme, including DFID, suspended further funding and demanded a forensic audit into its usage.

While this plunder was being investigated, the British government had a separate package of donor support towards the Social Cash Transfer Programme in Zambia. Through the Department for International Development, Britain had sent a separate consignment of donor aid amounting to £2.7 million or about US\$3.6 million. But DFID also discovered that their money which was sent for the poor has been allocated towards capital expenditure at ZAMPOST, so they also froze that account, awaiting postmortem results from the forensic audit.

According to the audit results, part of the social cash transfer money was used to buy luxury personal to holder vehicles for the managers at ZAMPOST, some of it was spent on building infrastructure while further reports suggest that some clever hands stashed some allocations into private offshore accounts. We also witnessed how part of this money was used to campaign

for the President in Luapula, where cell phones and money were dished out to people.

It is at this point that the British decided to freeze all bilateral aid to Zambia until action was seen to be taken against culprits who embezzled Social Cash Transfer money. The donors collectively demanded that the misused US\$4.7 million should be paid back. DFID also claimed back their £2.7 million which was still sitting in ZANACO bank, waiting to be misused.

It is important to note that while the £2.7 million had been allocated, it had not yet been disbursed for misuse.

So it is this £2.7 million which has been easily paid back because it had not been touched yet. But the initial disbursement of US\$4.7 million from DFID and other cooperating partners has not been paid back because culprits are still being identified and also the government frankly doesn't have money.

This is the truth around this story. Money was plundered and President Edgar Lungu himself

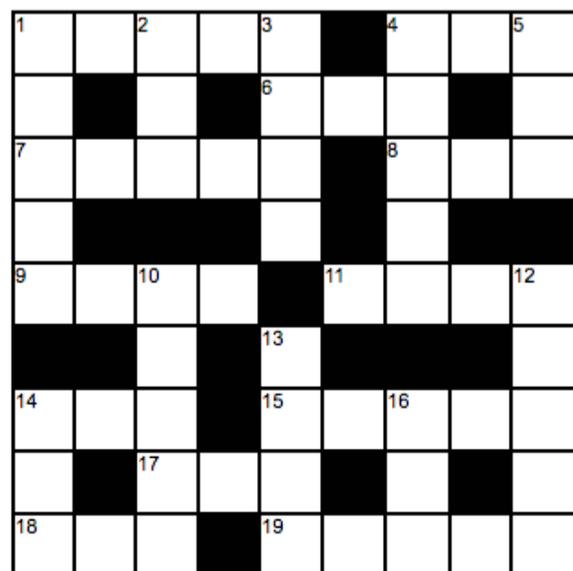
knows it. That is why he has gone on rampage terrorizing civil servants like a provoked black ant. The theft of both donor aid and government funds in this regime has reached unprecedented levels, and therefore we find it silly for anyone to condemn the British Envoy for merely saying what is already in public domain.

Instead of insulting High Commissioner Fergus, we must be thanking him for helping us point to where we must improve in our governance system. Donor aid doesn't grow on trees, this envoy is answerable to British taxpayers for this support and he has the right to question any misuse of DFID funds.

In our view, as citizens we must go further to ask questions around suspicious government expenditure under the umbrella of the ruling Patriotic Front. There is a question that we have repeatedly asked, which no one in government is willing to answer. We have seen millions of PF-branded school books and other related stationery being distributed to anyone who attends PF functions across the country. Where did the funding for this come from? No one has an answer. Was this part of donor money? We have every reason to suspect so.

What about the so-called Presidential Empowerment Fund? The Patron of this initiative Mr Chanda Kabwe has been taken to task in the past to explain where this money comes from, his bizarre answer was simply that the President donates part of his salary to empower marketeers. Uuummm?? The same President who has given himself a salary increment had too much money from his pay to spend on donations? How does this make sense? We need honest answers. If this money is clean, and it is not from donors, let the PF publish any existing paper trail to prove that this money comes from President Lungu.

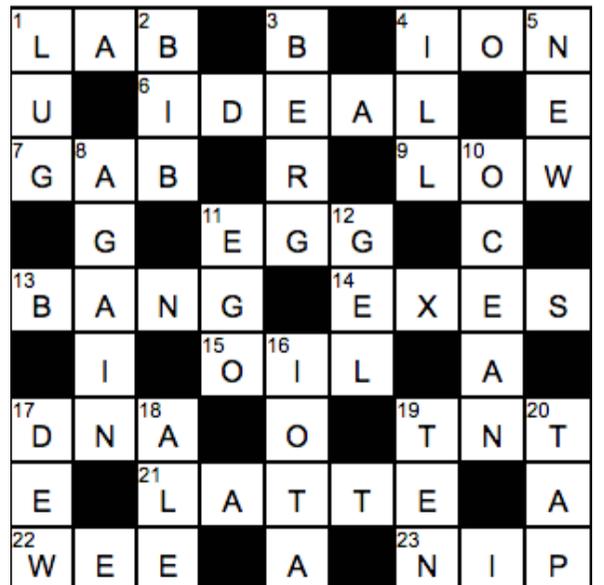
Crossword puzzle 210



"The scholar does not consider gold and jade to be precious treasures, but loyalty and good faith." - Confucius

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leaving 4. Suitable 6. Style of music 7. "Rubber Duckie" singer 8. Stein filler 9. Adjust for pitch 11. Celebrity 14. Expire 15. Verdi or Puccini work 17. Dull 18. Used to be 19. Loose fitting | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marvelous 2. Hostel 3. Matured 4. Separate 5. Casual top 10. Must-haves 12. Good to go 13. Barber's item 14. Morning moisture on grass 16. Omelet ingredient |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 209



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.

ND OPINION:

Governing with useless Statutory Instruments

Editor,

"Well observed and presented; there's a serious need of a deliberate Zambian investment policy, which can address

the issues raised." - David Banda

"Useless, indeed." Matthews Lishandu

"Very true; governing with useless Statutory Instruments. On this issue, government has failed, totally failed." - Febian Mfula

"A few days ago, government authorized importations of powdered milk. Farmers in Chongwe have no fresh milk market as a result. And you want to blame small-scale resident farmers from China!" - Choolwe Mudenda

"This is one of the best move by government so far; hope it's well enforced because it's long-overdue. Now, I call upon all Zambians to apply citizens' arrest whenever see Chinese selling broiler chickens or poultry farming; selling vegetables; making blocks and also selling phones in streets. Let's together do and act to help the police and Immigration Department in arresting the situation quickly." - Sydney Siame

"Let me hit a comprise here and protect both intentions: we are beginning to make progress. Better late than never. The media should keep pushing." - John Noel Lungu



Luo on finding Vespers' funeral church service disturbing

Editor,

"Yes, you can be disturbed because you refused to give students allowances and you have seen the results. DEATH. Your total negligence." - Mkacha Hamainda

"She is missing the point. Even if t-shirts were sponsored or not, that's not the substance of the matter at hand. In fact, this government appears to care less about what happened. All they want is to politic

instead of being apologetic. Of all statements I have heard so far, no apology has been offered. What have we become, surely? Even admitting that the death was caused by teargas fired by the police, they don't want to admit. This is inhuman and worst disrespect to the family." - Mulenga P. Kaoma

"Yaba, Ba professor has lost relevance. I'm saying almost every student at UNZA has something black and did not need to buy." - Sally Shamaila

Health Minister's update on \$1m drugs theft at Medical Stores investigation

Dear Editor,

"Don't tell us what we want to hear; give us detailed information and let us see whoever's involved going to court. Please act the way you would have acted if this was done by the opposition." - Tonny Mukutu

"When aid is cut, investigations are escalated; otherwise, denial upon denial, all muppets are in action defending the indefensible! What sort of governance system are we having?" - Francis Kapindula

"Hyenas investigating lost carcass in jungle. Pathetic!" - Kool Int

"Is donor aid really safe in our country? 3 big Ministries (Transport & Communication; Education and now Health) - all facing same problem of donor money missing or 'misappropriated.' We are really embarrassing our country and culture." - Clifford G. Ngoma

"These scandals are a tip of the iceberg and they're indicative of systemic failure. Is there anyone still demanding for evidence of corruption and theft of public resources?" - Mwape Nkonge

By Joseph Mwenda

US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote says the move by the Zambian government to start hippo culling without any published scientific analysis to justify the decision, may make it difficult, if not impossible, for him to attract investment that can help the country's conservation sector.

Cabinet has allowed a concession for hippo culling in the Luangwa River on grounds that the animals were dying from anthrax due to overpopulation, and the government was not benefiting anything from it.

According to government sources, the State is worried that the blocking the agreement for culling that was signed before the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) was dissolved, would attract litigation from the concessionaire who would demand a lot of money as and still go ahead to cull after winning the case.

But commenting on the announced hippo culling, Ambassador Foote said, without interfering with the sovereignty of Zambia, it was important for the government to follow the scientific steps to culling of animals so that it is done humanely.

"With all due respect to Zambia's sovereignty, and I am not telling Zambia what to do. That said, reports today that Cabinet has approved a hippo cull on Luangwa River leaves me confounded... Animal culls that are done humanely and that are backed by real public scientific analyses are certainly potential conservation tools. I don't

Hippo culling move may make it impossible for US to help Zambia raise conservation funds – Foote

disagree with the idea of a cull in principle, I believe that this cull that we are talking about was originally envisioned in 2015 by ZAWA...I have heard different reasoning, including anthrax and environmental degradation, carrying capacity of the valley, and now I'm hearing that it damages crops. I have heard all kinds of different reasons all of which could be viable reasons, but I am not sure which is the real

reason," Ambassador Foote said in an interview with News Diggers! yesterday.

"The US government and I would welcome, from the government of Zambia, information that would help us to better understand and also the transparent publishing of the scientific analysis and the justifications behind carrying out this cull. Now I worry, and you probably know that I have put a ton of personal

passion and energy in trying to put Zambia on the world map as a conservation leader. And I worry that should a cull proceed without such public scientific information, it will severely hamper the US Embassy and my efforts to expand the American tourism base to Zambia, in which we are the country with the most tourists that come to Zambia each year. I'm also highly concerned that it will make it

difficult, if not impossible, for me to attract investment that will be critical to developing the conservation sector. That is what the US government and I Daniel Foote feel about this, we are just confounded and we just welcome clarification, show us the science."

Asked if the US was concerned about the culling of any other wildlife of it was only interested in one species, Ambassador Foote who is a

passionate conservationist, said his government was mostly interested in scientific analysis before any such action was taken.

"In this case, we are talking about the hippo culling on Luangwa valley, but I think anytime that we are talking about culling animals, we need to produce and publish the analysis and science behind that as to how that will lead to better sustainability of the species and better environmental balance before proceeding. As I said before, culling can be a viable conservation too, but there is a science behind it. I think it's important to go through the scientific steps and to publish the results before carrying out culls," said Ambassador Foote.

'Lies' peddled about Zambia's economy irritate Lungu

By Tenson Mkhala

President Edgar Lungu says he is irritated by the 'lies and innuendoes' employed by opponents to try and derail the economy. Speaking when he launched Total Zambia's Head Office in Lusaka, Tuesday, Lungu appealed to foreign investors to ignore the rancour and rumour-mongering that some people have embarked on.

President Lungu said the management of the country's economy and public finances was based on a laid-down system and guided by sound fundamentals.

"As President, I am here to help drive a point home that, we are friends of business, and so when you are in doubt, talk to us. We are here to tell our own stories, not the misrepresentations being

planted in some foreign publications hell-belt on attacking our economy! So, do ask others about us. We are available to tell you our story, which you can verify with reasonable and well-meaning third parties. Ignore the rancour and rumour-mongering machines our opponents have employed to try and derail our economy. Yes, we may face challenges here and there, but the PF party

is a resilient movement. We shall see off all these lies and innuendoes! Our management of the economy and public finances is based on laid-down system and guided by sound fundamentals. The lies expressly designed to hurt the economy are irritating, but with collective resolve, we shall overcome," President Lungu vowed.

He added that government would continue to create an enabling environment to promote more investments from progressive investors, such as Total.

"Let me say that, my government will continue to create an enabling environment to promote more investments from progressive investors, such as Total. One of my government's key priorities is to create jobs and wealth for the people and, therefore, Total Zambia's commitment to supporting the communities where they operate is highly commendable," President Lungu added.

He further disclosed that government had made solar products more affordable through the removal of taxes.

"Energy remains a vital component of our economic diversification programme. And in view of this, the National

Energy Policy framework seeks, in the short-to-medium term, to diversify the energy generation mix through geothermal, wind, biomass and solar power. My government has made solar products more affordable through the removal of taxes prescribed for solar items," said President Lungu.

He further assured investors to continue investing in the country, insisting that their investment is safe.

And speaking at the same occasion, Total Zambia managing director Olufemi Babajide said the company has continued to contribute to the development of Zambia.

"Your Excellency, I am pleased to announce that Total Zambia has remained one of the best companies, and it has continued to contribute to the development of Zambia. We have rolled out several empowerment programmes countrywide with programmes, such as young dealership," said Babajide.

Total Zambia, which has been in existence for more than 68 years, has currently engaged local transporters with a combined fleet of 185 fuel tankers on long-term transportation contracts.

The new Total Head Office will house over 100 employees.

MTN launches new range of numbers under 076 prefix

By Stuart Lisulo

MTN Zambia has announced the launch of an additional new range of numbers and expanded its existing subscriber base aimed at allowing different customers to join the network.

The new number range will go under a prefix "076" and customers can reserve their desired contact number on the link: <http://my076.mtnzambia.co.zm>

In a statement, MTN Zambia chief executive officer Charles Molapisi disclosed that the telecommunications giant had decided to roll out the '076' number range to absorb a growing subscriber base.

"MTN has introduced the new number range of 076 because our customer base is growing and hence we need to allow more customers to grow with us and join the Y'ello

family," Molapisi stated in a press release issued, Tuesday.

"Existing customers will have the same offers as the 076-number range. Customers will be given an opportunity to reserve a special number of their choice or use a special date as their mobile number and once the number is reserved, the customer has 7 days to redeem their number at any MTN outlet."

According to the statement, the benefits of the new number range have three dimensions where customers have an opportunity to create a number of their choice; create a number that reflects their birthday, anniversary or any special date in their lives and also create a number like their existing number from other networks.

New customers will get free 300 MB data and 10 minutes on-net minutes and all MTN customers

will get free Instagram, free MTN TV+ and free Facebook, plus send money for free when they recharge their phone with K2.

Additionally, MTN have introduced the new services specifically tailored to meet subscribers' changing communication demands, according to Molapisi.

"MTN Zambia believes in offering services and platforms that add value to the lives of our customers through constant focus on consumers. More than before, Zambian consumers, today, have converged communication behaviour via mobile telecommunication and are constantly on the go and want the freedom to access it all. Our new number range unlocks a whole new way for consumers to live their social life on the go," stated Molapisi.

Copperbelt Energy Corporation separates from Liquid Telecom

By Stuart Lisulo

The Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc (CEC) has sold its 50 per cent shareholding in CEC Liquid Telecommunication Limited (CEC Liquid Telecom) to pan-African telecoms group, Liquid Telecommunication Holdings Limited (Liquid Telecom).

According to press release, CEC's decision to divest from the telecoms space was motivated by recent developments in the sector, which necessitated a review of its strategy vis-à-vis its investment in the sector.

With this acquisition, Liquid Telecom now has full ownership of CEC Liquid Telecom and its retail arm, Hai Zambia.

Commenting on the disposal of its 50 per cent interest, CEC managing director Owen Silavwe, however, stated that CEC would continue to be involved with the company as an infrastructure provider.

"While this transaction provides an equity exit for CEC, we will continue to be involved with the company as an infrastructure provider. We are glad to have been a part of CEC Liquid Telecom's innovative service offering under our part ownership and remain excited about its future," Silavwe stated.

"This is a venture whose birth and growth we have

nurtured, witnessed and been a part of. Its value and service provision has grown immensely over the years and we are pleased that we can hand it over to people whose competence to continue with service delivery improvements, value creation and realisation for the business, going forward, is not in doubt."

Until now, CEC and

Liquid Telecom were equal partners in the joint-venture subsidiary since 2011.

At the time of forming the venture, CEC's investment rationale in CEC Liquid Telecom was to facilitate for the full commercialization of CEC's telecoms assets, ensuring adequate ring-fencing of the telecoms operations from the power business.

The CEC Liquid Telecom joint-venture, formed by the two partners in 2011, had grown to become a market leader and had invested in the rollout of a fibre optic network across Zambia that, today, delivers some of the country's and Africa's fastest broadband speeds.

CEC Liquid Telecom serves a range of wholesale, enterprise and

retail customers and has launched the leading 4G LTE network in all 10 provinces of Zambia.

The company also now offers Office 365, accesses through its leading-edge fibre network, to businesses of all sizes in Zambia.

The model was based on leased infrastructure capacity, aligning well with the CEC power business model.

Walk the talk after Day of Prayer, Fr Chikoya challenges politicians

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya has urged the Church to come out of the comfort zone and proactively be useful to the society by preaching good news and condemning anything

that does not favour humanity.

And Fr Chikoya has urged political players to walk the talk after the national day of prayer, fasting and reconciliation on Thursday.

Meanwhile Fr Chikoya has called on the Church across the country to take

care of the environment around them saying that maintaining a clean and safe environment is part of spirituality.

According to a statement issued by CCZ communications officer Micheal Mazakaza, Tuesday, Fr Chikoya was speaking when he

met Solwezi CCZ Local Christian Chapters at Saint Alban's Anglican Church in Solwezi, on Monday.

He called on the Church to focus on Jesus Christ as the country prepared for the national day of prayer and fasting on Thursday, and political players to

walk the talk thereafter. And Fr Chikoya urged the Church to come out of the comfort zone and proactively be useful to the society by preaching good news and condemning anything that did not favour humanity in the country and beyond.

Meanwhile, Fr Chikoya said all Churches affiliated to CCZ should pay particular attention to environmental management by ensuring that toilets in places of worship were not just in existence but clean and safe for congregants and other members of the public.

He said there was need for the Church to have an impact in the society by taking care of the environment around them.

"Good environmental stewardship also includes planting of trees and grass that add beauty to surroundings. This will go a long way in avoiding disease outbreaks such cholera and other water borne diseases. Maintaining a clean and safe environment is part of spirituality hence all Christians must ensure that they become models of a safe environment for all," he said.

Fr Chikoya said the Church should not disconnect the issues of the environment from theology.

Mining tax proposals will hurt mineral exploration – AZMEC

By Stuart Lisulo

Government's tax change proposals as contained in the 2019 national budget will dampen prospects of attracting much-needed investment in mineral exploration, says the Association of Zambian Mineral Exploration Companies (AZMEC).

Reacting to the 2019 budget, which, among others, proposed to increase mineral royalty rates by 1.5 percentage points at all levels of the sliding scale and introduce a fourth tier rate at 10 per cent on the sliding scale mineral royalty regime, which would apply when copper prices rise beyond US \$7,500 per metric tonne, AZMEC president Geoffrey Mulenga stated that the tax changes will negatively affect investment into mineral exploration.

"Measures being proposed in the 2019 national budget are expected to have negative consequences for the mineral

exploration sector and hence run contrary to stated government policy of increased mineral exploration and growth of the mining sector," Mulenga stated in a press release issued, Tuesday. He added that mineral exploration is an inherently high-cost activity, and that no new viable copper discoveries had been made over the past 10 years.

"Since Zambia's Independence, only two discoveries have been made. Dramatically increased exploration activities are now required, more than ever, if Zambia is to remain a leading copper producing nation," Mulenga added.

He stated that AZMEC had recently engaged with the Ministry of Finance to address issues of royalties and sales tax, among others, in the 2019 budget, which AZMEC felt to be contrary to the long term health of the industry and nation as a whole.

Mulenga also urged dialogue between stakeholders to address the concerns.

A comparative analysis of how investment in mineral exploration has helped boost copper mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) also illustrate why Zambia's copper mining production was eventually eclipsed by the DRC.

"Exploration expenditure in the DRC has recently been estimated at over 10 times that of Zambia. This exploration vitality has translated into increased production, employment and tax revenue on the Congolese Copperbelt where copper production has increased from 343,000 tonnes in 2010 to just over one million tonnes in 2014. In contrast, Zambian copper production has stagnated at 700-800,000 tonnes since the late 2000s," read the statement.

"Unless new deposits are discovered and developed, the mining industry in Zambia

will continue to stagnate and, ultimately, contract with negative consequences for the nation as tax collection, employment, suppliers and export revenue all contract."

Earlier this month, Zambia Chamber of Mines president Nathan Chishimba cautioned that the proposed tax changes by government will put the country on a precipice of a deadly spiral that will damage the country, hurt the mining sector and make the country "un-investable."

Chishimba warned that a number of mining operations will be pushed into loss-making positions, a move he added would have serious consequences for the industry.

Citing the introduction of an import duty on concentrates, combined with Sales Tax, the Chamber fears the move would render imports uneconomic, and partially shut down the Copperbelt's smelters and refineries.

"Dear 45, I ain't Kanye." If T.I. hadn't already made that distinction clear in a Thursday Instagram post publicly disavowing his former friend and collaborator over his Oval Office display, the Atlanta rapper drove the point home over the weekend with the NSFW presidential-themed video teaser for his new album "Dime Trap," which features him cavorting with a Melania Trump look-alike wearing nothing but the first lady's infamous "I Really Don't Care, Do U?" jacket.

The clip, which the rapper quietly posted Friday, begins with real footage of President Donald Trump boarding Marine One solo as T.I. watches from the Oval Office and a voice-over notes that the first lady did not accompany him on the trip, which "has a lot of people wondering."

After the coast is clear, T.I. takes a seat behind the Resolute Desk and lights a cigar as a woman wearing nothing but the first lady's notorious green Zara jacket (which she told ABC News was directed at the left-wing media) and a pair of heels steps in front of him, disrobes and begins dancing suggestively on the desk. Later, he watches as she sprays paint over the eyes of her husband's portrait.

The president, who spent the weekend campaigning and welcoming Pastor Andrew Brunson home from captivity in Turkey, has yet to acknowledge the T.I. video on his social media channels. Nor has the first lady, whose first solo televised interview aired on ABC's "20/20" the

T.I.'s racy video featuring Melania Trump look-alike angers first lady's rep

night the video went up. But Melania's spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, expressed outrage, asking, "How is

this acceptable?" T.I. has been busy on social media lately. He made waves last week when he went after West following

the rapper's appearance at the White House. The rapper, who collaborated with 'Ye on the 2006 track "Swagga Like Us,"

publicly unfriended West in an NSFW Instagram post. "At one time it was a pleasure to work alongside you... now, I'm ashamed to

have ever been associated with you," he wrote. "I've reached my limits. This is my stop, I'm officially DONE!!!!" **USATODAY**

Jada Pinkett Smith 'cried for 45 days straight,' husband Will Smith claims

Will Smith is taking a seat at the red table, and he got candid about the lowest point in his marriage.

The 50-year-old actor joined the conversation on wife Jada Pinkett Smith's Facebook Watch series "Red Table Talk," alongside the couple's daughter Willow Smith and his mother-in-law Adrienne Banfield-Jones.

Smith opened up about his marriage to Pinkett Smith, 47, in a promotional clip for the online talk show.

"There was a period where mommy woke up and cried for 45 days straight. I started keeping a diary," Smith said, addressing Willow before turning to Pinkett Smith.

"You missed some days," Pinkett Smith replied with a laugh.

"It was every morning. I think that's the worst I've ever felt in our marriage," Smith continued. "I was failing miserably."

More: Jada Pinkett Smith and family are refreshingly open, and it's made 'Red



Adrienne Banfield-Jones, Jada Pinkett Smith and Willow Smith on "Red Table Talk."

Table Talk' a must-watch Related: Is Facebook

going to reinvent TV with Facebook Watch? Well, it's

trying This isn't the first time the

show has gotten extremely personal. The first episode of Season 1, which debuted in May, featured Pinkett Smith having a heart-to-heart about motherhood with Smith's ex-wife, while other episodes have talked about Pinkett Smith's past sex addiction and Willow's revelation that she was self-harming early in her career. Pinkett Smith also previously opened up about her struggle with alcohol addiction. She revealed during one episode, "I remember reaching a rock bottom that time I was in the house by myself and I had those two bottles of wine and was going for the third bottle," she says. "And I was like, 'Now hold up. You're in this house by yourself going onto your third bottle of wine? You might have a problem.'" "So I went cold turkey," she continued. "That's the thing about me, I can go cold turkey." **USATODAY**

Eminem Rap "Venom" From the Top of the Empire State Building



Eminem took his music to new heights on Monday's episode of Jimmy Kimmel Live! by performing his new hit "Venom" from the top of the Empire State Building.

A music video showed the rapper entering the famous tower in all black and picking up a microphone placed on the security desk. As he walked throughout the empty building, he proceeded to drop a few beats and make his way to an elevator, where he found a new hanging

microphone. Turning the elevator into his own personal studio, Eminem continued to rap the song's lyrics all the way to the top. The Marshall Mathers star then found a new microphone and continued to bust rhymes from the top of the skyscraper. Meanwhile, the tower's lights flashed different colors throughout the song, providing the ultimate backdrop.

At one point in the video, Eminem experienced some technical difficulties and his

microphone stopped working. Luckily, Kimmel's trusty parking lot security guard Guillermo Rodriguez was there to save the day and offer him a new one. As the two rode the elevator together, Eminem provided a little historical context on the building and recommended an exhibit on the 80th floor. Still, he was able to finish the song and perform from the top.

"Jimmy, we good? Can I get down from here now?" he said afterwards. **EONLINE**

Harry, Meghan in Australia for their first overseas tour

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle landed in Australia on Monday a day before the official start of their first overseas tour as a married couple. It is the second tour of Australia by the younger generation of royals, after Prince William, Kate and their eldest son, George, visited in 2014. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are to ride a ferry across Sydney Harbour past the Opera House on Tuesday, as well as watch an indigenous contemporary dance troupe and see koalas at the Taronga Zoo. The couple will meet farmers affected by a severe drought on Wednesday. Their trip coincides with the Invictus Games to

be held in Sydney from October 20-27. The

games founded by Harry are an international

paralympic-style event for military personnel

wounded in action. Harry and Meghan will

also visit New Zealand and the South Pacific islands of Tonga and Fiji during their tour.

Australia, a constitutional monarchy whose head of state is the British monarch, voted in 1999 against becoming a republic.

Support for a republic hovered around 50 percent in a January poll, a level largely unchanged in recent years, and there is little appetite to put the issue back on the agenda.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who took the top job in August after a backbench revolt ousted predecessor Malcolm Turnbull, is a constitutional monarchist. **REUTERS**



The 12 young Thai cave boys and their coach dressed in the jerseys of their "Wild Boars" soccer team surprised by their hero Zlatan on U.S. talk show 'Ellen' CNN

Jodie Whittaker attracted the biggest audience for a new Doctor in the first episode of the new - and 13th - series of Doctor Who. The episode was watched by 10.9 million viewers, which also made it the highest Doctor Who series opener since the show was relaunched in 2005. The consolidated figures from ratings body Barb includes the number of people watching on devices as well as TV. Barb only began counting

Doctor Who: Biggest first episode for new Doctor

ratings for phones, PCs and tablets last month. The previous highest series launch episode for the drama was in 2005 with Christopher Eccleston, which attracted 10.8 million. That number obviously didn't include device

figures. Showrunner Chris Chibnall said: "On behalf of the entire Doctor Who team, a huge thank you to viewers for taking Jodie's Doctor and her new friends into their hearts, in such huge numbers. "It's a thrill being deluged

with pictures of families snuggled up together, kids (and adults) hiding behind sofas and seeing all the extraordinary creative artwork inspired by the show. The journey of the 13th Doctor is only just beginning. Next stop: Alabama 1955." **BBC**

Nicole Kidman says marriage to Tom Cruise offered 'protection' against sexual abuse

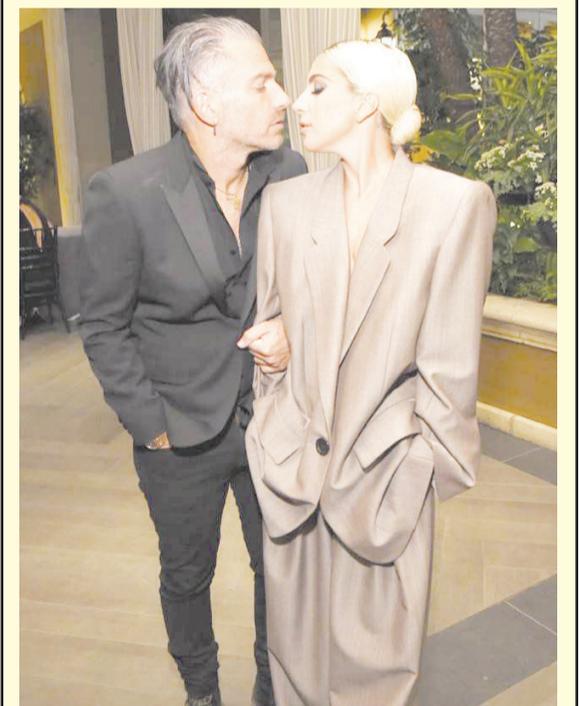
Nicole Kidman says her marriage to Tom Cruise shielded her from the rampant sexual harassment that plagued Hollywood, due to his star-power. "I got married very young, but it definitely wasn't power for me - it was protection," Kidman writes in an essay published in New York Magazine's latest issue on women and power. She continued: "I married for love, but being married to an extremely powerful man kept me from being sexually harassed. I would work, but I was still very much cocooned."

Kidman, 51, and Cruise, 56, began a whirlwind romance after meeting on the set of 1990's "Days of Thunder." The co-stars said "I do" that year and went on to adopt two children together. Their marriage came to an end more than a decade later in 2001, but Kidman says their relationship is still hard to discuss. "Being married to Tom Cruise at 22 is something I'm always reluctant to

talk about, because I'm married now to the man who is my great love (Keith Urban), and it almost feels disrespectful," she writes. (Kidman married the country singer in 2006 and they have two daughters together.) But, the "Big Little Lies" star says she was forced to "grow up" after splitting with Cruise during her early 30s. "Of course I've had #MeToo moments," she reveals. "Do

I want to expose them in an article? No. Do they come out in my work? Absolutely." Kidman continued: "I'm open and raw. I want to have my well of experience and emotion tapped into, used - and I'm not just talking about sexual harassment. I'm talking about loss, death, the full array of life. But it has to be by the right people so it's not abused again." **USATODAY**

Lady Gaga Confirms Engagement to Christian Carino



Cue the wedding bells because Mother Monster is getting married! Lady Gaga is engaged to her beau, talent agent Christian Carino, the Star Is Born actress confirmed herself. Nearly a year since engagement rumors first sparked last November, the triple threat thanked her "fiancé Christian" during her speech at Elle's 25th Annual Women in Hollywood Celebration in Los Angeles on Monday, People reported. While it's unclear exactly when the big question was popped, Gaga has been wearing a sparkler on her left-hand ring finger for months now, fueling the speculation that she was indeed an engaged Lady. **EONLINE**



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets Saudi King Salman (R) in Riyadh on October 16, 2018 after being dispatched by President Donald Trump to hold "face to face meetings with the Saudi leadership" on the fate of missing journalist Jamal Khashoggi. AFP

Indian minister defiant amid #MeToo storm, sues accuser

An Indian government minister has hit back at a series of allegations of sexual harassment, rejecting calls to step down and suing one of his accusers, after he became the most prominent public figure to be named in what's been dubbed India's #MeToo movement.

MJ Akbar, junior minister for foreign affairs in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and a former influential newspaper editor, has over the past week been accused by former female colleagues of groping, assault and harassment.

Responding to the allegations after returning to the Indian capital on Sunday from an official visit abroad, Akbar called the allegations "false and fabricated" and questioned their timing, hinting at a political campaign against him as India prepares for general elections next year.

On Monday, Akbar's lawyers sued a former colleague of his who had made the first allegation against him last week.

Delhi-based law firm Karanjawala & Co. confirmed that it had filed a defamation complaint on Akbar's behalf against journalist Priya Ramani in a Delhi court, arguing that she had "willfully, deliberately, intentionally and maliciously" defamed him "on wholly and completely false, frivolous, unjustifiable and scandalous grounds," according to the court filing.

On October 8, Ramani named Akbar as the subject of an article she had written for Vogue India in 2017, describing an experience of workplace harassment during a job interview with an unnamed editor in a Mumbai hotel room, the first in a series of public allegations against Akbar by former colleagues. Taking to Twitter early last week, Ramani said the piece was about her experience with Akbar. CNN

Ukraine and Russia step up a confrontation, and the US is not a bystander

In Europe, a shadow conflict is capturing headlines: The Salisbury poisonings and the unmasking of alleged Russian agents in the Netherlands suggest a return to Cold War-style spy games between Russia and the West.

In Ukraine, the picture is more stark. A hot war is continuing in the eastern Donbas region, and the conflict between Moscow and Kiev appears set to escalate.

The latest flashpoint? Ukraine's bid for greater spiritual independence from Russia.

On Monday, the Russian Orthodox Church broke ties with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, the titular head of Orthodox Christianity, after Ukraine secured approval last week to establish an independent Orthodox church.

That move drew immediate condemnation from Russia, which said the decision set the stage for

a potential split within the global Orthodox community.

On Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin presided over a meeting of his Security Council on the matter.

Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesperson, said the Kremlin was "extremely concerned," adding: "If the current situation leans into the realm of illegal actions, then, of course, just like Russia protects the interests of Russian speakers, then likewise

-- and Putin has said this many times -- Russia will protect the interests of Orthodox Christians." Such words carry weight. In 2014, Putin justified the Crimea intervention as defending the interests of ethnic Russians. The occupation of Crimea set in motion the war in eastern Ukraine, which has claimed the lives of more than 10,000 people. And Washington is not a

bystander in that conflict. For starters, the US maintains that Russia is the aggressor. Speaking Friday with reporters in Rome, Kurt Volker, the Trump administration's point man on Ukraine, said the separatist forces in eastern Ukraine were "100% under Russia's command and control," despite Moscow's insistence that the war in Donbas is a local uprising. CNN

China has issued an ardent defence of its alleged mass internment of Uighur minorities in far west Xinjiang region amid a global outcry, with a regional official insisting that authorities are preventing "terrorism" through "vocational education" centres. Up to one million ethnic Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic minorities are believed to be held in such centres, according to estimates cited by a United Nations panel. Former inmates have said they found themselves incarcerated for transgressions such as wearing long beards and face veils or sharing Islamic holiday greetings on social media, a process that echoes the decades of brutal thought reform under Mao Zedong. The programme has come under increasingly heavy fire from the international community, with particularly heavy censure from the United States and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. AL JAZEERA

China defends internment camps for Uighur Muslims

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Australia's prime minister said Tuesday he was open to shifting the Australian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in line with President Donald Trump's decision to recognise the contested holy city as Israel's capital. Prime Minister Scott Morrison called a press conference to say he was "open-minded" to proposals to formally recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

PM: Australia considering moving embassy to Jerusalem

and move his nation's embassy - a sharp break with the policy of successive Australian governments for decades. "We're committed to a two-state solution, but frankly it hasn't been going that well, not a lot of progress has been made, and you don't keep doing the same thing and expect different results," said Morrison. The status of Jerusalem is one of the thorniest

obstacles to a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel regards all of the city - including the eastern sector it annexed after the 1967 Middle East war - as its capital

while the Palestinians, with broad international backing, want East Jerusalem as the capital of a future state they hope to establish in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. AL JAZEERA

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Raheem Sterling scored twice as England delivered one of their finest victories of the modern era by beating Spain 3-2 in Seville on Monday.

Mourinho charged by FA for alleged abusive language

Jose Mourinho has been charged by the Football Association over comments he made after Manchester United's Premier League victory against Newcastle on October 6.

The United manager spoke into a camera after his side came from behind to triumph 3-2 at Old Trafford.

An FA statement read: "It is alleged that his language at the end of the fixture, as captured by the broadcast footage, was abusive and/or insulting and/or improper.

"He has until 6pm on October 19 to respond to the charge."

Mourinho could potentially face a touchline ban if found guilty. SKYSPORTS

Don't be intimidated, Barbara rallies Shepolopolo

By Alex Chilumbwe

Shepolopolo vice skipper and playmaker Barbara Banda has advised her teammates for the African

Women Championship in Ghana to work extra hard and cushion the fourth place finish the team recorded in the COSAFA Castle Cup in

South Africa last month. Banda noted that it would not be easy for the squad to record easy victories during the championship adding

that there was impeccable talent on the continent. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Banda expressed her concerns

with the squad summoned for the assignment. "Our squad is full of youths and less experienced players while African giants

like Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon have all the experience they need. I would just urge my teammates to work extra

Stay positive, we'll qualify, Mweene assures fans

By Alex Chilumbwe

Chipolopolo skipper Kennedy Mweene says the team remains positive despite having dropped points in Guinea Bissau in a race to the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations. Mweene noted that holding on to the Guinea Bissau loss would only demoralize the squad and not solve any problem. In an interview with Goal Diggers! the Mamelodi Sundowns goalie said the team remained confident

of qualifying to the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations by winning the remaining two fixtures against Namibia and Mozambique. "We will remain positive, we know that we will qualify and like the coach has indicated before, we have a very good team. The only thing we need to do is not to doubt ourselves.

That is what I have shared with all the guys," said the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations winning goalkeeper. Zambia defeated Guinea Bissau 2-1 last week on Wednesday before losing by the same margin in the reverse fixture four days later. Mweene said the team was disappointed with the loss but was now

focussing on the November 16 assignment against Mozambique in Maputo. "It is always a bad thing to lose especially when you know your abilities as a team. We are disappointed but in football if you play, you cannot sit on that result for long because you have to look at the next game which is

Mozambique," said Mweene. Zambia has accumulated four points from four matches with one win, two losses and a draw. There are two more fixtures to play before the qualifiers conclude. Guinea Bissau tops Group K with seven points while Namibia and Mozambique also have four points.

hard and not be intimidated by other teams' records or history," advised Banda. Meanwhile, regular defender of the side Anita Mulenga said she had confidence in her teammates but wished they had more macho players to square up with the West African sizes. "I have no doubt this is the best squad for the country as of now. We play very well together and we are united. I just wish we had bigger players in size because we see West African countries with bigger and macho players. We are more of younger youths compared to other countries," said Mulenga.

Sprint king Usain Bolt could be making his way to Europe after being offered a two-year professional football contract in Malta, reports said Tuesday, with the club saying it wanted to "write history" with the signing.

Bolt, 32, has been on trial with A-League club the Central Coast Mariners since arriving in Australia in August in his bid to pursue a boyhood dream of becoming a footballer after retiring from athletics last year.

The 100 metres world record-holder scored his first two goals in professional football on Friday when he started a pre-season game against second-tier Macarthur South West United in

Bolt offered contract with Malta football club

Sydney. Malta club Valletta FC said they had made a formal offer which includes playing in its upcoming cup final, with chief executive Ghasston Slimen saying the move to snare Bolt was "about writing history". "Usain Bolt broke the record in Beijing (Olympics) in 2008, and

I have followed him for the last year-and-a-half on his football journey," Slimen told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "We play the final of the Super Cup on December 13, which we will win... so can you imagine Usain Bolt lifting the Super Cup trophy 10 years after he broke the record in Beijing?" "This isn't about money,

this is about history. This is something that they will talk about in 50 or 100 years' time." A group of investors from the Sanban Group in the United Arab Emirates acquired a majority stake in the club last month, vowing to qualify for the group stages of Europe's Champions League. Slimen admitted Bolt

still had to improve his footballing skills, but said he was inspired by the former sprinter's jubilant celebrations -- including the trademark lightning bolt victory pose -- after the goals. "I don't want him to be here on holiday, I want him training hard," he said, adding that he wanted Bolt to be lifting trophies

during his stint at Valletta. "I don't want to make a big fuss, I want him to sign the contract, get on the flight, arrive in Malta and train, because we need to prepare for the Super Cup." The Australian agent who arranged Bolt's trial with the Mariners declined to confirm or deny the reports when contacted by AFP on Tuesday. AFP

Madagascar first team to qualify for Afcon finals

On Tuesday Madagascar beat Equatorial Guinea 1-0 to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) finals.

The Indian Ocean Islanders also became the first team to qualify for the 2019 tournament apart from hosts Cameroon.

Now with 10 points on top of Group A, Madagascar are guaranteed a berth in Cameroon even if they lose their remaining two matches. *Goal.com*



Arda Turan gets biggest fine ever

Arda Turan has been fined approximately €370,000 by Istanbul Basaksehir after he was allegedly involved in a fight with Turkish singer Berkay Sahin.

The 31-year-old, who is on loan at the Super Lig club from Barcelona, admitted in an Instagram post that he had been caught up in an "argument" but claimed the details of the incident had been exaggerated by the media.

Those media reports claimed that a fight occurred with the singer after Turan approached Berkay's wife.

He is reported to have said: "If I was not married, I wouldn't miss a girl like you," prompting Berkay to approach the former Barcelona player.

Berkay then allegedly sent his wife home so he and Turan could "talk man to man," and Turan reportedly punched him and broke his nose soon after. *Goal.com*



Montpellier's leading try scorer last season Nemani Nadolo in action

Mweene assures fans of Chipolopolo abilities...

STAY POSITIVE,

Story page 15

WE'LL QUALIFY

