



Keep liberating yourselves from poverty, Lungu tells Zambia

To page 4



Chief Justice Irene Mambilima greets Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini as (right) former president Rupiah Banda welcomes Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa to the 54th Independence Celebrations in Lusaka. Below, diplomats prepare to lay wreaths at the Freedom Statue - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

STOP INSULTING

To page 4

DONORS ...their help has no gay conditions - Kambwili



Olmert's visit proves Lungu's soft spot for corruption - Chifire

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire has charged that former Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert's visit to Zambia proves that President Edgar Lungu has a soft spot for corruption.

To page 5

HPCZ shuts down Chinese hospital, 4 others on C/Belt

Story Page 7



By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) has announced that effective Friday next week, new sites for speed camera enforcement will be active on Addis Ababa, Burma, Chilumbulu, Great North and Kafue roads.

And RTSA has disclosed that over 150 roadside cameras will be deployed across the country in the coming months.

In a public notice issued by RTSA Public Relations Unit, Thursday, the agency

RTSA announces new sites for speed camera enforcement

stated that the move followed trials that were conducted on the roads which indicated that more than 51 percent of motorists were driving above the legal speed limits.

"The Road Transport and

Safety Agency wishes to advise the public that effective Friday November 2, 2018 new sites for speed camera enforcement will be active on the following roads; Addis Ababa Road, Burma Road, Chilumbulu Road, Great North Road

between OYDC and Katuba Toll Plaza and Kafue Road between Lilayi Roundabout and Shimabala Toll Plaza. This follows trials that were conducted on these roads which indicate that more than 51 percent of

motorists are driving above the legal speed limits," they stated.

The agency further informed motorists that all matters relating to speed signage on these roads were being addressed adding that speed camera

enforcement would only be done on roads that had visible speed signs.

They disclosed that over 150 cameras would be deployed across the country in the coming months.

"The deployment of speed cameras is a nationwide program which will be focused on most accident-prone areas (black spots). Compliance has increased to as high as 99 percent on roads monitored by cameras since commencement on Wednesday July 11, 2018. Over 150 cameras will be deployed across the country in the coming months," RTSA stated.

They explained that the main objective of using roadside cameras was to reduce road accidents caused by excessive speed and reckless driving.

"We further wish to remind the public that the main objective of Road Safety Law Enforcement using roadside cameras is to reduce the carnage on our roads caused by excessive speed and reckless driving. Motorists and fleet owners in receipt of an infringement notice can visit www.paymyfines.co.zm to view Traffic Offence Reports which will contain details of the offence including image, time, date and location. Call Help Desk on +260211272434 or write to help@paymyfines.co.zm for any queries," stated RTSA.

SMEs struggling due to poor corporate governance, charges Mwanakatwe

By Abraham Kalito

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are struggling to grow due to lack of access to affordable long-term credit, inadequate and poor record-keeping, and corporate governance.

Speaking during the official opening of the Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank (ZICB) in Lusaka, Tuesday, Mwanakatwe urged SMEs and local firms to take advantage of the Zambia credit guarantee scheme, which offers guarantees to commercial banks, to access the finances and stimulate growth.

"It gives me great pleasure to be here today to launch a bank that holds a lot of promise for Zambian entrepreneurs and the local business community, the Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited. This is because, as government, we are aware of the challenges that local entrepreneurs face in accessing financing that is structured for the primary purpose of stimulating growth of our SMEs and local businesses. This is something that has received international

recognition. As the World Bank's 2013 enterprise survey indicates, the number one barrier to growth for firms in Zambia is access to affordable long-term credit, followed by practices, such as inadequate and poor record-keeping, and poor corporate governance of the informal sector," Mwanakatwe said.

"Access to finance for SMEs is limited due to the presence of constraints, including firm informality, high collateral requirements, and poor bank lending tools. These challenges of lack of affordable and long-term access to financing, among others, have been cited by our SMEs as the major reason for their low participation in the major economic activities of our country. As government, we want to see enhanced growth of local businesses, and hence local productivity, because it is only this that will lead to sustainable wealth creation and hence poverty alleviation among our people. It is for this reason that government enacted the movable property security interest act to make the business environment attractive for lenders to accept

movable property as collateral. Furthermore, government recently operationalised the Zambia credit guarantee scheme that offers guarantees to commercial banks for credit extended to the local SME-sector."

She also urged the new bank to help commercialise and industrialise SMEs and local businesses to help boost the economy.

"And now we are here today to launch a bank that will be primarily focused on the commercialisation and industrialisation of Zambian SMEs and local businesses. The launch of Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited is this government's commitment to partner with the private sector in finding solutions to the challenges being faced by Zambians, particularly those in the SME sector. It is our expectation, as government, that the launch of Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited heralds a new chapter in the banking sector in Zambia, and that our local businesses will seize this great opportunity to grow

their businesses and increase their contribution to the GDP of our country," said Mwanakatwe.

"I, therefore, wish to commend the central bank, shareholders and the board of Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited for successfully restructuring the Intermarket Banking Corporation in liquidation, against all odds and scepticism. The Bank of Zambia, shareholders and depositors were united in their resolve to bring new life to Intermarket. They were resolved to safeguard the interests of the former depositors of Intermarket Banking Corporation Limited. We now look to the future with great expectation that Zambian business houses and entrepreneurs will now have a bank they can call their home for banking and financial services."

ZICB is a product of the restructuring of the former Intermarket Banking Corporation Zambia Limited (in liquidation), which the Bank of Zambia took possession of on November 29 2016 after the bank fell into insolvency and was unable to meet its obligations as they fell due.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

President Edgar Lungu says Zambia must continue liberating itself from poverty and unemployment and further reduce its high levels of vulnerability and inequality.

In a speech issued on the eve of Zambia's 54th Independence anniversary, President Lungu appealed to Zambians to continue liberating themselves from poverty and unemployment, and to further reduce the prevailing high levels of vulnerability and inequality. He also said Zambia must take an active role to deepen the meaning of Independence. "Tonight, we remember and honour all those who sacrificed for our freedom. In commemorating our 54th Independence anniversary, let us continue to be united and demonstrate that we are a grateful nation, a nation that remembers and celebrates its heroes and heroines, both sung and unsung. Many have departed, but what they stood for still lives on. The political emancipation we attained in 1964 was not an end in itself. Rather, it was the beginning of a journey, a journey towards a shared future of unity, development and progress. Indeed,

Lungu asks Zambians to continue liberating themselves from poverty

Independence is a continuous process of liberating ourselves from factors, which hold us back as a nation. These factors include poor work culture, low self-esteem and a negative mind-set. We need to assert ourselves and be confident in our ability to transform our country," President Lungu said.

"We must continue liberating ourselves from poverty and unemployment. We must reduce the high levels of vulnerability and inequality in our nation. We should, therefore, continue nurturing this positive brand of our country as it is essential to attracting foreign investment and tourists, as well as enhancing international relations. In the spirit of unity and progress, every Zambian

must play a role to deepen the meaning of our independence. We must continue working together in our families, communities and workplaces. A strong bond of unity will help us build a better Zambia for ourselves, our children and our children's children. Zambia is blessed with abundant natural resources. These are gifts that we should exploit for our development agenda."

"I, therefore, urge all of us to ensure that we use these resources in a responsible and sustainable manner. Let us take care of our forests, wildlife and water bodies. Let us ensure that our surroundings are clean, green and healthy. Let us inculcate this caring spirit in our children. We all can and should do more to

make Zambia a better place to live and work in. We can and should do more to uplift our families, communities and the nation. We can and should do more to build a just and prosperous society. In all this, the unity of our people is paramount. As we envision, hope for and celebrate a shared future of unity, development and prosperity, let us avoid the pitfalls of faith without works, freedom without restraint, business without morality, education without character, pleasure without conscience and wealth without honour." The Head of State said that Zambia had made steady progress towards achieving prosperity and creating a just society.

"We have made steady

progress towards achieving prosperity and creating a just society. A lot, however, still remains to be done. Indeed, compelling tasks lie ahead. Prior to colonialism, our system of governance was based on traditional values and principles rooted in our common humanity. This included respect for each other, honesty, a deep sense of community, discipline and hard work. We need to reinforce these positive values and principles as an integral part of our national identity and governance system. This is why our Constitution now provides for national values and principles to guide our conduct as a nation. We must uphold our dignity and self-worth as a people. We must be proud of who we

are and defend and protect our values. We must also preserve our rich cultural heritage. We must endeavour to understand and appreciate it," President Lungu added.

And speaking during the commemoration of Zambia's 54th Independence anniversary at State House yesterday, President Mnangagwa hailed the close relationship his country enjoyed with Zambia.

"Since the attainment of the Independence in Zimbabwe on the 18th of April, 1980, our two countries have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations! We continued to interact at the highest political levels and stayed committed to strengthen these relations and construct a better future as we steer our two countries towards the attainment of the common vision to become middle-income economies by 2030. Through the established structures of the Zambia-Zimbabwe joint permanent commission, let us scale up our trade investment, defence security, education, scientific and cultural cooperation," President Mnangagwa said.

"To attain the desired middle-income economy status and to fully industrialize and modernize our two countries, it is imperative that we develop reliable, adequate, and appropriate energy, transport and ICT infrastructure in our respective countries. We shall to this end be implementing joint projects in hydro power generation, road and rail rehabilitation and construction of others. To improve connectivity and enhance regional and continental integration, our two land-linked countries must modernize one-stop boarder post at Chirundu as well as the Victoria Falls port of entry in keeping with traffic and trade flow between our two countries. Zimbabwe is open for business. I invite Zambian business persons at every level to come and partner with their counterparts in Zimbabwe."

The Zimbabwean Head of State also expressed confidence in President Lungu's ability to play a positive role in the SADC region.

"We note that a number of countries will hold national elections during your [SADC] chairmanship, we are confident that, your Excellency, you will lead the region diligently as we quest to entrench democratic values, constitutionalism and rule of law. Let me once again pledge Zimbabwe's full cooperation and support, not only as a [SADC] member-state, but as the deputy chair of the SADC organ. I wish you peace, I wish you love, I wish you unity, [and] I wish you prosperity as we continue to walk together side by side [and] hand in hand towards a bright future for our people," said President Mnangagwa.

Stop insulting donors, aid doesn't come with gay conditions – CK

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has apologised to the donor community on behalf of Zambians saying it's unfortunate that a government with so many suffering people can insult donors by alleging that they were forcing benefactors to embrace gay rights.

And Kambwili says NDC yesterday celebrated Independence Day in despair, sadness and agony because of what has become of Zambia under the PF government.

On Tuesday, Minister of National Development Planning Alexander Chiteme said during a PF Interactive Forum that foreign donors were withdrawing their aid because Zambia had refused to embrace gay rights.

But speaking to journalists at his Kabulonga residence, Thursday, Kambwili apologized to the donor community on behalf of Zambians, saying Chiteme's remarks did not represent the views of Zambians.

Kambwili, the former Chief Government Spokesperson, recalled that when he was in government, he never attended any meeting where the donor community asked government to embrace gay rights in order to access donor funds.

"Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the people of Zambia, more especially the poor, to apologise to the donor community for the statement that was issued by the PF government through their Minister of National (Development) Planning Alexander Chiteme yesterday (Tuesday). I have been in government, I was

government's Chief Spokesperson and I was Minister of Foreign Affairs, I never attended any meeting or any Cabinet meeting where there was a request from any donor country that Zambia can only access donor funds if they embrace gay rights," Kambwili said.

He said it was unfortunate that a government with so many suffering people could insult donors in that manner on a public forum.

"It is unfortunate that a government that has so many suffering people who depend on donor funding can go to insult the donors in that manner on a public platform. So, on behalf of Zambians, I sincerely apologise to the donor community. The statement that was issued by the government, through Chiteme, does not represent the views of Zambians. Zambians have respect for all the donors and we do appreciate the donor funding that we have enjoyed since Independence. We appeal to the donors, please do not withdraw aid," Kambwili said.

"And I want to appeal to President Edgar Lungu to avoid careless statements. To begin with, it was him who began the careless statement. He went to Parliament and said 'nobody can force us who should be our friends.' When you issue such statements, you must be wary of the feelings of others. And now, yesterday, his Minister said, 'those donors can get their money, they are forcing us to be gays.' I have never seen, and I challenge this government to produce evidence where the donor community has written to them saying, 'if you

don't recognise gayism, then we are going to withdraw aid.' This is a very big mistake that this government, through Chiteme, made."

And Kambwili said NDC celebrated Independence Day in despair, sadness and agony because of what had become of Zambia.

He bemoaned heightened levels of corruption leading to exam leakages and suspension of school exams, which had never happened in any administration.

"We, as NDC, celebrate this day in despair, sadness and agony. Tu le sefya mufilamba (we are celebrating in tears) of what has become of our nation. The deplorable state of our nation today can surely be blamed on failed political leadership; with corruption leading to exam leakages and suspension of school exams. This has never happened in any administration! Civil servants' salaries still remain too low to have three adequate meals a day, our health sector is in a deplorable state, miners are still living in poverty despite the rich mineral resources they live on," he observed.

Meanwhile, Kambwili, who is also Roan PF member of parliament, said there was need to save the nation from President Lungu's government.

"We are at crossroads as a nation, a place we have never been before. Our patriotism being tested and the pressing need to correct the wrongs being done by this administration are calling us to action. Like the day of Independence 54 years ago, we need now to save our nation, not

from our colonial master, but from our own brothers and sisters who have subjugated power to enrich themselves and condemned millions of Zambians to poverty and lack," he argued.

"As we celebrate this day in despair, of what has become of our nation, let us bear in mind that true patriotism is what will keep us fighting for our nation from the destruction done by President Lungu and the PF administration."

He urged Zambians to take Independence Day as a day to dialogue and reconcile with one another.

"True reconciliation must be coupled with actions of goodwill towards the marginalized in society, especially during these hard times that our nation has been put through by the PF administration. Let us give arms towards the disabled, the aged and children. Let's dialogue and reconcile our differences for the purpose of unity and peace," Kambwili said.

He further said NDC was reluctant to attend public gatherings organized by the PF because of their violent nature. Kambwili added that yesterday's Independence Day was a 'call to action' for every Zambian in the spirit of national unity, constitutionalism and to fight for the salvation of the country.

"Let me thank all the freedom fighters living and past for their job well done to have fought the colonial masters to gain the independence that the PF government has destroyed," said Kambwili.

N/W Province is thirsty for change - Ishindi

By Thomas Mulenga
Senior Chief Ishindi of the Lunda speaking people in Zambezi district says the people of North-Western Province are thirsty for change because they want a government that delivers campaign promises. And Chief Ishindi says Harry Kalaba's resignation as Foreign Affairs Minister showed that something was not right in government. Speaking when the 2021 presidential aspirant, Kalaba, paid a courtesy call on him at his palace in Zambezi district on Monday, Chief Ishindi said his subjects were looking towards people who had a serious agenda. "I want to be very open about these issues, I don't want to beat about the bush. We are looking towards serious people who have got an agenda, who can call a spade, a spade and break the ice. You know, me I am too critical and open, I don't believe in promises, I believe in action because our people are tired of being given promises during campaigns," Chief Ishindi said.

"So I wish too welcome you honourable, this is your place, you are welcome. It is my prayer that you find the place conducive and identify people that are going to work with you and support you. Us as the royal council, we

are a mother to every child, we are a mother to every political party but obviously, I won't vote for all the political party, I only have one vote like anyone else. So people must market themselves effectively, to win the hearts of the people here." And chief Ishindi encouraged Kalaba to campaign without intimidation in his chieftdom. "There is no other thing one can do than saying 'here I am, I also want to take the challenge and see what I can do for you, it's not being against a particular political, it is a democratic right for anyone to form a political party and also go around to sell that political party and let the people know, hear your views, hear your vision about what change you intend to bring to the country. And that's what

will bring about change in the country, change in government, change in policies and values. What we want to see is a Zambia with balanced development," he said. And Chief Ishindi commended Kalaba for resigning from government saying he was now speaking from a practical standpoint. "Your resignation from government as foreign affairs minister was not a small thing, it was a landmark decision which I think sent wavelength in this country, as things in government are not right. And you could not be part of it, you did not want to work in an environment that compromises your principles. And now you have come to say to say yes, I left because I want to put things right, so here I am now. It's a very big test to the people of Zambia,

in fact you are saying; if you want a better system, 'what I saw was not right, so here I am now'. I think you are speaking from a very practical situation where having been in government and having come out of it. Your position is different from those who are still in government, who still think that everything is okay and when they will speak one day that something was wrong in government, people won't believe them, they will tell them that when you were in government you didn't see all these wrongs, everything was honey for you." Chief Ishindi said. Meanwhile, Chief Ishindi said his subjects were thirsty for a change in governance systems. "My people here are thirsty to see a change in terms of governance system, how affairs of governance

must be handled, how the resources of this country must be managed. We would like to see three cardinal points: equitable and fair distribution of natural resources, we want to see a governance system which upholds the rule of law where things like corruption, tribalism, nepotism and all the things that can destroy this country, are eradicated. We also want to see fair distribution of developmental projects because Zambia is one, if we are saying one Zambia, one nation, then the oneness must be all inclusive," said Chief Ishindi. And in response, Kalaba said there was need for people to speak out against the wrongs of government. "Your royal highness firstly I want to say I am very happy to be here... Your royal highness

this country is on the crossroads. I was foreign affairs minister and I elected to relinquish my position because I did not agree with the way this country is being governed, I did not agree that the poor people whom government should be concerned with are now just secondary. And the primary issue that government is pursuing, are just businesses and the co-operates. Your royal highness, in a time like this in our country, there must be people who should stand up and say certain aspects should not be tolerated. I have chosen a very difficult path, but I think it gives me a lot of satisfaction as a person because in this generation we are all being called to greatness. This country, your royal highness, is rich, it is only poor with leadership," said Kalaba.

Olmert's visit proves Lungu's soft spot for corruption, says Chifire

By Zondiwe Mbewe
SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire has charged that former Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert's visit to Zambia has further damaged the country's reputation because he's an advocate of corruption.

And Chifire has questioned what benefit Zambia will derive from Olmert's visit adding that it cannot be a mere coincidence that he has decided to call on President Edgar Lungu, a man with a soft spot for corruption.

In a statement issued to News Diggers! yesterday, Chifire stated that Olmert's visit had further damaged Zambia's reputation in the eyes of the international community because the former Israeli Prime Minister only left prison

last year. He concluded that Olmert's call on President Lungu was not a mere coincidence, charging that the two were upto cutting corruption deals. "Former Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert's visit to Zambia has further damaged our reputation in the eyes of the international community because the man was released from prison for corruption and obstruction of Justice not long ago. It cannot be a mere coincidence that Olmert, a proponent of corruption, decides to visit President Lungu, a man that has soft spot for corruption. Zambians would be justified to conclude that the two were upto cutting corruption deals," he stated. "The Bible is very clear in Amos 3:3, it says that two cannot walk together, unless they agree. Surely our President must have a common interest with Mr. Olmert which is very obvious and it's everyone's guess." And Chifire wondered what benefit Zambia would derive from Olmert's visit

adding that President Lungu was the official image of Zambia and whoever he made friends with was viewed as a friend of the country. "Zambians have been left to wonder as to what benefit Zambia will derive from Olmert's visit. It is clear that this visit has frightening illicit benefits for President Lungu. President Lungu should understand that as President, he is the official image of Zambia and whoever he makes friends with is viewed as a friend of Zambia, and consequently reflects what sort of people we are. It is said that show me your friends, and I will tell your personality," he stated. "The President's team would do well to inform Zambians about other heads of states Mr. Olmert has visited after his release from Prison. We know that in the past we have had former prisoners like struggle stalwart Nelson Mandela who took a first foreign trip to Zambia, we all know the good reason. But as the reason for Olmert, we have to be convinced."



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa(r) greets Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) National Secretary Raphael Nakachinda (ce) as Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo (l) looks on. This was at the Freedom Statue in Lusaka after the Wreath Laying ceremony on the Occasion of the 54th Independence Celebrations yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

By Abraham Kalito

Socialist Party general secretary Dr Cosmas Musumali says government decision to postpone grade seven, nine and 12 exams following a leakage is not shocking, adding that the PF regime is to blame for occurrence.

In a statement to News Diggers! in Lusaka, Wednesday, Musumali stated that the leakages are a norm in the country as the political system encourages and fosters greed and corruption.

"The postponement of the Grade 7, 9 and 12 examinations by the ECZ is not shocking. The question is why does it not happen more often? Or better still, why does this country still hold on to this

Exam leakages reflect greedy, corrupt society – Socialists

ritual rendered obsolete and meaningless by the greed and corruption of the capitalist system? Each year, our learners, students, guardians and Zambian masses are literally held captive and angered by one of the highest forms of injustice in the education sector, i.e. an examination system and process long divorced from ability and hard work. The rich ruling elite have completely destroyed any little fairness

that characterised the examination system from 1964 to 1991. This has in-turn undermined the people's trust in the entire education system," Dr Musumali argued.

"Our petty bourgeois elite, accustomed to stealing and looting, is bent on decorating itself with school certificates and academic titles to meet both the electoral qualification requirements and fake social prestige that

the paper qualifications brings along. This elite also wants its children to take this corrupt and easy path. Examination papers become a commodity that the rich can bid for and acquire long before the children of the poor masses get to see it in an invigilation class."

He added that the recurring exam leakages throughout a two-decade period was indicative of the greedy and corrupt political system that

has engulfed Zambia.

"As far as I can remember, there has not been a single year that can be described as smooth and fair for over 20 years now. The problem goes beyond leakage. Technically speaking, leakage is where the content of the examination is disclosed – usually involving, teachers, examiners, printers, proof-readers or school administrators. There is, today, more cheating through unauthorised assistance to candidates during examinations. This involves invigilators plus fake candidates hired to write for those able to pay. In addition, the rampant smuggling of notes, answers, charts and other materials by the candidates makes a mockery of the entire excise. Zambia is not alone in this aspect. All poor countries intending to develop an education system on the basis of neo-liberal capitalism suffer a similar fate. The studies and analyses from our entire continent are depressing. The economic and social cost is immense. A political system that encourages and fosters greed and corruption is to blame. Such a system is unable to manage the public pressure for good school

results," he said. Dr Musumali added that Zambia's education system has several flaws that support the leaking of examination material. "It does not have the in-built incentive for adequate investments in the education for all its citizens. Poorly-paid teachers, lousy logistical arrangements, improper ICT security features for the electronic data bases and a school ranking and results based rewards all add up to create this huge mess we find ourselves in. What Zambia needs is a well-funded public education system based on equity and fairness. Such a system has to be interfaced with job creation and the development of a citizen with a disdain for the capitalist values of individualism, greed, unbridled competition and consumerism; a citizen that will despise and be infuriated with any examination leakage. Technical and administrative solutions to leakages are necessary, but not sufficient under the prevailing periphery capitalist system. There is no alternative to socialism for the Zambian educational system," argued Dr Musumali.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (second from right) with his Zimbabwean counterpart Emmerson Mnangagwa (left) salutes people at the Freedom Statue in Lusaka after the Wreath Laying ceremony on the Occasion of the 54th Independence Celebrations yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

Politicians are vanguards of tribalism, Wina tells Parely

By Mirriam Chabala

Vice-President Inonge Wina says politicians are vanguards of tribalism and urged them to stop dividing the country and it's people through unsubstantiated allegations.

And Wina says the 2019 budgetary allocation to the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) has decreased by almost 50 per cent from K54,48,820 in 2018 to K27,872,298 next year, in accordance with the austerity measures.

Reacting to opposition members of parliament who in their debates complained about Parliamentarians' lack of access to State House and the President, as well as the dismissal of civil servants from government on tribal lines, Wina said there was no evidence to prove that civil servants were being dismissed based on tribe.

"Madam Chairperson, we have taken noted of the issue of appointment of more judges, access to State House by members of parliament, the Presidency and the need to respect the sanctity of and the integrity of the office and the need for the police to be more professional. However, Madam Chairperson, accusations of corruption that cannot be substantiated, accusations of tribal appointments, tribal dismissals or dismissals based on tribal background of an officer are issues that have not been brought with evidence. So Madam Chairperson, I would like the politicians to take heed of what has been expressed on the floor of the House today to stop dividing our people on the basis of tribe. It looks as though the politicians in this country are really the vanguards of tribalism, and this should not be allowed

by all peace-loving Zambians. But for all the contributions, I want to say thank you," Wina said.

And in her policy statement on the estimates of expenditure for the Office of the Vice President for the year 2019, Wina said the 2019 budgetary allocation for DMMU for both personal emoluments and none personal emoluments had decreased by almost 50% from last year's allocation.

"I wish to remind the honourable members of parliament to take into account as they debate that the estimates of revenue and expenditures for the 2019 budget have been prepared taking into account strategic documents such as the Seventh National Development Plan and the vision 2030. The honourable members will realise that there are some reduction in budgetary allocation to certain allocations

and activities resulting from the change in the strategic focus of government as guided by the Seventh National Development Plan and the thrust of the budget speech by the honourable Minister of Finance. In this regard, there is need for enhanced coordination framework to actualise the strategic development objectives of the plan. During the 2018 financial year, Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) was allocated a total of K54,487,820 for both personal emoluments and none personal emoluments," said Wina.

"However, in accordance with the austerity measures and the principle of decentralising disaster management to provinces and districts, the allocation for 2019 has been reduced by almost 50%, to K27,872,298. The 2018 allocation facilitated the implementation of

a number of key programmes and activities in line with my office's mandate. However, implementation of these programmes posed a number of challenges, given the budget constraints. Notable among the programmes implemented include; 1. response to cholera outbreak during the 2017/18 rainy season. Two, continued with the operationalize of the disaster management and mitigation framework and the community based disaster risk management facilitation manual in collaboration with key stakeholders in order to build community resilience and three, attending to emergencies through the activation of response and recovery action plans that were developed and also rehabilitation of critical infrastructure such as bridges, markets and schools in some areas."

By Abraham Kalito

Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba says government does not know when employees at Tanzania Zambia Railways Company Limited (TAZARA) will be paid despite being aware that they have not been remunerated since August. Mushimba was responding to Kapiri Mposhi UPND member of parliament Stanley Kakubo who wanted to know when government would pay TAZARA workers.

“Yes, Mr Speaker, government is aware that employees at TAZARA on the Zambian side, have not been paid their August and September salaries. Mr Speaker, you will recall that I had updated the House in April, 2018, on this matter. Due to financial challenges faced by TAZARA, the employees have not been paid their salaries. TAZARA has been unable to generate enough revenues to cover employees’ salaries for a while now, and government has been stepping in to help as much as possible. The reasons for this situation are many, and we have discussed them here. Mr Speaker, they include lack of capital investment into TAZARA by the two-shareholder governments for a period of time. Old and inadequate equipment, poor management of the institution, and these are matters that are receiving a lot of attention from this government and the Tanzanian government with various levels of success,” Mushimba narrated.

“Mr Speaker, you know tomorrow is not promised or guaranteed. I think only God knows what will happen tomorrow. None of us have that privilege. So, the conversation between myself and the management staff at TAZARA had been ongoing. They have made promises and like I said, May and June salaries were paid from internally-generated resources and the commitment is that they are looking for resources, they have engaged the unions, they are talking amongst themselves and in the soonest possible time they will make sure that the arrears are cleared. Mr Speaker, the situation at TAZARA, though still severe, has been improving over the last three or four years. When PF came in power, TAZARA had hit rock bottom with its worst performance of only being able to carry 88,000 metric tonnes of cargo against the break-even point of 600,000 metric tonnes. This performance, Mr Speaker, has over the last few years been improving and actually recorded remarkable improvement and as of June,

Mushimba admits govt doesn't know when TAZARA employees will be paid



2018, an improvement of 151 per cent had been recorded.” Mushimba said the volumes of cargo being moved is still below the break-even point of 600,000 metric tonnes, adding that the company still has limited resources to pay workers.

“After we signed the SI number 7 of 2018, which asked for 30 per cent of the heavy and bulky cargo to move to railway, an additional 17 per cent

improvement had been recorded since that signing of the SI. However, the volumes of cargo being moved is still below break-even point of 600,000 metric tonnes. TAZARA needs more rolling stock. The business is there once more rolling stock is deployed. They have recently entered into agreements with a private sector player called Calabash to put more rolling stock on the rail tracks, and they have

also remanufactured several old rolling stocks that have been put back into life. I had the privilege to commission recently in Kapiri Mposhi these newly-remanufactured locomotives using their own locally-generated resources and internal technical staff,” Mushimba explained.

“From the gross figures that we see, Mr Speaker, we feel the environment is enabling enough. The new policy directives and

the new SI signed, the new management that had been put in place, we are confident that TAZARA will continue returning around and soon, they will be able to pay salaries in time. Government’s aware of the potential threat by workers to withdraw their labour due to non-payment of their August and September, 2018 salaries.”

He said management at TAZARA was, however,

working toward finding a lasting solution to address the problem.

“However, TAZARA management is working towards finding a lasting solution to improve operations and generate more revenues through the addition of rolling stock and also other revenue-generating initiatives with the private sector that they have embarked on in the last year and a half. TAZARA management managed to pay May and June, 2018, salaries from their own resources that they generated. This trend we expect and as government, we will support,” said Mushimba.

“With the efforts management is making to address the salary issues, especially having shown commitment by paying May and June salaries, we expect the issue of employees threatening to withdraw labour not to come to fruition because we expect TAZARA to find the resources very soon as clear these arrears. Mr Speaker, as soon as TAZARA generates resources through their traditional revenue stream, and the additional streams that they are bringing on board, these workers will be paid.”

HPCZ closes 5 C/Belt health facilities for various breaches

By Daniel Chansa

The Health Professions Council of Zambia has closed down five health facilities on the Copperbelt for various breaches like dispensation of expired drugs.

HPCZ Chief Executive Officer Registrar Dr Aaron Mujajati confirmed this to News Diggers! in a statement, Thursday.

The facilities closed include Section 5 Mine Clinic and Baluba Shaft Mine Clinic both located in Luanshya. Others are Copperbelt University Clinic in Kitwe, Sinozam Friendship Hospital, also in Kitwe, and Hilltop Hospital located in Ndola.

“Health Professions Council of Zambia- HPCZ has cited and closed down five (5) health facilities in Luanshya, Kitwe and Ndola on the Copperbelt Province for various violations, contrary to the laws of Zambia. The facilities closed include Section 5 Mine Clinic and Baluba Shaft Mine Clinic both located in Luanshya. Others are Copperbelt University Clinic in Kitwe, Sinozam Friendship Hospital also in Kitwe and Hilltop Hospital located in

Ndola,” Dr Mujajati stated.

He has explained that the health facilities had been closed for various reasons after inspections.

“The closures come following ongoing inspections by HPCZ officers on the Copperbelt Province who identified the following violations at the respective facilities; Section 5 Mine Clinic in Luanshya, was discovered stocking and dispensing expired drugs and medical supplies. Operating under poor state of infrastructure as well as lack of clinical supervision. The clinic also had inadequate essential equipment. For Baluba Shaft Mine Clinic, was found to be stocking and dispensing expired drugs and medical supplies, contrary to section 60 sub section 1 of the Medicine and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 of the Laws of Zambia. The facility had poor storage of medicines including mixing food items with medicines in a fridge. HPCZ inspectors further noticed lack of clinical supervision at Baluba Shaft Mine Clinic. And the clinic has been running an unlicensed ambulance,

contrary to section 36 of the Health Professions Act No. 24 of 2009,” he stated.

“Copperbelt University Clinic has been cited for stocking and using/dispensing various expired medical supplies and drugs at multiple points of care including the emergency tray which violates the Medicine and Allied Substances Act. Sinozam Friendship Hospital, was also found to be stocking and dispensing various expired medical supplies and drugs at multiple points of care i.e Outpatient Department (OPD) treatment room, Emergency room, laboratory, Theatre, labour ward, medical ward and stores, thereby contravening section 60 subsection 1 of the Medicine and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 of the Laws of Zambia. The facility has been offering unlicensed ambulance services, contrary to the Health Professions Act No. 24 of 2009 of the Laws of Zambia. It was further discovered that Sinozam Hospital has been offering unaccredited Anti-retro Viral Treatment (ART) services, against provisions of

section 36 of the Health Professions Act.”

He stated that for Hilltop Hospital in Ndola, it had been closed for stocking and dispensing expired drugs and medical supplies.

“All the five (5) facilities have been closed pursuant to section 50 (1) (a) of the Health Professions Act No. 24 of 2009 of the Laws of Zambia which provides that the Council may order closure of a health facility where, ‘the health facility is violating licence requirements in a manner that presents danger of imminent harm to patients’. The health facilities will be charged accordingly for breaching the Health Professions Act and will only be allowed to reopen after the Council is satisfied that corrective measures have been taken to address the violations identified,” stated Dr Mujajati.

Chinese run Sinozam Friendship Hospital is the busiest private Institution which offers scanning and x-ray services for patients from Wusakile Mine Hospital as Kitwe Teaching Hospital does not have the services.

The nation is still trying to come to terms with the decision by the Minister of General Education to postpone school examinations at all levels because of examination paper leakages. This comes not long after National Action for Quality Education in Zambia (NAQEZ) Executive Director Aaron Chansa announced that our country has the highest number of examination leakages in the Southern African region.

Public opinion may be divided on whether Minister David Mabumba made the right decision or not, but this doesn't change the fact that this matter does not only speak volumes about the eroded quality and credibility of Zambian education, but also imposes a huge inconvenience on parents, teachers and indeed the treasury.

We fear that the position taken by the government is inconsiderate. Has anyone taken time to ask the critical questions around this subject bordering on the state of the Examinations Council of Zambia, the anguish this decision will subject parents to, the plight of majority innocent pupils who are not involved in malpractices? The ultimate question is - who must take the blame for this mess?

We do acknowledge the fact that exam leakages are partly fueled

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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It's unfair to punish pupils over govt's incompetence

by fear of failure, lack of confidence, laziness, and inadequate preparation and inability by learners to apply themselves to their studies. We however cannot heap the blame on the teachers and learners, when all along we have been incubating an examination management system leaking of sheer incompetence and negligence.

The decision taken by the minister is not only insensitive to the plight of the poor but is a mere knee jerk reaction that is not only ill informed but also ill timed. The fact that Honourable Mabumba decided to cancel all grade 7, grade 9 and grade 12 exams because of one leaked subject shows that the examination management system is rotten to the core. The entire government system had nowhere to start from in investigating this matter and the best they

could do was to cancel everything.

The Question Honourable Mabumba should be answering is; who is to blame for Exam Leakages? He knows that examinations are prepared by examiners from the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ), and this institution is mandated to oversee their administration while the Zambia Police is mandated to help safeguard the documents. We don't understand the difficulties the Minister had with putting the blame on the right people and announcing well-advised reforms to the examination management system in the country.

The Government can't allow some hard working pupils who genuinely prepared for exams to be punished by rewriting. Exams are Exhausting. Exams are expensive. Preparing for exams and

taking exams takes time and time lost cannot be regained. By this act alone, you have destroyed the future of thousand of pupils who may not sit for the next exam under the same environment. Think about those pupils who are in boarding school. How are they expected to sustain their unplanned prolonged stay waiting for the next examination timetable? Who will pay for their stay? Who will feed them? Their parents or guardians are already stretched to the limits.

There are further implications that will arise from preparing new exams at all levels of the general education system. It will mess the academic calendar for 2019, and remember that there is another set of pupils who will be sitting for exams next year. It must be understood that the academic calendar has a lot of disruptions and the

third term has the highest number of interruptions coupled with many holidays, which all take away valuable academic time. Many teachers fail to complete the syllabus before exams because of these interruptions.

Clean your mess Honourable Minister of General Education. Stop this Rot. We have allowed ourselves to stoop very low as a Nation and this corrupting of the entire fabric of our society actually stinks and stinks very badly. We can't be singing about examination leakages every year like a ceremony.

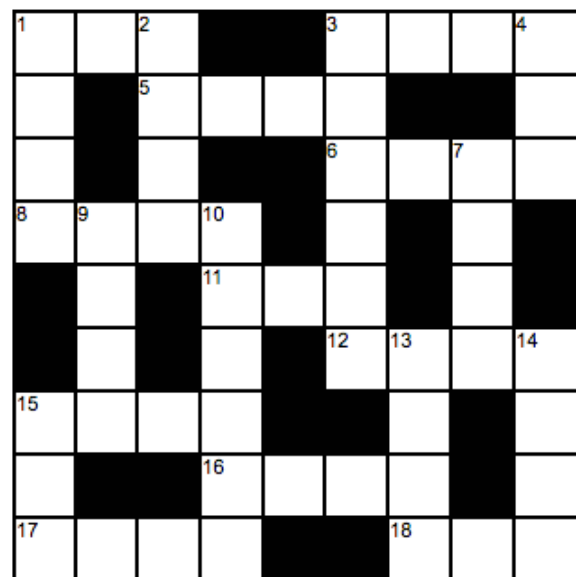
And we must point out also here that the political will to curb examination leakages and malpractices seems to be eroding very quickly. We remember how firm and decisive Hon Brian Chituwo was in 2005 when he presided over the education sector. He even vowed to resign

should exam papers leak, and true to his word, no paper leaked during his tenure. That was a demonstration that it is possible to have leakage-free exams. So why are our current leaders managing this sector failing to contain the mess?

Dear readers, it must not be surprising that the rise in exam leakages has coincided with the rise in corruption across the entire government. We know that in the post 2016 election era a policy of retiring civil servants in national interest was aggressively implemented alongside the absorption of party cadres into the civil service. This may in part be contributing to the falling standards of government services including education standards. We insist that the back stops at the Minister, Cabinet and all the political elite responsible for education policy and management.

We are sure that even the teacher unions are still shocked that this matter is not receiving the attention it deserves despite them flagging this up time and again. The loss of credibility of the Zambian academic qualifications is dangerous for the country and the impact is already being felt. Oxford University just downgraded Zambian universities to college status. The worst is yet to come.

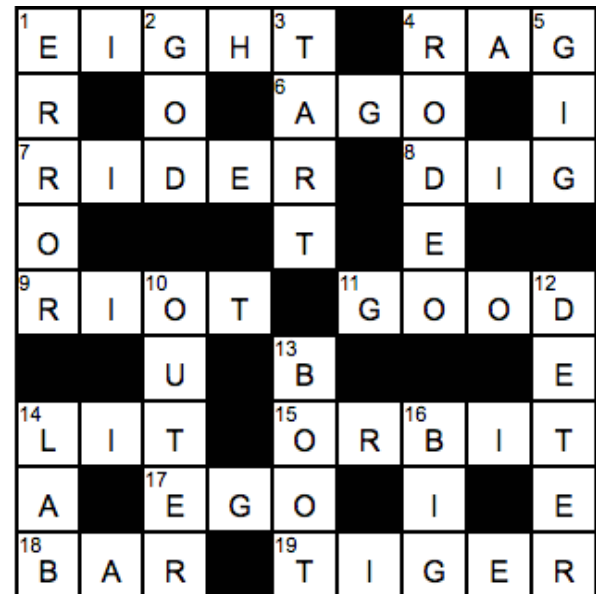
Crossword puzzle 216



"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."
- Oscar Wilde

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slammer 3. Close tightly 5. Give off 6. Kind of pudding 8. Despise 11. Junior 12. Othello or Clue 15. Arcade name 16. "Clue" Professor 17. Pack animal 18. Hankering | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hiker's route 2. Shipshape 3. Guitar part 4. Golf peg 7. Storm precursor 9. Large lot size 10. Getaway 13. Military group 14. Level 15. Total |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 215



Reader's feedback

Govt's sudden cancellation of exams due to leakages

Dear Editor,

"Patriotic Zambians having been bemoaning the unabated corruption at most levels of our govt structures. 'Ubomba mwibala' has been the defining work culture. Not even the creation of the Religious Affairs Ministry has daunted the corrupt activities. The ACC and DEC only exist on paper. This leakage of exam papers is a direct offshoot of unabated corruption. Question is: What lessons do the Zambian authorities learn from such a scenario where they leave nature to fight corruption?" - Mike Phiri

"Let ECZ be leased to private hands or invest in ICT by networking printers in all provincial centres. De-centralize the exams. We have wrong and finished characters in the system who have said 'no to change' for fear of losing jobs." - Takuyamabwe Chisanga

"When it is said that corruption is a CANCER, these are the results of that CANCER. It spreads and spreads until the body can no longer cope and dies. The teachers who have leaked have probably questioned themselves: 'Why should we be the only ones doing our jobs righteously when everyone else is enjoying themselves in the UBOMBA MWIBALA night club?' More especially that key leaders in all the institutions of governance are dancing away every night in the same night club leading the way with their chief leader in the forefront in the DJ's booth mixing the songs. This leakage is not the first, but it seems it's the worst." - Mwanakatwe Chulu Sikasula

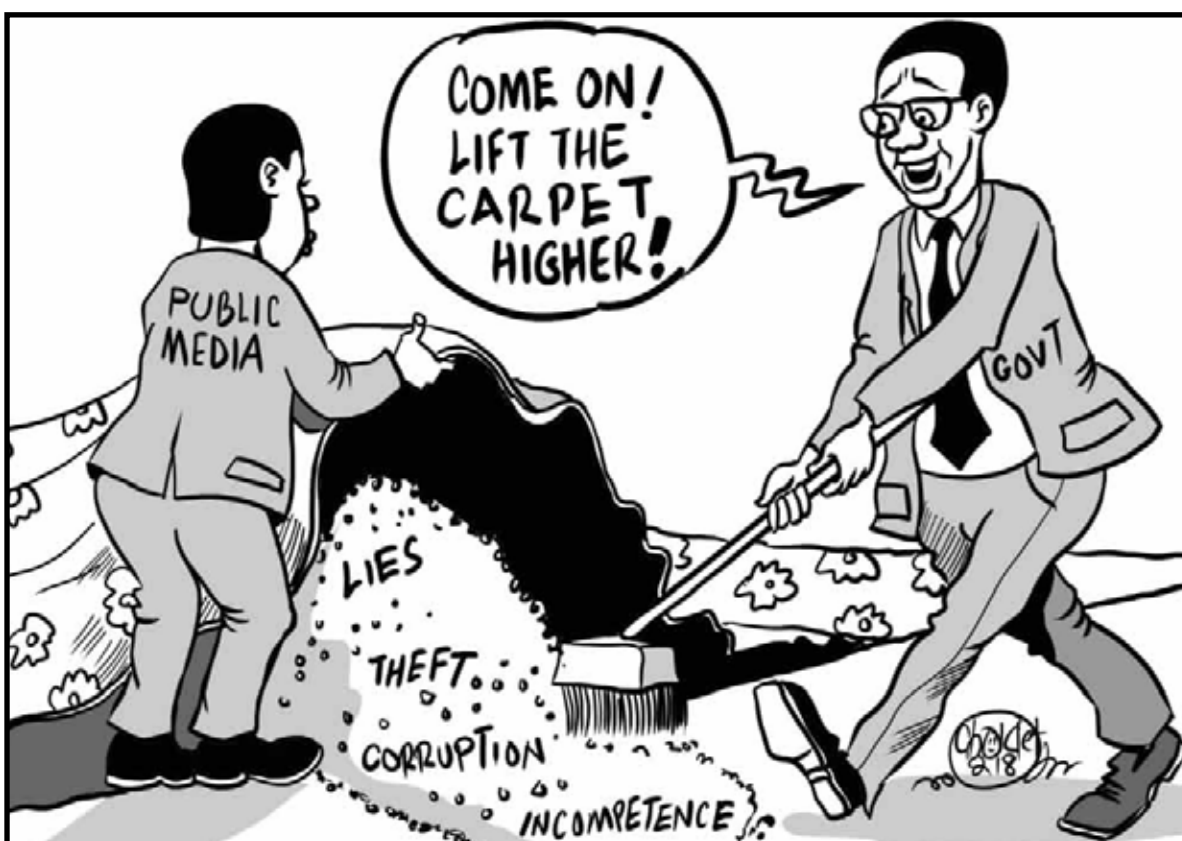
"This action is long overdue. Exams in this country for more than a decade have been tainted with leakages and we have even come to accept it as 'normal,' but we need to take the bull by the horns and restore integrity to our exam systems. Going forward, stringent measures should be put in place to end this scourge once and for all." - Musonda Chibamba

"The cancellation of the grades 7, 9 and 12 exams due to widespread leakages without giving a timeframe within which to hold them is worrisome." - Grace Shankaya

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



AG's revelations of K19 million paid to 'ghost' students

Editor,

"That's a deliberate undertaking. If a person is not on the list, how then is money released? It's a fraud syndicate and never an error." - Maningi Dibili

"Rubbish! I don't understand why government can be so careless in managing its funds. Moreover, those are tax payers' monies." - Katachi Katachi

"Shocking and embarrassing! If people are truly serious about what they do when they report for work, this cannot happen." -

"And we expect quality education? No wonder Oxford has downgraded all universities in Zambia." - Buddy Banks

"Guess the main reason I see constructions everywhere around Lusaka." - Mandandi Davies

"That's the same amount missing at Ministry of Education! Could there be a link somewhere?" - Wamulume Mutemwa

Firing of Lusaka Province accountants for theft of public funds

Editor,

"The move is welcome; I hope this will serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders." - Mubanga Mubanga

"Good move, may the momentum increase." - Alfred Ntuntu

"How do you recover from terminal benefits instead of forfeiting & sent to jail?" - Chisha Kalaba

"No prosecution? Shocking!"

"That is an abrogation of

the law the PSDM can't be judge, jury and executioner. How did the PSMD arrive at the sentencing? Does the crime fit the punishment? What happens in the event that the stolen money exceeds the terminal benefit? This will not act as a deterrent. This is a blatant disregard of the law. By implication, it's right to steal K2m and forfeit say... K800m in benefits." - Ben Kauzeni

"By the time we reach 2021, Zambia would be a shell." - Solomon Halyoonda



World marathon record holder Eliud Kipchoge has been named as the UN Person of the Year by the United Nations team in Kenya. AFP

Turkey shares 'evidence' with CIA chief over Khashoggi murder

Turkish intelligence has shared "all the evidence" over the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi with the CIA chief during a visit, pro-government media reported on Wednesday.

CIA Director Gina Haspel visited the Turkish capital Ankara on Tuesday for talks with officials about the killing of Washington Post contributor Khashoggi inside Saudi Arabia's Istanbul consulate.

Video images and audio tapes as well as evidence gathered from the consulate and the consul's residence were shared with Haspel during the briefing at the Turkish Intelligence Organisation (MIT), Sabah newspaper reported.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stopped short of pointing the blame at the Saudi leadership for the death of the Saudi insider-turned-critic.

But he said in a keynote speech on Tuesday that the murder was meticulously planned, demanding that all those involved brought to justice.

Khashoggi, 59, vanished on October 2 after entering the Saudi mission to obtain documents for his wedding. AFP

Cameroon's government has issued a public tender for the construction of a new residence for the president of the Constitutional Council, the same legal body that just two days ago announced the re-election of long-time President Paul Biya.

The timing of the tender has raised eyebrows. According to the tender announcement, the construction of the residence should take less than eight months to complete and the estimated budget is 272m CFA (\$473,000, £366,000).

The formation of the Constitutional Council was enshrined in the 1996 constitution, but its 11 members were only appointed by the president in February this year. The council's first public function was adjudicating the results of the presidential election held

Cameroon 'mansion' to be built for election judge

on 7 October.

Earlier this week, Clement Atangana, the council's president, announced the

President Biya had won a seventh term in office with 71% of the vote.

The council also dismissed

the 18 petitions from the opposition candidates - some of whom alleged fraud.

Opposition candidate Maurice Kamto, who was placed second with just 14% of the votes, continues

to dispute the official results.

While the tender indicates that the building in an upmarket area of the capital, Yaounde, will be a public structure, given the timing many Cameroonians view this as a gift specifically for Justice Atangana.

Officials did not respond to the BBC's request for comment. BBC

Saudi Arabia's crown prince was due Wednesday to address a key forum in his first public comments since the murder of critic Jamal Khashoggi, amid US accusations of a monumental cover-up by the kingdom.

As the crisis facing the oil-rich Gulf nation deepened, Washington moved overnight to revoke the visas of a number of Saudi citizens even though the two countries have long

been allies.

The move came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Khashoggi's killing inside Saudi Arabia's Istanbul consulate on October 2 had been meticulously planned, in a speech on Tuesday that

overshadowed the opening of the long-planned three-day investment forum in Riyadh.

Saudi leaders have denied involvement in Khashoggi's murder, pushing responsibility down the chain of

command.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman "strongly said that he had nothing to do with this, this was at a lower level," US President Donald Trump said, adding he had spoken Monday to the 33-year-old

prince, known as MBS, and his father King Salman.

Trump said the Saudis had a "very bad original concept" in killing the 59-year-old Saudi insider-turned-critic.

"It was carried out poorly and the cover-up was one of the worst in the history of cover-ups," Trump said. "It was a total fiasco," he later added.

After making a brief but high-profile appearance at the Riyadh Future Investment Initiative on Tuesday, Prince Mohammed was Wednesday listed as a "top speaker" by organisers. AFP

Burundi boycotts peace talks

Burundi's government is boycotting a final round of peace talks to end a political crisis that erupted three years ago.

The talks in the Tanzanian town of Arusha are meant to heal the deep divisions that emerged after President Pierre Nkurunziza stood for a controversial third term in 2015.

A crackdown on opposition protests led to more than 1,000 people being killed and there was a failed coup plot in the same year.

The government has said it is not sending anyone to Arusha because October is a month of mourning in

Burundi.

A former prime minister was killed in October 1961 and a former president was assassinated during the same month in 1993.

But for many Burundians, this is a strange excuse to skip an event which is meant to heal deep political divisions.

Just last week the

government accused an opposition leader of organising a plot to kill President Nkurunziza.

Pierre-Celestin Ndikumana dismissed the accusation as

a crude plot to intimidate him.

The president says he will not run for office again but the political crisis remains unresolved. BBC

Nigeria mulls birth control policy

Nigeria's finance minister says the government is mulling a plan to limit the number of children a woman can have.

Zainab Ahmed made the comment at a summit focusing on Nigeria's economy in the capital, Abuja.

She said one the challenges Nigeria faced to meet economic growth targets set by the government was the country's burgeoning population.

The government was consulting religious and traditional leaders nationwide about the policy, Ms Ahmed said.

"We have been engaging traditional rulers and other leaders. Specifically, we have found out that to be able to address one of the great challenges that we identified in the ERGP [Economic Recovery Growth Plan], which is the growth in our population, we need to engage

these institutions," Nigeria's Punch newspaper quoted her as saying.

"And we hope that with their support, we will get to a point where we can come out with the policy that limits the number of children that a mother can have because that is important for sustaining our growth."

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation with an estimated population of 186 million. BBC

Kenya student murder: Governor freed on bail

Kenya's High Court has released Governor Okoth Obado, who has been charged with aiding and abetting the brutal murder of his ex-girlfriend, on \$50,000 (£39,000) cash bail.

Migori County governor has been in custody since his arrest last month, which followed weeks of public anger after the body of Sharon Otieno, a 26-year-old university student, was found in a forest.

A post-mortem revealed she had possibly been raped, and stabbed eight times in the neck, abdomen and back. She lost her unborn child during the attack.

The married governor, his assistant and a county employee, who have also been charged with murder, have all pleaded not guilty to the charge.

It is Mr Obado's second

attempt at securing bail following his arrest.

His initial request was rejected on 27 September when the prosecution raised concerns about the safety of witnesses in the murder trial.

Mr Obado has been asked to surrender his travel documents, including his passport, and his movements have been restricted to within 20km (12 miles) of the boundaries of Migori

County in western Kenya.

His assistants have been denied bail as the court said they may interfere with investigations.

The next hearing will be on 17 May 2019. BBC



Kenyan activists light candles during a night vigil for the murdered university student Sharon Otieno.

Nigeria sets \$14million presidential campaign cap

Nigeria's parliament has passed a law capping campaign spending for next year's elections.

The following limits have been set:

Presidential candidates: \$14m (£11m)

Gubernatorial candidates: \$3m

Senate candidates: \$700,000

House of Representatives candidates: \$280,000.

The Electoral Act also stipulates how electronic card readers, used for the accreditation of voters at polling stations, should work.

The BBC's Aliyu Tanko in Lagos says this is seen as a move to address the malpractices that have characterised previous elections.

Card readers were used at some polling stations during the last elections, but there have been worries about them functioning in rural areas where power shortages can be an issue.

The law now says that should a card reader fail and a new one not be deployed within three hours, the election at that polling station should be cancelled and held within 24 hours. BBC

On state television, the vocational education centre in China's far west looked like a modern school where happy students studied Mandarin, brushed up their job skills, and pursued hobbies such as sports and folk dance.

But earlier this year, one of the local government departments in charge of such facilities in Xinjiang's Hotan prefecture made several purchases that had little to do with education:

2,768 police batons, 550 electric cattle prods, 1,367 pairs of handcuffs, and 2,792 cans of pepper spray.

The shopping list was among over a thousand procurement requests

made by local governments in the Xinjiang region since early 2017 related to the construction and management of a sprawling system of "vocational education and training

centres".

The facilities have come under international scrutiny, with rights activists describing them as political re-education camps holding as many as one million

ethnic Uighurs and other Muslim minorities.

Beijing had previously denied their existence. But a global outcry, including from the UN and the US, sparked a PR counter-

offensive.

Government propaganda insisted the centres were aimed at countering the spread of separatism, terrorism and religious extremism through "free" education and job training.

However, an AFP examination of more than 1,500 publicly available government documents -- ranging from tenders and budgets to official work reports -- shows the centres are run more like jails than schools.

Thousands of guards equipped with tear gas, Tasers, stun guns and spiked clubs keep tight control over "students" in facilities ringed with razor wire and infrared cameras, according to the documents.

The centres should "teach like a school, be managed like the military, and be defended like a prison", said one document, quoting Xinjiang's party secretary Chen Quanguo.

To build new, better Chinese citizens, another document argued, the centres must first "break their lineage, break their roots, break their connections, and break their origins". AFP

Inside China's internment camps: tear gas, Tasers and textbooks

Hurricane Willa slams Mexico's Pacific coast, weakens

Hurricane Willa crashed ashore in western Mexico Tuesday, lashing the Pacific coast with powerful winds and heavy rain before weakening to a tropical storm as it moved inland.

The powerful storm, which was a maximum Category 5 hurricane on Monday, had weakened to Category 3 as it moved toward land.

Forecasters warned that the storm still had the potential to unleash deadly flooding and landslides.

However, storm surge levels will subside over the course of Wednesday and Willa is expected to dissipate by the afternoon, the US National Hurricane Center said.

As of 0600 GMT, the storm's maximum sustained winds had decreased to 45 mph (75 kph).

Willa first swept over the Marias islands, where Mexico has a federal prison. The interior ministry did not respond to questions on whether it had evacuated the 1,000 inmates housed there or what other emergency measures were in place for the penal colony.

"We do not have any reports of damages there so far," the head of Mexico's emergency services, Luis Felipe Puente, told a press conference.

More than 4,250 people were evacuated from high-risk areas, including tourists who were on vacation at the beach, he said. AFP.



Relationship Rumors, Big Beefs and a Secret

Son: Inside Drake's Wildest Year Yet

"One of my biggest concerns in my career is just to figure out how to exit gracefully. I watch people overstay their welcome and I just don't ever want to be that guy that's addicted to the feeling of victory, addicted to the emotion of people digesting something that they love and get to the point where I'm feeding them something and they're just like, 'Yeah.'"

That's what Drake had to say about his powerhouse rap career during a recent visit to LeBron James' new HBO series *The Shop*. And it's a fair concern for anyone at the top of their game, sure. No one wants to be the guy who couldn't read the writing on the wall. But after the year the rapper, whose real name is Aubrey Graham, has had, there's little proof that he has to start eyeing retirement packages just yet.

Not after the latest record he's broken

As a bit of an early birthday present from his fans—he turns 32 on October 24—Billboard revealed that his latest single, a feature on Bad Bunny's "MIA," which sees him rap in Spanish, is his 12th track of 2018 to land in the Hot 100 Top 10 (debuting at No. 5), surpassing The Beatles' record in 1964. Not too shabby, eh? The achievement is the perfect cap on what's been a banner year for the 6 God, the proverbial icing on one wild cake.

As his record-breaking Billboard chart performance indicates, it's been hard to escape Drake all year—not when you turn on the radio nor when you scroll through social media. And that's due in large part to the war with Pusha T that's he's found himself embroiled in much of the year. Though their

beef had been bubbling for years, it erupted back in May when Pusha attacked with the release of his third studio album, *Daytona*, produced in part by Kanye West. On the track "Infrared," Pusha takes aim at rumors

of ghostwriting on Drake's tracks, name-checking the rapper who's supposedly supplying the lyrics.

Drake immediately retaliated, releasing "The Duppy Freestyle" a day later, calling everything

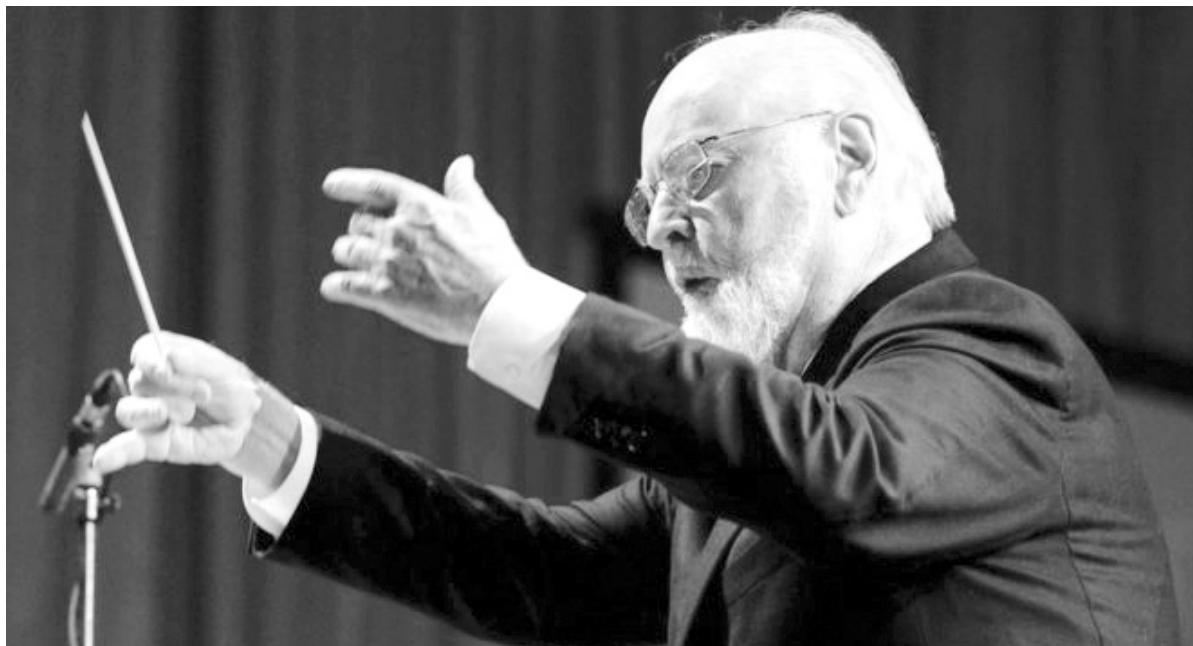
out from Kanye for using Drake to generate publicity for the album to Pusha's past as a drug dealer. But it was the mention of Pusha's fiancée Virginia Williams that kicked everything into hyperdrive. And when

Pusha responded with "The Story of Adidon," all hell broke loose.

Not only did he use an old photo of Drake in blackface as the cover art, but he seemed to confirm the rumor that Drake had

gotten a woman named Sophie Brussaux pregnant in 2017 with the lyrics, "Since you name-dropped my fiancée, let 'em know who you chose as your Beyoncé/Sophie knows better, ask your baby mother/Cleaned her up for IG, but the stench is on her/A baby's involved, it's deeper than rap/We talkin' character, let me keep with the facts/You are hiding a child, let that boy come home/Deadbeat mothaf-ka playin' border patrol, ooh/Adonis is your son and he deserves more than an Adidas press run, that's real/Love that baby, respect that girl/Forget she's a porn star, let her be your world."

"Why would you mention my fiancée? No women, no children," Pusha said on the Real 92.3 FM show *Big Boy's Neighborhood* at the end of May, defending his decision to play real dirty. "It was sport to me until the fiancée mention...it just rubs me wrong." *EONLINE*



Star Wars and Harry Potter composer John Williams has pulled out of conducting concerts of his music in London and Vienna due to illness. *BBC*

Khloé Kardashian 'very much seems over' Tristan Thompson, says source

Is Khloé Kardashian and Tristan Thompson's relationship nearing its end?

It's been six months since news of Thompson's cheating scandal broke — just days before Kardashian gave birth

to their daughter True Thompson on 12 April — and now, it appears that a breakup between the *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* star and professional basketball player could be on the horizon.

"She very much seems over Tristan," a source tells PEOPLE about Kardashian, 34. "Not sure how they went from fine to being apart for weeks, but Khloé is doing great."

In the wake of the scandal, Kardashian has

focused on repairing her fractured relationship with Thompson and prioritised raising her baby girl.

"It's amazing to see what a great mom she is and how much she enjoys it. She is very much just focused on the happy things in her life. True, of course, makes her the happiest," says the source.

Over the summer, Kardashian and Thompson, 27, returned from Ohio, where the athlete plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers, to her famous family's hometown of Los Angeles. Although Kardashian planned to return with True to Cleveland to be with Thompson as he began basketball season this fall, she has put her move on hold — and doesn't seem to be in any rush to change that.

"It doesn't seem to bother

her that she isn't with Tristan in Cleveland," the source says. "She seems to know what she wants in her life right now. And it definitely doesn't seem like she wants to be with Tristan."

Recently, the mother of one has been reflecting on life — and is still deciding on how to proceed with her romantic future with Thompson.

"Khloé isn't saying that she and Tristan split. It seems she hasn't decided yet what she wants to do about their relationship," a source told PEOPLE last week. "And she seems fine about this."

"Her family is happy that she is still in L.A. and wants her around for as long as possible," the source said. "No one is pushing for her to go back to Cleveland to be with Tristan. This will be her decision to make."

MSN

Journalist Megyn Kelly criticised for blackface comments

American TV journalist Megyn Kelly is being criticised on social media for questioning why blackface is racist.

The former lawyer asked, "What is racist?" in a discussion about inappropriate Halloween costumes during a Tuesday morning episode of NBC's "Megyn Kelly Today".

"Back when I was a kid, that was okay just as long as you were dressing as a character," she said, referring to white people painting their faces black for Halloween.

After strong criticism online, Kelly emailed colleagues

to apologise, writing: "The history of blackface in our culture is abhorrent; the wounds too deep."

Blackface has a history of perpetuating offensive and racist stereotypes of African Americans dating back more than 200 years in the United States.

"It's a tradition rooted in racism which is very much about the fear of black people and the laughing at black people," Dr Kehinde Andrews, Associate Professor in Sociology at

Birmingham City University told the BBC in June.

Many on Twitter took the opportunity to explain why blackface is widely considered offensive.

"Open up a history book. White people used to paint their faces black and act out ridiculous black characters during the Jim Crow era," wrote user Annabel Lee.

Many suggested that dressing up to imitate African Americans stopped being acceptable in the 1950s, and questioned whether it had

been appropriate when Kelly was a child.

Others questioned why a group of white commentators would have a discussion on blackface at all without the perspectives of African-American commentators.

"I just don't think it's white people's place to tell us whether we can be offended over blackface or not. Especially since blackface has never been used against them to dehumanise and oppress them systematically," wrote user Bella Goth. *BBC*

Nicki Minaj sued by Tracy Chapman over Baby Can I Hold You sample

Nicki Minaj is being sued by singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman over claims she sampled her song without permission.

A lawsuit has been filed over Nicki's track Sorry - which it's claimed she wanted to release on her album Queen - in a court in Los Angeles.

It's alleged the rapper used a sample from Tracy's 1988 hit Baby Can I Hold You

- despite being told she couldn't.

Newsbeat has contacted a representative for Nicki Minaj for a comment.

Tracy Chapman has won four Grammys over a career spanning 20 years. Her last album Our Bright Future was released in 2008.

The lawsuit claims Nicki, real name Onika Tanya Maraj, tried several times

to get permission to use the sample after she'd already recorded her song using it.

It says Tracy's representatives "repeatedly" denied the request

It alleges the Super Bass singer went on to give the song to a DJ at a New York radio station - who teased it on his Twitter and Instagram accounts.

The court documents also claim that Funkmaster Flex

played it on his radio show.

"This action is necessary to redress Maraj's disregard and wilful infringement of Chapman's rights under the Copyright Act, and to ensure that her misconduct is not repeated," the lawsuit adds.

The legal documents claim that in July, Nicki tweeted she had "no clue" she had sampled Tracy's song and asked whether she should

keep to the release date for her album Queen or lose the song.

In another tweet she also "reached out" to Tracy to ask for permission to use the sample for Sorry.

The lawsuit says Queen was released in August without the song included but it was played by Funkmaster Flex, real name Aston George Taylor, on his radio show.

The legal documents claim it was then reproduced on several different websites.

"Maraj wrongfully deprived Chapman of the right and opportunity to decide whether to allow the use of the composition, and, if so, on what terms," the lawsuit claims.

Newsbeat has also contacted Tracy Chapman's representatives for a comment. **BBC**

Kate Middleton thrilled royal fans by wearing Princess Diana's tiara at a State Banquet at Buckingham Palace.

The Duchess of Cambridge wore a kingfisher blue Alexander McQueen dress for the event in honour of the King and Queen of the Netherlands.

Royal fans believe her necklace is from Queen Alexandra's Wedding Parure, which was a gift from Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, ahead of their wedding in 1863.

Kate opted to pair the necklace with Princess Diana's Cambridge Lover's Knot tiara and the Princess of Wales' Collingwood Pearl Drop Earrings.

Her opulent jewels accentuated her kingfisher blue gown by Alexander McQueen.

But Queen Maxima of the Netherlands 'outblinded' all the guests by wearing the incredible diamond Stuart tiara.

The Queen Mother was also a fan of the necklace Kate wore and was pictured

Kate Middleton wears Princess Diana's tiara and diamond necklace loved by Queen Mother for State Banquet

wearing it at a recital at the Royal College of Music in 1989.

Queen Alexandra's wedding set included a large diamond tiara plus a diamond and pearl necklace, set of earrings, and brooch.

The tiara, popularly known

as the "Rundell" Tiara, no longer exists the remaining jewels were split between royal ladies for a time but are now reunited in The Queen's collection.

Kate also wore the Royal Family Order for the second time, made of glass rather than ivory.

She attended the event with Prince William, who walked with Prime Minister Theresa May in the procession before dinner.

The dinner is being held in honour of the King and Queen of the Netherlands who are making a state

visit to the UK.

The Queen wore the Cullinan III and IV Brooch, part of the Cullinan Diamond, which was cut in the Netherlands. She also wore the Girls of Great Britain and Ireland tiara.

King Willem-Alexander

and Queen Maxima arrived today and are staying with the Queen at Buckingham Palace for two days.

Queen Maxima looked stunning in an ethereal dark green gown and made sure all eyes were on her by wearing the diamond Stuart Tiara. **MIRROR**

Britney Spears emotionally reflects on 20 years since the world first heard her music

Twenty years since her game-changing pop smash, "Baby One More

Time," took the world by storm, Britney Spears is reflecting on her incredible

career and the "amazing" fans who have supported her throughout the years.

The songstress released her life-changing hit on 23 October, 1998, and on Tuesday, she took to Twitter to mark the track's 20th anniversary.

"It's hard to put into words what today means to me ... 20 years ago, the world heard my music for the very first time!" Spears, 36, wrote. "So much has happened since then ... but what I really want to say is thank you to my amazing fans who have been there for me since day 1 ..."

The tweet was accompanied by a behind-the-scenes clip of the making of the iconic "Baby One More Time" music video, in which Spears portrayed a bored schoolgirl.

"Your support over the years has meant the

absolute world to me!!" she then added in the tweet thread. "Love you all!"

ET talked to Spears about the song's anniversary in June, when she confessed it didn't feel like it had almost been 20 years.

"It's been so fast, you know," she said. "Like I feel like I just started yesterday. Everything still feels very new, which I guess is a blessing. But yeah, it's been a rollercoaster".

As for what she would have told herself 20 years ago, Spears responded, "Just to believe in yourself and never doubt yourself and be strong."

Spears also got sentimental about the key anniversary in August, discussing how the track took her by surprise during an interview with The Guardian.

"I knew it was a great song.

It was different and I loved it, [but] I don't think you can anticipate how a song is going to be received," she told the U.K. outlet.

Songwriting powerhouse Max Martin, who penned the hit, is said to have offered it to TLC, Swedish singer Robyn and British boy band Five before Spears came on board following a meeting in New York. "I was pretty young at the time, so I was nervous, but he was so nice and [Martin] put me right at ease," she recalled.

Chances are the teenager had little idea that two decades later she would remain one of pop music's biggest stars and be preparing to launch her second residency in Las Vegas, Nevada, where her Domination show kicks off at Park MGM's Park Theater in February. **MSN**



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Dybala strikes as Juventus outclass Man Utd at Old Trafford

Cristiano Ronaldo marked his return to Old Trafford with a win as his Juventus side outclassed Manchester United to move five points clear at the top of Champions League Group H.

The former United star helped to set up Juve's winner in the 17th minute, with his cross reaching Paulo Dybala who finished from close range.

The Italian champions had several chances to extend their lead during a first half where they were completely dominant, managing 10 shots to United's one and enjoying 70% of possession.

United improved after the break but only had one serious effort at goal, when Paul Pogba let fly

from the edge of the area but saw his shot rebound off the post.

It was a frustrating

night for United boss Jose Mourinho, who was taunted by the away fans as he saw his side

suffer only their second home European defeat since March 2013, when Ronaldo scored Real

Madrid's winner.

The two sides will meet again at the Allianz Stadium on 7 November,

when a win will send Juve into the last 16.

United remain in second place, with their hopes of making the knockout stages boosted by Valencia's draw with Young Boys earlier on Tuesday.

Ronaldo had returned to Old Trafford with a rape allegation - that he strenuously denies - hanging over him but said before the game that he is "a happy man".

All eyes were on him again from the moment he led his team-mates out of the tunnel for the warm-up, and he received an enthusiastic welcome from the home fans as well as the travelling Juve supporters.

As was so often the case during his six years as a United player between 2003 and 2009, Ronaldo was to play a starring role when the game got under way.

The 33-year-old's performance, particularly in the first half when Juventus were completely dominant, was a reminder of his former glories here and a time when United were a team renowned for their attacking flair.

He started the game on the left but Juve's fluid front three meant he often popped up on the right, as he did to set up Juve's goal, or in the centre.

The Portuguese forward could not cap his display with a goal - David de Gea's fine save to tip over his curling shot shortly after the break was his best effort - but this was still an impressive demonstration of his enduring quality.

Ronaldo remained the centre of attention after the game too. A succession of pitch invaders attempted to reach him during the match and after the final whistle, when he took a selfie with one of them.

That meant he was the last player to leave the pitch, and he was cheered off by all sides of Old Trafford, while clapping and touching his chest to show what their applause meant to him. **BBC**



Quick-fire goals by Javi Martinez and Robert Lewandowski on Tuesday moved Bayern Munich top of their Champions League group with a 2-0 win at AEK Athens, as they made it back-to-back victories after a difficult start to the season.

Dogged defending by the reigning Greek champions left Bayern facing a frustrating draw until Martinez finally broke through with an hour gone at AEK, who travel to the Allianz Arena in a fortnight's time.

"It was very difficult, the pitch was not good, we

Bayern edge out AEK to move top of group

played well in the first half, but the final pass was missing," said Arjen Robben.

"We started using our chances and once Javi got the first goal, you could feel the relief.

"This was an important win for us."

The result leaves Bayern top of Group E and puts pressure on nearest rivals Ajax, who earned a 1-1 draw in Munich three weeks ago, to beat Benfica in Amsterdam later on Tuesday and join the Germans on seven points, while AEK remain bottom after three straight

defeats.

Bayern have never lost a European game in Greece, but despite breaking a four-match winless streak with a 3-1 victory at Wolfsburg on Saturday in the Bundesliga, the German champions laboured until Martinez scored with an athletic half-

volley.

The hosts' best chance of the match came on 20 minutes when Argentinian striker Ezequiel Ponce held off Bayern defender Mats Hummels, but fired wide.

At the other end, Thiago Alcantara's pass rolled agonisingly away from Bayern striker Lewandowski.

Just as it was looking like AEK might earn their first point in the group stage, Bayern turned the game.

Hummels picked out Robben, whose effort was blocked, but the ball flew towards Martinez, who slammed his shot home.

Any frustrations in the Bayern ranks disappeared and just two minutes later they struck again.

Serge Gnabry, a constant threat on the right wing, played in Rafinha inside the box with a clever backheel, and the Brazilian's low cross found Lewandowski unmarked to tap home and delight the travelling fans.

AFP

Spain's Alonso signs new deal with Chelsea

Spain defender Marcos Alonso has signed a new contract with Chelsea that will run until 2023, the Premier League club announced Wednesday.

The 27-year-old Spain defender, who joined Chelsea in August 2016, helped them win the Premier League in 2016-17 and claim the FA Cup last season.

"I am so happy to stay here longer and to keep playing for one of the best teams in the world," he said on the club's website.

"It's been a very good two seasons and I am looking forward to more."

Alonso has made 92 appearances and scored 15 goals for

Chelsea since being signed from Fiorentina.

He previously had spells in England with Bolton and Sunderland.

The left-back, who began his career at Real Madrid, made his international debut in March this year and has won three caps to date.

Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia said: "We are delighted to be extending Marcos' contract.

"In the past two seasons he has developed into an important player for the club, demonstrating his outstanding ability and a fantastic attitude that has helped him become a Premier League champion and Spain international." **AFP**

Siame advises fellow athletes against doping

By Alex Chilumbwe
Athletics star Sydney Siame has warned his fellow athletes against doping prior to the opening of the season on 1st November. Siame who holds the national record in 200m noted that undisciplined athletes had a tendency of boosting their energies weeks before season commencement in order to win coaches' attention. In an interview with Goal Diggers! The 2018 African Youth Games medalist appealed to athletes to desist from ruining their potentially great careers by doping. "I know there is a lot of pressure on athletes when the season has just opened because everyone wants to be noticed by coaches. But as much as one wants to be in the national team, it is never okay to resort to doping because its consequences can actually ruin one's entire career. Hard work through training is good enough to do all the magic. Let us remain disciplined and focused so that we can genuinely reach greater heights," advised Siame. Meanwhile, 2018 Larfage Marathon 10km winner and 800m national record holder Felistus Mpande appealed to the Zambia Amateur Athletics Association (ZAAA) to ensure that female national

team athletes were given tight attention pertaining to their behaviour off the track. "We ladies have problems

picking up training after off-season unlike men. This calls for ZAAA to monitor us closely so that

it does not feel like a new thing when we resume training. Commitment and discipline is exhibited

differently by us so our association should give us more attention and concern," said Mpande.

Athletes are preparing for Diamond Youth Games to be staged in South Africa in January, 2019.

Barbara Banda signs with Spanish side

By Alex Chilumbwe
Shepolopolo forward and top striker Barbara Banda has signed a contract

with a Spanish side Femenino Logrono whose longevity is not known yet. Banda who caught the

side's attention during the COSAFA Castle Women championship last month in South Africa played

for the Zambia Army side Green Buffaloes before signing with Logrono. She has become Zambia's

first footballer to grace the La Liga and the latest female footballer in Zambia to sign with an international club. In a statement availed to the media by the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) Banda was optimistic she was going to make positive contribution to her new club. "I watched my new club on Sunday and I must say they are a good side. I have since resumed training with them after trials and I am confident that I will make positive contribution to the team," said Banda. And Zambia's top female FIFA referee Gladys Lengwe applauded Banda's achievement saying it was a clear indication of the fruition that followed hard work. "I am very happy for the young lady. It has shown what hard work can result into and it is a good motivational milestone for other young ladies that are in this sport dominated by males. I am not positive more and more young ladies will work harder," said Lengwe. Meanwhile, Banda's former coach at Green Buffaloes football club Beauty Mwamba appealed to other female footballers in the country to see beyond the gender barriers that she said could be broken. "Banda's achievement should not be taken lightly. She has broken not only a record but a gender barrier that few female footballers in Zambia did not think would be broken. As her first coach, I'm really happy and I feel inspired by all this," summed Mwamba.



NASCZ happy with international players' clearance

By Alex Chilumbwe
National Sports Council of Zambia (NASCZ) has expressed happiness that sportsmen and women that are either leaving or coming in the country have adhered to the laid down laws that require them to seek clearance as opposed to using the backdoor. Council Acting General Secretary Raphael Mulenga revealed in an interview with Goal Diggers! that if there was

any sportsman or woman that was still uncleared, it was totally an anomaly. Mulenga also reminded sportsmen and women that clearance was a free process that granted one a legal right of engaging in sports activities in a foreign country. "We had quite a number of international players in Football and Basketball that were uncleared and I'm glad to report that they have done the needful.

They all have been cleared and can now play their games freely. They should all understand that when they are here, they are our responsibility and whatever may happen to them, we are the ones to be answerable to their mother countries," Mulenga said. Mulenga also warned

international players against unscrupulous people that had a tendency of swindling foreign players of their monies in the name of prolonging their stay in the country. "Do not fall prey to such people because even visas are not given by any person on the streets in

your respective countries. Talk to your agents or coaches, or come to us as a sports council and we will be glad to offer you guidance at a free cost. Do not be swindled by common people in streets by wanting to do things hurriedly and in your own way," advised Mulenga.



After her defeat to Angelique Kerber, Japan's Naomi Osaka will need to rely on results in Red Group to have a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals in Singapore. AFP



Heike Drechsler, seen here competing at an event in Berlin in 2004, won the Olympic long-jump gold at Barcelona 1992 and Sydney 2000. The 54-year-old has turned to an expert to clear her name of links to the Stasi, East Germany's secret police. AFP

BARBARA SIGNS FOR SPANISH CLUB

By Alex Chilumbwe

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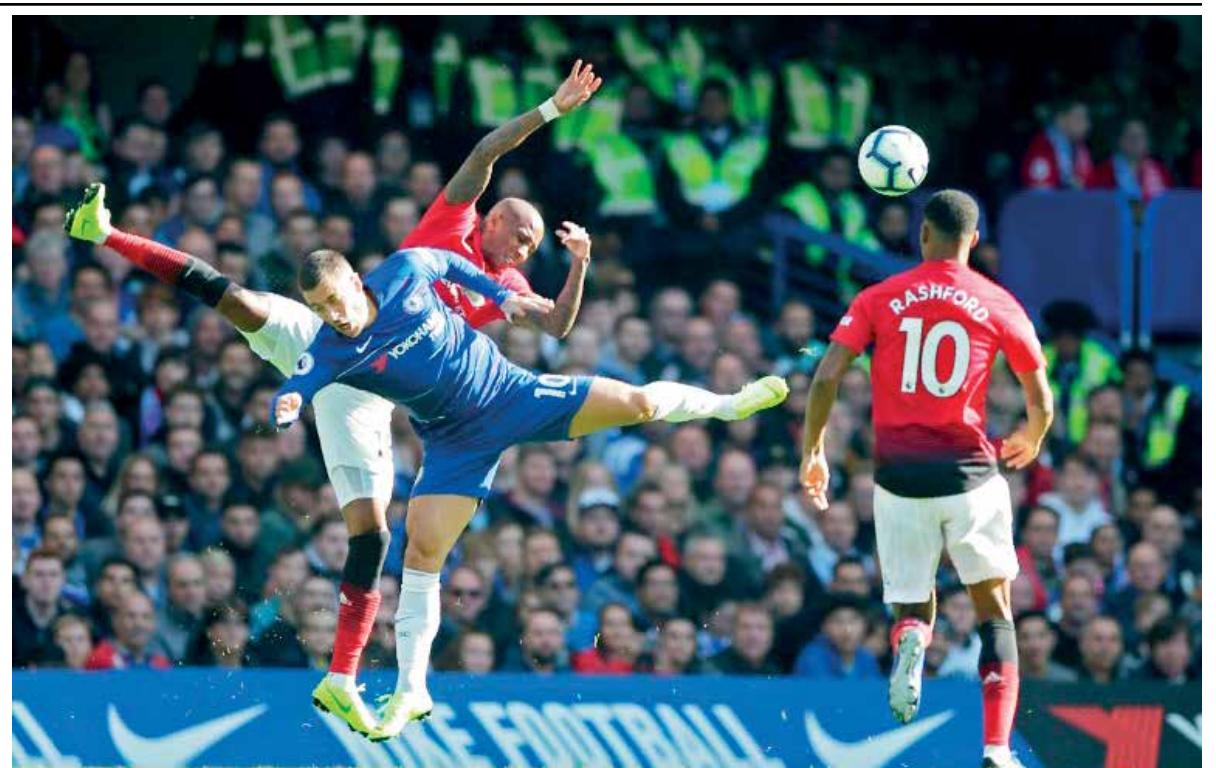
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To page 15



Eden Hazard will miss the Europa League clash with BATE Borisov and is a doubt for the Premier League match with Burnley due to a sore back he puts down to being kicked too much in the game with Manchester United. AFP