



CHIPATA DIOCESE ROBBED

...thieves blow off
Church treasury,
make away with
US\$3,000, K18,000

**PF cadres attack Breeze FM
reporter covering Mkomba
ward election in Lundazi**

Story page 6

Story page 7



Sesheke votes in bloodshed

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Police in Sesheke have arrested two UPND cadres for being in possession of offensive weapons while six PF cadres have sustained

serious injuries and are admitted to the district hospital after clashes between the two camps.

Police Spokesperson Esther Katongo has narrated in a statement that this

was as a result of the violence which began after a UPND cadre was reported by some PF cadres to have a voter register yesterday, around 07:30 hours.

To page 7

**China contributed
highest number of
jobs to Zambia in
2017 - BoZ data**

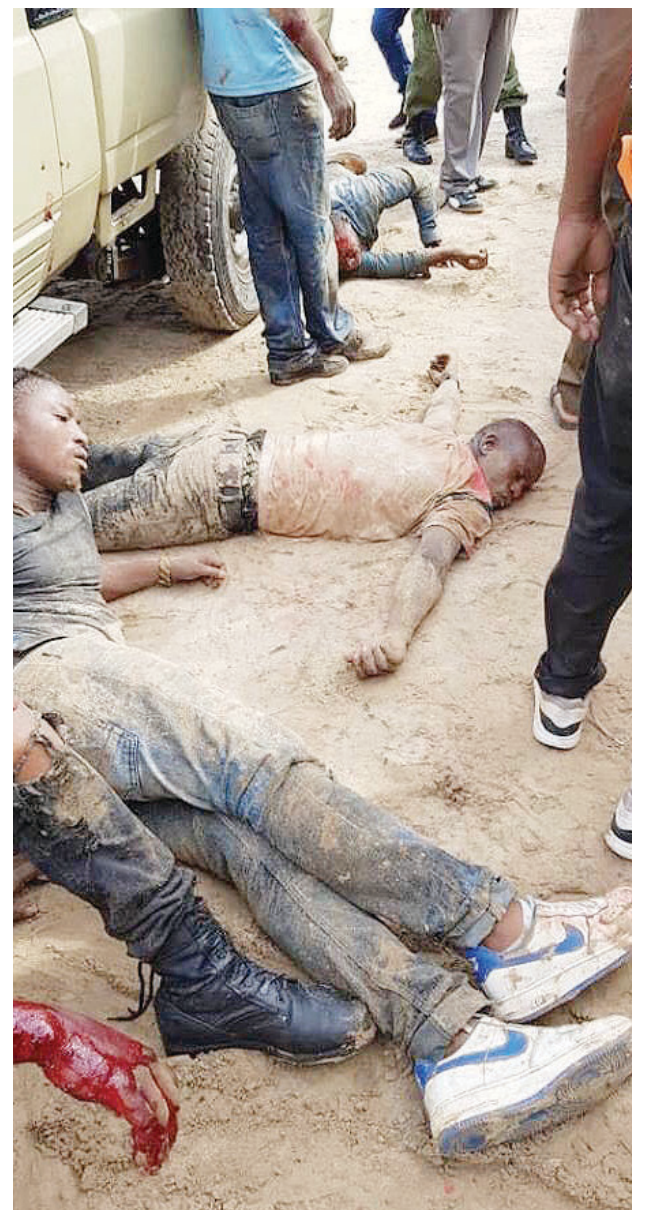
Story page 3

**Recording three cholera
cases a great development,
brags Lusaka PS Sipanje**

By Tenson Mkhala

Lusaka Province has so far recorded only three cases of cholera since the onset of the rainy season, according to Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje.

To page 4



PF cadres lie helplessly after they were hacked by suspected UPND cadres in Sesheke yesterday. The PF secretariat has written to the ECZ complaining about the ordeal



Gemcanton drags *Daily Nation* to court over alleged false stories

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Wolle Mining Limited has dragged Daily Nation Newspaper, its Editor-In-Chief and four reporters to court, for allegedly publishing several false and malicious articles against Gemcanton Investment Holdings Limited. Wolle Mining has jointly sued the defendants with Gemcanton Investment Holdings chairperson Abdoulaye Ndiaye and the chief executive officer Abdoul Ba, claiming general and aggravated damages for the libel contained in seven different articles published in the Daily Nation Newspaper between December, 2018, and February this year. The four reporters sued include; Silumesi Malumo, Rogers Katero, Aaron Chiyanzo and Bennie Mundando. In a statement of claim filed in the Ndola High Court, Friday, the plaintiffs stated that Wolle Mining Limited were a 50 per cent shareholder in Gemcanton Investment Holdings,

and that its core business was mining and trading in emerald gemstones. The trio stated that the defendants had caused to be published, several false and malicious newspaper articles injuring the reputation, credit and interests of Gemcanton. “The said articles consist of false and malicious stories or statements that are damaging to the reputation or goodwill of both Gemcanton as a business entity, and the chairman and CEO as businessmen who have been dealing in the trade of emerald stones for quite a long time with a good name,” read the statement of claim. The plaintiffs noted that on December 6, last year, the defendants “falsely” published an article titled ‘\$50M emeralds smuggled’ which was stating that ‘...more that US \$50 million worth of Zambian emeralds have been smuggled and illegally sold with the proceeds banked in Switzerland to avoid taxes, court papers have revealed’. They lamented that as the

result of the said words, their character had been brought into public odium, ridicule, contempt and had been understood not to be good businessmen who should be trusted. The trio further stated that on January 12 this year, the Daily Nation “falsely and maliciously” published an article titled ‘Russian deported’ stating that ‘... Ndiaye has since failed to refund the \$50 million and his partners also claim that

despite him having received the money in Switzerland for the Zambian emeralds, he did not pay taxes in Zambia as required by the law..’ The plaintiffs stated that the publication of the said statements falsely painted Ndiaye as a businessman who maliciously avoided paying tax from the sale of emeralds. They further stated that the Daily Nation falsely published five other articles titled ‘emeralds scandal deepens’, ‘Gemcanton Emerald

Mine scandal deepens- two Israelis deported’, ‘I was abducted’, ‘Gemcanton deportation shocker’ and finally: ‘Immigration distances itself from Gemcanton deportation.’ The trio lamented that as a result of those news stories, they had been injured in their credit, reputation, good will, business and had suffered loss and damage. They claimed that the defendants intended if not restrained, to falsely

and maliciously continue with the publication of the same or similar kind of words against them. They are now seeking general and aggravated damage for libel contained in the seven articles published between December last year and February this year, an injunction to restrain the defendants from making publication of false statements or stories against them, costs and any other reliefs.

Kalumbila scores big in protecting miners from malaria

By Martin Musunka
Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML) has recorded a striking reduction in the malaria prevalence cases among employees at the Sentinel Copper Mine to

1.8 out of 100 workers from 17 per 100 staff since 2010. Malaria specialist Mulenga Musapa attributed the annual reduction trends between 2010 and last year to effective malaria control interventions

among the employees and in the catchment communities around the mine area. He said in 2010, the mining company recorded 17 malaria cases per 100 employees, but the number had dropped to 1.8 out of 100 workers, an achievement he said was largely due to the effective control strategies that had been put in place. Musapa explained that the health interventions among employees and in the mine-supported catchment area in Kalumbila were reaping desired dividends due to the overwhelming cooperation for the indoor residual spraying programme from employees and community members, which had eased the coverage burden. He said the high levels of intervention, infrastructure and awareness had all played

a critical role in the malaria control programmes as they had positively impacted on the malaria incidence, leading to the protection of the employees and the communities. And Musapa said senior Chief Musele welcomed all the health programmes in the area and encouraged all sub-chiefs to embrace the mining company’s malaria control and other health programmes, which were for the benefit of the local communities and employees. “We are so inspired by the involvement of senior Chief Musele and his sub-chiefs in all our health programmes as he has been receptive whenever we have called on him to work with us as we roll out our health programmes. It is so encouraging that he has made it a point that all the sub-chiefs are also involved,” explained Musapa - SUMA SYSTEMS

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JOB PURPOSE

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By Mirriam Chabala
PF media director Sunday Chanda has castigated civil rights activist Brebner Changala for alleging that President Edgar Lungu has protected arrested Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela because he is a member of his corruption syndicate. On Monday, Changala charged that President Lungu could not fire Chitotela from his ministerial position because he was also a beneficiary of the same corruption the beleaguered

Changala is an ignorant, expired civil rights activist, says Sunday

minister had been accused of, and that being a 'grand master of corruption,' the President could not afford to lose one of his own. But reacting to Changala's sentiments in a statement sent

to News Diggers! Chanda accused Changala of being ignorant of the Zambian laws. "We can now confirm that Brebner Changala is an expired civil rights activist who is

clearly playing to the gallery at the expense of upholding the rights of an accused person under Part III, Article 18 of the Constitution of Zambia, which provides for the presumption of

innocence until proven guilty by the courts. As far as we know, Changala is not a court of law much as he desires to convict and discharge whosoever he wishes. It's fashionable for politically-damaged goods like him to accuse Republican President Edgar Chagwa Lungu of corruption because all his allies in the opposition are singing from that same hymn book!" Chanda charged. "My intention in this response is not to demean Mr Changala as he always alleges, but to render a free law lecture on the law of suspending persons who are facing corruption charges since he appears to be in dire want of legal counsel to give him sound advice before he could open his mouth to the public. I am giving this advice to Mr Changala because I don't like him parading himself on the lines that in ways that go to extremely embarrass the man. Maurice Switzer once said, 'it is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it.' By now, Mr Changala should appreciate that the man running this country is an accomplished legal advocate who reflects on the legal implications of the decisions he makes." Chanda, insisted that President

Lungu was acting within the law by not firing Chitotela when he was still serving as Minister. "President Lungu is alive to the provision of Section 47(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012 which reads: '47. (1) Subject to the applicable legal and administrative procedures relating to the right to justice and a fair hearing applicable to public officers under their conditions of service, a public officer who is charged with corruption shall be suspended, at half pay, with effect from the date of the charge.' For Mr. Changala to allege that President Lungu is a suspect, a friend and accomplice of criminal and corrupt elements is not only absurd, but shows the greatest ignorance of the existing law. However, Mr Changala needs to be lectured that Section 47(1) is not a stand-alone provision to determine whether it is applicable to ministers, but is subject to many other provisions within the Act itself and the Constitution as a Supreme law," stated Chanda. "As an expired civil rights activist, let's draw Mr Changala to Section 47(4) of the ACC Act which reads: '47(4) This section does not apply with respect to an office in respect of which the Constitution limits or provides for the grounds upon which a holder of the office may be removed or the circumstances in which the office shall be vacate.' To make it simple for Mr Changala, this Section does not apply to certain offices on three grounds: 1. Where the Constitution limits removal of a holder from office; 2. Where the Constitution provides for grounds upon which office holder may be removed; 3. Constitution provides for circumstances under which the office shall be vacated. Without doubt, Mr Changala must know that the Constitution of Zambia, in Article 116(3), provides circumstances under which the [Minister's] office shall be vacated. In short, Section 47 of the ACC Act cannot apply to a Minister, who is serving in government. We, therefore, advise Mr Changala to leave the stage while a few are still clapping for him. He's better off producing chalk!"



Women from Lusaka's Kamanga Compound trading on a shelter situated along the road side complain of being victimised by some Council police officers as they keep on threatening to confiscate goods if they don't relocate - Photo by Tenson Mkhala

China contributed highest number of jobs to Zambia in 2017 – BoZ

By Stuart Lisulo
China was the highest contributor to employment among all the Majority Owned Foreign Affiliates in Zambia (MOFAs) by the end of 2017, Bank of Zambia (BoZ) data shows. And the central bank has stressed that Chinese contribution to the Zambian economy through employment, value addition, taxes, and salaries is significant. In an updated BoZ submission to the Committee on National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters on China-Zambia Relations vis-à-vis trade and investment, data showed that China was the highest single contributor to job creation among all the MOFAs as at December 31, 2017, beating four other industrialised economies. MOFAs are enterprises with 50 per cent and above of share capital attributable to foreign investors. "Several advantages accrue to the Zambian economy as a result of significant FDI flows from China. Relative to other major source countries, Chinese companies contribute significantly to the Zambian economy in terms of employment, value addition, taxes and salaries. The assessment below is based on a survey of 193 MOFAs," BoZ stated. "In 2017, China was the highest contributor to employment among all the MOFAs surveyed. MOFAs from China contributed 21.7 per cent (18,525) of the total number of employees by MOFAs." According to the BoZ's survey,

the Chinese MOFAs beat four other industrialised economies such as Britain, whose MOFAs only contributed 18 per cent of the total employment; Canada at 13.6 per cent; Switzerland at 8.4 per cent and South Africa, whose contribution amounted to only 8.2 per cent of the total employment. In terms of taxes on income, MOFAs from China were however, fourth, contributing just 8.5 per cent (US \$57.4 million) of the total taxes remitted by the surveyed MOFAs in 2017 (US \$675.5 million). And in terms of contribution to salaries drawn by workers

who worked for Chinese companies in 2017, the overall contribution accounted for only 6.6 per cent of the total salaries, rendering China in fifth position behind Canada, Switzerland, Britain and South Africa. "Chinese MOFAs were among the top-five contributors to salaries drawn by workers who worked for these companies in 2017. Companies from China accounted for 6.6 per cent (US \$72.2 million) of total salaries drawn by workers in MOFAs (US \$1,089.7)," it stated. But the central bank concluded that Chinese FDI investments remained significant in Zambia.

"All in all, FDI investments from China have contributed to the Zambian economy through employment, value addition, taxes, and salaries. Relative to other major source countries of FDI inflows into Zambia, China's contribution is significant. This contribution can be said to be the practical advantages of Chinese investments in Zambia. To maximize these benefits, it is important that the country institutes measures to attract more FDI into the country, whether from China or elsewhere. And monitor closely so that real benefits can accrue

to the citizens," stated BoZ. The working paper was an addendum that augmented a submission made by the BoZ on December 21, 2018, in response to the request by the Parliamentary Committee on National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters. The Committee asked BoZ to address a range of issues including: the adequacy of the policy and legal framework governing FDI in Zambia; the advantages of China's foreign trade and investment in Zambia and China's investment contribution to the major sectors of the national economy, among several other pertinent questions.

DfID-PEP Zambia dangles K61m for SMEs in 2019

By Claver Mutinta in Solwezi
The Department for International Development (DfID) flagship on business programme, Private Enterprise Programme (PEP), says over K61 million has been set aside to facilitate and enhance local private enterprises' capacities to create jobs and wealth in 2019. And an indigenous online business opportunities portal, Zambia Business-to-Business (ZamB2B), has been launched with a view to increasing trade and linking big corporate institutions to small and medium enterprises. PEP Zambia head of mining section Eric Miller said in an interview after the launch of an

online platform ZamB2B that job and wealth creation was the only way to end poverty in Zambia. "We're talking about this current year spending over K61 million available to make [local content] strategy happen. We're talking of quite a lot of money where we can facilitate companies and support them to get results, which are to create jobs and ending poverty," Miller said. He said PEP existed to alleviate poverty through job creation, adding that it would stimulate permanent enterprises, SMEs and build capacity so that they could create more jobs and end poverty in communities. And North-Western Chamber of Commerce and Industry

president Mukumbi Kafuta said the Chamber sought a strengthened relationship with PEP Zambia to strengthen the local content implementation strategy. "We believe that to sustain growth rates, create wealth, and reduce poverty, Zambia has to transform the current structure of its economic policies and regulatory framework to implement the integration of locally-available primary resources, goods and services in production processes," Kafuta said. During the launch of ZamB2B in Solwezi, Thursday evening, Kafuta explained that mining firms, chain stores and markets should be able to buy from Zambian companies, hence

the need to champion local content development and market linkages. The Chamber was constantly building a business community across sector interests and to foster a robust Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to ensure economic emancipation. Kafuta explained that PEP Zambia could not have come at a better time than when interventions to help actualise government's development objectives were being put in place. He said the Chamber realised that formulation of effective economic policies and regulatory frameworks, which supported local businesses, was key to creating sustainable economic growth and cut poverty – Story courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS.

By Tenson Mkhala

Lusaka Province has so far recorded only three cases of cholera since the onset of the rainy season, according to Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje. And government says, through the Office of the Vice-President and Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), it has released 500 metric tons of relief maize to be distributed to the vulnerable in five districts of Lusaka Province. Speaking to journalists at the extraordinary Provincial Disaster Management Committee and District Disaster Management Committees meeting held at the Provincial administration, Tuesday, Sipanje revealed that the three cases recorded had since been successfully managed through a number of interventions that the Ministry of Health have put in place. “Lusaka Province has recorded only three cases of cholera, which have been successfully managed. This great achievement is as a result of a number of interventions that the government, through the

Recording three cholera cases a great achievement - PS Sipanje

Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, have put in place to reduce or prevent exposure of vulnerable communities to such epidemics,” Sipanje said. He disclosed that the task force under the Lusaka District Disaster Management Committee had been undertaking assessments of various incidents occurring in the district. “May I also take note of the activities of the disaster task force under the Lusaka District Disaster Management Committee has been undertaking assessments of various incidents occurring in the district, such as floods and fires, and has brought out reports, which have informed interventions, such as construction of outflow drainages in Lusaka city. Places such as Avondale extensions, Mass Media and many others now have storm drainages and most of these areas have

seen significant reduction in floods,” Sipanje said. And he also announced that the Office of the Vice President and DMMU had released 500 metric tons of relief maize to be distributed to the vulnerable in five districts.

“Government, through the Office of the Vice-President and DMMU, has released 500 metric tons of relief maize to be distributed to the vulnerable in five districts. Those to benefit are Chirundu; Luangwa; Chongwe; Rufunsa and

Shibuyunji, which were assessed to be food insecure during the 2017/2018 vulnerability and needs assessment. Let me announce that government is closely monitoring the food security situation in all the districts in the province

so as ensure that no one dies of hunger,” said Sipanje. “May I also inform you that a total of 35,136 hectares of maize were affected by the outbreak of fall army worms. Government and its cooperating partners, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has so far distributed 2,500 litres of chemicals. The impact, therefore, of the fall army worms on food security is expected to be insignificant.”



Lusaka Province permanent secretary Charles Sipanje at the extraordinary Provincial Disaster Management and District Disaster Management Committees meeting in Lusaka yesterday - Photo by Tenson Mkhala

Magistrate rebukes teenagers for smoking weed

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka magistrate Nsunge Chanda has reprimanded 11 juveniles for smoking weed, warning that cannabis could destroy their lives before they grew older. And magistrate Chanda has ordered the juvenile offenders

to undergo a diversion program at the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) for counseling and rehabilitation for three months. But Magistrate Chanda has sentenced a 20 year-old grade 12 pupil who was jointly charged with the juveniles, to three

months imprisonment with hard labour. In this matter, the 11 juvenile offenders aged 14 to 17 and 20 year-old Lukas Daka, all from Lusaka’s George Compound, were facing two counts of trafficking and unlawful usage of Marijuana. The 12, who all pleaded

guilty, had taken turns explaining to the Court how marijuana, among other things; gave them appetite, strength to lift weights and carry out house chores quickly, skills to play good football and controlling their tempers etc. The matter came up,

Tuesday, for facts and sentencing. Facts in this matter were that on January 16, this year, DEC officers received information that a male person was dealing in suspected drugs in George Compound. Officers proceeded to the said place where the

accused were found in an unfinished building, smoking cannabis. The accused were then picked and the suspected drugs were seized. When magistrate Chanda asked whether the facts were correct, the accused responded in the affirmative. In mitigation, the juvenile offenders asked for forgiveness saying they had learnt a lesson and would never smoke cannabis again. The juvenile offenders added that they wanted to continue with their education. Before magistrate Chanda could sentence the accused, she reprimanded the juvenile offenders for smoking cannabis saying weed was bad. “Cannabis are not good substances. If the parliamentarians have made a law that ‘trafficking in cannabis is not bailable’ then you have to know that it’s a serious offence. Drugs are not good because they will destroy your life. Unless you choose that you want to be mad. Because when you smoke these drugs as young as you are, by the time you grow up you won’t be in a normal state. This is the last time you should step here. Control yourselves, it’s for your own good,” scolded Chanda.

UPND has resorted to witchcraft to win elections, charges Mumbi

By Thomas Mulenga

PF deputy secretary General Mumbi Phiri says the UPND have resorted to using witchcraft during campaigns in order to win elections. Speaking when she called in on UNZA Radio’s Lusaka Star Programme featuring PF media director Sunday Chanda, Tuesday, Mumbi also condemned UPND national chairperson Mutale Nalumango for referring to President Lungu only as ‘Edgar’. “UPND have reached a point where they have nothing to do anymore. Look at their behaviour; how can Mutale Nalumango, who should be teaching us about culture and respect, she is the one referring to President Edgar Lungu, who is someone’s husband and has children and grandchildren, as ‘Edgar’. I know Mrs. Mutale Nalumango’s first name, if I referred to her by her first name as ‘Witila’ at that age with grey hair, what would she feel like? They have lost respect! And UPND have increased on their lies, it’s good people have now realised that

they are a bunch of liars,” Phiri argued. “Lies have caught up with them, that’s why they have now resorted to witchcraft and we have heard from a chief who supports them, he has told us that they sleep at the grave yard. When HH was incarcerated, we heard that they went to Congo, they said it themselves. However, their witchcraft will not work in Zambia because we have declared ourselves as a Christian nation and we have proclaimed Jesus Christ as our saviour, they won’t go anywhere with their witchcraft!” And Chanda disputed widespread reports that police used live ammunition on the UPND crowd in Sesheke last Saturday as there were no casualties or deaths recorded from the incident. “Do you know what would happen if live bullets were used against the crowd in Sesheke, we don’t even need to belabour that point. When you have a crowd and live ammunition are fired, you don’t need to be told that live ammunition were used here. And if you have vehicles that block the road of the security detail for the Head of

State and there is a threat, it happens with everyone who has a weapon, you can fire in the air to scare away any threat, it’s allowed. But if you say live ammunition was fired at a crowd, you would have had casualties and deaths! So, if live ammunition was fired at the crowd, how come our colleagues are not showing us the evidence of fatalities? Or even any of their vehicles that was hit at by bullets? ‘Tatuli baiche!’ (We are not kids!). Talk about teargas canisters, yes, those are used for crowd control, but if you say live ammunition was used, how?” Chanda wondered. And he claimed that UPND cadres provoked the police by blocking the road that President Lungu was supposed to use and later marched to where the Head of State was lodging. “Our colleagues are not being candid enough on this issue; the President was going to use that road, they were told you cannot hold your meeting today, and from what we have gathered, they held a meeting very close to the holding residence for the Head of State in Sesheke. And from what we

heard, they started marching towards the holding residence of the Head of State in a clear act of provocation that led to that clash that we heard about. There is no need for all this drama, if only our colleagues could show maturity and if Mr Hichilema could tone down on his desperation and arrogance,” said Chanda. “There is a lot of evidence of violence and misconduct by the UPND, talk about all the blockages of the road. You get all the planks, the stones and all sorts of objects and put on the road, which the Head of State is going to use. What kind of lawlessness is that? You know this road is going to be used by the Head of State, you go ahead and block that road and you have a responsible opposition leader who knows his cadres are doing that and he keeps quiet. When Sata was in opposition he said I don’t want to spill blood and destroy this country because I want to find an intact society when I become President. Any responsible leader will say to his supporters to avoid violence for the sake of the nation.”

By Thomas Mulenga

The three Church Mother bodies have condemned the political violence that erupted in Sesheke and Lundazi’s Mkomba Ward during the just-ended by-election campaigns in the two respective areas. In a statement signed by the Council of Churches in Zambia, the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia and the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Church Mother bodies expressed concerns that the rising political violence in the country was like a ticking time bomb getting ready to explode ahead of the 2021 general election, if left unresolved. “We, the three Church Mother bodies, namely: the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ) and the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB), are deeply concerned with the reported political violence that characterised the by-elections in

Church fears political atmosphere will explode in chaos by 2021

Sesheke and Mkomba Ward in Lundazi. What is most disheartening is that this violent behaviour is not new; it has been happening since 2008 at every election time and yet politicians and their supporters do not seem to learn,” the statement issued, Tuesday, read. “Looking at what transpired in Sesheke and Mkomba, we wish to advise the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) that going forward, they must use the power given to them by the Constitution and the Electoral Process Act, especially the provisions provided for on this matter. If to make promoters of violence learn means disqualifying

them from participating in an election, so be it. This may send a message to all that violence can no longer be tolerated in Zambia. We say so because the reported political violence in the two named areas have the potential to cause serious problems going into 2021 if left unresolved. It is like a time bomb, which is ready to explode any time if this violent behaviour by political parties is not quelled. This is why the national dialogue and reconciliation must not fail. It will help the country to have violent-free elections in 2021.” The Church Mother bodies also condemned the reported attack of a

Catholic priest in Sesheke by suspected PF cadres “We believe that violence cannot and will never be a way of resolving conflicts anywhere on earth. Instead, we would like to appeal to all political parties and stakeholders in the country to come to the round-table for a true and sincere dialogue. We are also disheartened to learn that a Catholic priest in Sesheke was attacked and abused by cadres. This is not only disrespectful to the Church, but also is a curse upon the attackers themselves. We pray to God that those who attacked the priest may be forgiven so that they learn that the premises of the Church are sacred

grounds and natural for all God’s children to seek refuge and find love and joy. It is not a place for political battles,” it stated. And the three Church Mother bodies wondered why the police had not arrested any of the cadres involved in the violence in Sesheke and Mkomba Ward. “It is strange that despite all the pleas and several condemnations and calls for violence-free elections, politicians are failing to contain their cadres from being violent. It is unacceptable that all institutions in Zambia that are given the power to curb this vice can fail to curb political violence when there are laws in

place that can be applied to stop this political cancer, which is slowly eating up the nation during every election. We wonder why the Zambia Police have failed to make any arrests from the reported attacks by political party cadres in both Sesheke constituency and Mkomba Ward. Failure by the Zambia Police to arrest violent political party cadres is sending an impression that anyone can do anything they feel like even when it endangers the safety of others. We, therefore, call on the Zambia Police to professionally follow-up all these matters so that political sanity can come back to our country,” read the statement.

Lungu’s selective developmental strategy is bullsh**t - Mwashingwele

By Mirriam Chabala

Katuba UPND member of parliament Patricia Mwashingwele says it is “bullsh**t” for President Edgar Lungu to attach conditions to his national mandate of developing all corners of the country. And Mwashingwele has argued that Zambians were better off voting for the opposition seeing that the ruling party had not done anything to improve the lives of people in areas where people have been voting for the Patriotic Front. In an interview with News Diggers! Mwashingwele charged that President Lungu’s excuse of not developing opposition strongholds on grounds that the opposition was not willing to work with the ruling party had stopped making sense because it was just mere propaganda of its worst kind. The Head of State told Sesheke voters, Monday, that if they voted for the opposition UPND candidate in Tuesday’s by-election, the PF government would not develop the area because the parliamentarian would have no access to the President. “That statement is always given to the illiterate people in Zambia who don’t understand that even those buying a box of match sticks are also tax payers. When someone is given Executive power, it does not mean that they are Alpha and Omega, no! They are just given an opportunity at that time to pass the decisions on behalf of the people but not to take away development. Every tax payer, whether you are in the opposition, ruling

party, according to the tenants of democracy, development must go everywhere, so that (what the President said) is just propaganda at it’s worst. In fact, I don’t care but I would call it bullsh**t,” Mwashingwele charged. “They are trying to hijack development to the people. If they really want to take development to the people, they must not be corrupt! They must not be stealing from the people, then the money will go to the people. But when there is a by-election, they want to go and hijack the people because they don’t have the knowledge. I wish my voice could be heard in Sesheke right now, that people should not believe Lungu. What he’s saying is all lies! When it comes to Constituency Development Fund (CDF), we all receive equally. Whether you are PF, you are UPND, you are independent or FDD, nobody can take away that developmental right from anyone. So, what Edgar is telling the people is all lies! And they have used that card for a long time, but it does not work anymore. Let them just tell the people what they are supposed to do.” And Mwashingwele mocked the PF strongholds for having voting for the ruling party even when there was nothing they were receiving from government. “Imagine, what gain does it give to the people who vote for PF? PF should be more straight and truthful to the people instead of lying. If the people in Sesheke have decided that there is no development because they don’t vote for PF, they should know that

development will go to Sesheke regardless of whoever they vote for. In fact, I would even want to laugh at the areas that vote for PF. I have travelled all over the country, I have been to Northern Province; I have been to Luapula; I have been to Muchinga. You see, when you want to describe poverty, go to these areas of the country. But they vote PF, so what development is he (President Lungu) talking about? If even his own areas that vote for him are not developed,

what guarantee can he give the opposition areas that he’s going to develop them? The road network, power, water, schools, health are in a deplorable state in Northern Province; Muchinga, Luapula even Eastern Province where he comes from, he’s own people are still drinking with animals in the rivers! So, what can he boast about? What can Edgar boast about that he can go and assure the people of Sesheke?” Mwashingwele wondered. She argued that Zambians

were better off voting for the opposition because UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema was an honest man. “The people in Sesheke are even better off preparing for change of government than being told that he (President Lungu) won’t take development there! If he hasn’t taken development to his own areas where they have given him a vote, what assurance can he give the people of Sesheke that he will take development there? Those of us who voted for Hakainde

Hichilema and the UPND are even better off because we have a ray of hope. I have hope because I can see what Hakainde is promising, and everything he speaks about in government has come to pass. He spoke about the debt crisis and it has come to pass. These are the leaders that we want; people that are able to project the future. Edgar said he had no vision and, surely, we have seen that he has no vision and that’s why we are in a crisis,” said Mwashingwele.



Lack of clean drinking water remains a challenge in most parts of Lusaka. Here a family of Lusaka’s Kamanga Compound is spotted drawing water at a hand pump within the area - Photo by Tenson Mkhala



Democratic Party

Let's believe again!
Why we deserve your vote



Changing the Space & the Narrative for Paradigm shift – What Zambia needs! Towards a Knowledge Based Economy.

“Knowledge is Power!” This is probably the most underappreciated saying of all time.
An Idea is timeless,
An idea is ageless,
An idea knows no Color,
An idea knows no gender,
An idea lives above misconstrued perceptions.
An idea bourne out of an individual’s brain can have the potential to completely disrupt the very natural of our existence. Take electricity for instance, an idea that manifested in Nikola Tesla’s Youthful brain was able to completely change the course of human development forever. An idea of flight manifested in the Youthful brains of the Wright Brothers, who were uneducated bicycle repair men was able to usher mankind into a new new era of flight which has resulted into a trillion Dollar Industry as for 2018.
After decades of large industry and Government dominance in the space race, we know see a resurgence of amateur space explorers equipped only with their ideas that are beating nations and large organizations with Trillion Dollar budgets in the race to space. Companies like Space X, Blue origin, Rocket Lab and Virgin Galactic have now emerged as the leading companies launching into Space to the effect that NASA has acknowledged that they can’t compete anymore, that they would rather pay to have their payload delivered into Space by the said companies. All of these companies started as a SIMPLE IDEA by secondary school going kids but with the right environment, these ideas have come to fruition before the reached their 40’s. What the Zambian Government needs to pre-occupy itself with is creating that environment that nurtures and welcomes those ideas regardless of Political affiliation, tribe, age and gender. Instead of Government going into Industry, let Government empower those with Ideas. Government should have a deliberate Policy to seek out those with Ideas, Citizens with Ideas must be sought out, and not vice-versa as is the case now. Every single subsequent Government has talked about Innovation and supporting it to the point, it

has now become Cliché. Innovation is by no means a Silver bullet that will cure all our problems as a nation. That is why we as the Democratic Party like to think Common sense through ideas; Bourne of innovators-Empowered, equipped, and supported is what will cure our problems.

Panacea: Democratic Party
Our development agenda is to establish, support and adequately fund the sustainable existence of the knowledge-based economy. Instead of holding countless workshops on how to properly establish Marine Aquaculture on Lake Kariba to meet our ever -growing demand for fish, we will pre-occupy ourselves with finding those who already have ideas that are practical and localized and empower them to develop that industry away from the confines of the bureaucratic machinery that plagues governments worldwide. The Democratic Party when entrusted to form Government will have the duty to guard these localized ideas from multinational monopoly bullying in order to give our local knowledge-based economy a fighting chance while simultaneously encouraging competition and the continuous evolution of these Ideas. The goal would be to give our local products a place on the international market.
We are alive to the impact of having one Zambian rising is stature and industry influence as Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, Steve Jobs etc and the impact it would have on the Zambian way of life. But our aim would be to create millions of these industry leading Zambians so that future American, European and Asian kids would strive to be like Nchimunya Hazwezwe, Amukena Munalula, Mwape Kapijimapanga etc. Out of building a knowledge-based economy comes the consequential side effect of having industries aligned with these ideas developing at a rapid rate. For Qatar to become the richest country per Capita in the world, they had to invest in acquiring new knowledge of natural Gas liquefaction. For Estonia to become the worlds most advanced Government technologically, they heavily

invested in the knowledge of ICT.
To build a sustainable industrial base, which is the precursor to industrialization, the Incubation of Ideas ought to be the single most sort out exercise. We as the Democratic Party fully commit ourselves to this doctrine and to achieve this status of a knowledge-based economy, we will place emphasis on ; Development of educational infrastructure, development of personnel, Curriculum, research, Innovation and the enhancement of the use of technology in teaching and learning process. With the current global cognitive surplus, we would prioritize the establishment of a countrywide high-speed internet network through collaborations with companies like One Web. We believe this would equip the self-learners with the necessary knowledge and collaborations needed to build up on their ideas and passions. We shall develop a national idea capture program that places incubation units in every district in order to offer a resource and learning center that supports and supplements the education system as an immediate outlet for innovators, creatives and entrepreneurship alike. We would then collect all that data and formulate a matching and recommender system to mix and match possible intra and inter-disciplinary ideas.
This is the Zambia we strive to achieve. A Zambia that can take its place amongst the developed through investing in the greatest natural resource this country has, its people and their ideas. After all, the greatest experiment in governance of all time, that it the United State of American, was born out of an idea of men brought together, and with less than a 100 of them, formulated what has become the model of government followed by majority of the world till date. No government has ever regretting giving its people a chance to express their ideas and share their collective knowledge, and as DP, we will definitely embrace a knowledge based economy unapologetically.

Believe Again
KALABA 2021

By Mirriam Chabala

Suspected PF cadres attacked and beat up Chipata’s Breeze FM reporter Grace Lungu in Lundazi, Tuesday morning, where she was assigned to cover the ongoing Mkomba ward by-election. Narrating the ordeal to News Diggers! in an interview, Lungu explained that she had hired a taxi to take her to the ward, but was attacked by unknown PF cadres who mistook her and her driver of being members of the opposition UPND. Lungu narrated that the cadres started by beating her taxi driver and later on turned to the back of the taxi where she was seated, dragged her from her seat, while beating her. She said the cadres also grabbed her purse and handbags and got away with and undisclosed sum of money.

PF cadres attack Breeze FM reporter covering Lundazi by-election

She said she could not proceed to go and cover her assignment as she had sustained injuries on her lip and her nose from the beating, adding that the matter was reported to the Lundazi Police Station, where a medical report was issued before she and was later taken to the hospital. “It happened somewhere around 08:20 hours. So, what happened is [that] I booked a tax because I wanted to be at the polling station early. So got a taxi early and we started off. As we approached the Islamic School, off Lundazi Road to Mkomba, we met a white van,

which was full of people; we didn’t even know who they were. Yes, they looked like thugs, but we didn’t know they were PF cadres. So, we passed them and they waved at the driver and the driver waved back. But according to them, they thought the driver was UPND because he didn’t flash the PF party symbol. So, they shouted for him to stop, but he didn’t stop, he just continued driving,” Lungu narrated. “After they noticed that he wasn’t stopping, they turned and drove passed us, stopped their van in front of the taxi I was in and that’s [how] my driver also stopped the

car. They came and opened the doors and started beating up the driver. I was sitting in the back seat and they didn’t know I was also in the car, but after one of them saw me, they were like ‘so you are also here, why are you hiding?’ Before I could do anything, they grabbed me as well and started beating me as well. Then one of them grabbed my purse and asked what was inside. They opened my purse and started getting my money. One of them first got a K50 and then when I tried to ask why they were beating me, another one grabbed my handbag and someone else hit

me very hard on my right cheek...” She narrated that as the beating continued, she started bleeding from the nose, but the assailants did not stop. “Before I could see who hit me on the right cheek, someone else slapped me on the left cheek and I started bleeding. When I started wiping blood from the nose, someone else slapped me and that’s how I even sustained an injury on my lower lip. I started bleeding from the lip, too. Then they got more money from my purse and drove off and they just left my bag and purse scattered. So, I just

picked everything up and we made a U-turn and went to the police station in Lundazi. So, I went to the police first and gave a statement and I was given a form then proceeded to do a medical statement. Right now (around 10:15 hours), I am doing the final statement, I am at the police right now in Lundazi. But I am hurt, my lower lip is hurting and I am bleeding from my mouth and nose,” explained Lungu. Lungu travelled from Chipata to Lundazi on Monday and spent a night in Lundazi to cover the Mkomba Ward by-election. Meanwhile, Eastern Province Police Commissioner Luckson Sakala said he had not yet received the report. The development comes amidst sporadic political violence, which occurred in Sesheke, Southern Province, where a parliamentary by-election took place, Tuesday.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) executive director Patrick Nshindano says parliamentarians should throw away their political patronages when debating critical Bills in Parliament this sitting.

In an interview, Nshindano said as Parliament resumed sitting, Tuesday, he expected progress on the enhancement of important Bills like the Public Finance Management and the Planning and Budgeting Bills.

“As Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, we are quite expectant for the next sitting of Parliament, and this is because there are quite a number of Bills that remained hanging from the last sitting, especially those to do with enhancing Public Finance Management. Issues to do with Public Financial Management in this country have become very topical, and we have a lot of allegations both in the public sector and also from official information in terms of the AG’s Report and information from the FIC (Financial Intelligence Centre) that highlights misapplication of public funds by government officials. And we are asking for progress with regards to reforms in that direction, specifically for Public Finance Management Act,” Nshindano said.

“But there are equally other critical pieces of legislation that

CSPR urges MPs to make speedy progress on enacting important Bills

need to be passed that includes issues to do with (the) Planning and Budgeting Bill that we hope this time around will be passed; issues to do with Access to Information Act. These will bring about transparency and accountability.”

He said it is also expected of Parliament to review the Loans and Guarantees Act and harmonize it in accordance with constitutional provisions.

“And also, one of the major challenges that the country has faced is that of debt. As you know, Zambia has become known to be one of those countries with high debt burden, currently, which is impacting negatively on our national budget and also on our ability to be able to provide descent services, such as health, education and so on where we have even noted a reduction in terms of allocation to the these sectors. So, one of the things that we expect from Parliament is the review of the Loans and Guarantees (Act) for it to be well-harmonized according to the constitutional provisions because the constitutional provision in its current form does provide for parliamentary

oversight of government in terms of loans acquisition,” Nshindano said.

“And we hope that with the revision of the Loans and Guarantees, those can be able to be harmonized, because currently, the Loans and Guarantees basically provides for the Minister of Finance to be able to do that on behalf of the nation. And that is very critical because we cannot

place that mandate solely to an individual or a single Ministry because you are basically incurring debt on behalf of the citizens and the citizens have to have a right on the nature of debt in which you are incurring and what you are going to be using that debt for.”

And Nshindano urged all members of parliament to be objective when debating about the named Bills to benefit of all

Zambians.

“Of course, there are a number of other (pieces of) legislation that we will be keeping our eyes on the ground as you know, there is a process of constitutional reforms that basically hinges on the well-being of our country in terms of our legislative framework including Public Order Act. And one of the things that we expect from them

(parliamentarians) as these Bills are being presented is for them to be magnanimous and throw away all political patronage. These are critical (pieces of) legislation and we expect both sides of the House to present debates in a more objective manner and ensure that we get sound legislation being put in place for the country for all Zambians to benefit,” said Nshindano.

Chief Mnukwa backs Mpezeni's ban of bare titties at Nc'wala

By Mirriam Chabala
Chief Mnukwa of the Ngoni people in Chipata has welcomed Paramount Chief Mpezeni’s directive to have women cover their breasts at this year’s Nc’wala traditional ceremony, agreeing that times had changed and people need to “move on.”

During a preparatory meeting with stakeholders on Sunday, Paramount Chief Mpenzeni banned the public display of women’s breasts at the upcoming ceremony, saying the status quo could not continue because times were changing and that people needed to adjust to societal changes.

And welcoming the announcement in an interview with News Diggers! Chief Mnukwa said he, along with other chiefs under Paramount Chief Mpezeni’s leadership, would inform their subjects gearing up for this year’s ceremony during this Saturday’s final preparatory meeting.

“You know, I am a chief under him, he’s our Paramount Chief. So, when he makes a statement, we all agree with the statement that he has made. So, now, what we have to do is get to our subjects and let them know of the new development at this year’s ceremony. What we normally do is we inform out

subjects about any changes that are made at what we call preparatory meetings,” he said.

“So, the last meeting for this year’s ceremony will be on Saturday (February 16), that’s when we will meet at Mutenguleni. And all the chiefdoms have got representatives who come there, so that’s where everything will be communicated. Suffice to say, we have to move on, times are changing and if there are a lot of concerns about their breasts, especially the women and what have you, I think the Paramount Chief has heard and since he a made a statement to that effect, I think it’s the right move,” added chief Mnukwa.

PF, UPND cadres clash at Sesheke police

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Police in Sesheke have arrested two UPND cadres for being in possession of offensive weapons while six PF cadres have sustained injuries and are admitted to the district hospital after clashes between the two camps.

Police Spokesperson Esther Katongo has narrated in a statement that this was as a result of the violence which began after a UPND cadre was caught by some PF cadre with a voter register, Tuesday,

around 07:30 hours.

Katongo stated that the UPND suspect was then dragged to Sesheke Police Station where his party supports followed with a view to rescue him and in the process clashed with the rival PF group.

“When word went round that a UPND Cadre had been dragged to the Police, a group of UPND supporters went to the Police Station with a view of rescuing their colleague who had been dragged

to Police and that was when the two camps, the PF and UPND clashed right at the Police Station and confusion ensued. Police moved in to disperse the unruly cadres from both UPND and PF and in the process, some PF cadres dashed to Sesheke Council Guest house where they were pursued by Police,” stated Katongo.

And Katongo has stated that investigations into what transpired at the guest house have been instituted.

Thieves blow off Chipata Diocese treasury, steal US\$3,000, K18,000

By Mirriam Chabala
Unkown robbers yesterday broke into the Catholic Diocese of Chipata in Eastern Province where they blew off the Church Treasury with unknown explosives and got away with USD\$3000 and K18,000.

Eastern Province Police Commissioner Luckson Sakala confirmed this to News Diggers in an interview, explaining that the incidence happened in the early hours of Tuesday and that police had already launched investigations into the matter but that no arrests had been made yet.

Meanwhile, in a separate interview, Chipata Diocesan Chancellor Fr Denis Phiri gave News Diggers a brief narration of what transpired.

“Yes, we recorded a robbery at the Catholic Diocese of Chipata in the early hours of today. Some unknown people broke into the office of the Treasurer General, where they collected monies amounting to USD \$300 and K18,000,” Fr Phiri explained.

“They blew the Safe in the Treasure General’s office using unknown excessive explosives and because this happened very early in the morning just at about 01:00 hours, no one saw the robbers; we didn’t see them and we don’t know if they were armed. All we know is that they searched a number of offices within the Diocese before they finally got away with the money they took away from the Treasure General’s office.”

He said police only came to the scene after the robbers had already fled.

“However, some alert security guards who were guarding buildings next to the Church heard noises and they quickly alerted the police who later came and inspected the scene,” explained Fr Phiri.

Last year, 10 armed robbers broke into the residence of Chipata Diocese Bishop George Lungu where they stole his laptop and two mobile phones.

Eastern Province police commissioner said the robbers were armed with a fire arm suspected to be a pistol and some machetes.



Lusaka Province chairpersons of Disaster Management Committee at the extraordinary meeting in Lusaka on February 12, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Many a time, we Africans complain that the Western world always thinks negatively about us. Our government leaders bitterly lament that Western media enjoys portraying Africa in bad light, ignoring the success governance stories. That is true, but the other truth is that, it is all in the type of news that we feed them.

In journalism, we say when dog bites man, it's not news per say, unless man bites dog. In other words, when the usual thing happens, it may not be as newsworthy as the unusual thing that happens. So instinctively, journalists look out for the negative where the positive is supposed to happen and vice versa.

A few days ago, The UK Times published a story with a Headline "Zambia's president Edgar Lungu tries to kill Hakainde Hichilema". This story came in the aftermath of a police operation conducted in Sesheke where the opposition UPND leader and his supporters were forced to abandon their campaign meeting by weapon-firing police officers. Mr Hichilema claimed that President Lungu sent police to assassinate him that day, and the British media carried the story as narrated to them.

We do not think that it is true that police were instructed to shoot down Mr Hichilema. We don't think that, even if President Lungu desired to see Mr Hichilema dead, he would order an assassination in that fashion. But unfortunately, this UPND claim can easily

It's trigger-happy cops denting Zambia's image, not opposition or HH

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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sell to a person who was not on the ground. That is the picture that was painted in the circulating videos. It shows police opening gunfire while a group of UPND supporters were seen scampering into the bush.

There is no foreign media house that will report a story saying, "Zambia's political parties held peaceful campaigns in a local by-election and everything there went on smoothly". That is not news in the eyes of the British Media. They will not waste ink to publish such a story.

But when police fire rapid machine guns in a country like Zambia which has been in the international spotlight since the 2017 treason case involving Mr Hakainde Hichilema, they will not hesitate to run

such a story on the front page, or as breaking news on television. That's how a country gets bad publicity.

We know that the police were probably trying to avoid the recurrence of what transpired on the Mongu-Limulunga Road in 2017, where the UPND entourage refused to yield to the Head of State's motorcade. We also suspect that police officers were given specific instructions not to tolerate any arrogance from the opposition party. But we feel terrorizing people in a democracy with gunfire like that is quite despicable.

You can argue and say those were not live bullets, but the fact is that police were seen firing machine guns while chasing away UPND supporters. If it is true that those were blanks, then only the

police officer who was holding the gun may have known that fact. To the Sesheke residents, what they heard was gunfire and someone was trying to shoot them. That is the terror that we are condemning from those horofic shooting scenes. In fact, you can't blame Mr Hichilema for thinking it was an assassination attempt – after all, a police officer ordered to fire, may as well use a live ammunition for the fun of it.

Like we said, it is our fault as Africans that we choose to portray our selves in bad light. Those scenes in Sesheke could have been avoided if law enforcers had not resorted to the use of brutal force in policing a group of opposition cadres.

Even assuming that those UPND supporters

were closer to the station where the President was expected to hold his meeting, is the Inspector General of police telling us that there were no other means of persuading the UPND supporters to suspend their activities?

You the police are the ones who teach that "never point a gun at anyone whom you don't intend to kill". So, as a politician Mr Hichilema had the right to assume that police were sent to shoot him, because he saw police opening fire at him and his followers. If the aim of the police was to maintain order and protect the lives of those UPND members, why chase them into the bush with gunfire?

The Police Inspector General shouldn't forget that the death of the University of Zambia student,

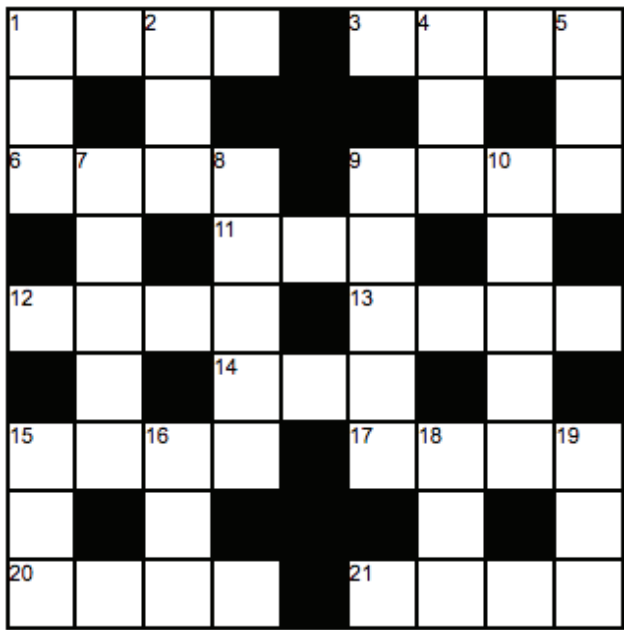
Vespers Shimunzhila, happened in the same circumstances. Some trigger-happy police officers followed the students to the hostels and fired tear smoke into their rooms. We have remained discussing useless inquiries and reports, but meanwhile, a life is lost forever.

Our concern is that if police can use that kind of gunfire to keep order during a small by-election, what should the Zambian people expect in the months leading to 2021? What will the security wings use to disperse unruly opposition supporters, grenades and missiles? Surely this is not a Zambia that we want.

Bwana Edgar Lungu, this is happening on your watch. Please stop it. Those articles you are seeing in foreign media have a huge negative impact on your leadership. If you are not concerned about chasing away foreign direct investment with such kind of policing methods, at least worry about your life after the presidency.

Those other African president's who have gone to the Hague for crimes against humanity did not personally cut off the heads of their opposition rivals, the crimes were committed by state operatives such as the trigger-happy police under Mr Kanganja. It is you, Mr President who will be answerable to all these lives that are being lost under your reign. You will remember our words when that time comes.

Crossword puzzle 292



"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

- Benjamin Franklin

- Across

1. A rotary device
3. Fish bait
6. 1 divided by 2
9. Chair part
11. Lighted
12. Duet plus one
13. Little devils
14. Black gold, Texas tea
15. Has been in debt
17. Told an untruth
20. Pulled apart
21. Flavorful plant
- Down

1. Homer's outburst
2. Become sick
4. Single number
5. Wrestling surface
7. The Green ____
8. Overflow
9. Calm
10. Enough
15. A cereal grain
16. Unit of corn
18. Frozen water
19. Make a knight

Solutions to puzzle 291



Reader's feedback

Kampyongo's order to have HH arrested in Sesheke

Editor,

"Kampyongo is not a police officer and hence he has no mandate to order who to arrest. One point worth noting here is that Zambians should respect HH. For Kampyongo to say he will arrest HH; HH is a leader in this country with a lot of followers, let me say HH and ECL are just the same in terms of popularity if we go by the last 2 election results. HH is supposed to have even State security to guard him. But alas! Kampyongo can stand and say 'I will not rest until I arrest HH.' The police force is now used as a tool to oppress people with divergent views." - Kenneth Ngalamika

"The mistake most of our leaders make is when they get appointed to head a ministry as ministers, they assume duties they don't have. A Minister of Home Affairs has no business ordering the police on who to arrest. The police themselves have commanders, and the Minister is not one of them. His duties end with policymaking of the Ministry." - Solomon H. Phiri

"Hon. Kampyongo! Your days are

numbered. Ask Gen. Shikapwasha and Lameck Mangani..." - Chanda Emmanuel

"The consequence of allowing general elections be rigged! What a mess Zambia is in." - Shilota Kapimpa



Sampa's observation on Pick n Pay sale of rotten food

Editor,

"In other countries, health inspectors will be questioned. Why should a whole Mayor be dealing with such when he should be managing

the city?" - Michel Shawa

"Where is ZABS because they are not doing their job well. It's barely few months ago when our energy drinks were detected with substances suspected of increasing sexual libido..." - Bobo M Changa

"Miles has a very big problem. He has a mental deficit. Honestly, as the head of the city upon discovering P 'n' P selling rotten food was he supposed to leave quietly? Was he supposed to call the council's Health & PR departments to the scene? The inspectorate team would have done their job & slapped statutory sanctions on the offending party. The PR Dept. would have told us about it. Instead, Miles went on a senseless & fruitless lone ranger expedition wanting to make a name for himself alone!" - Haggai Gondwe

"Ba Mayor, still looking for relevance, I see.... smh." - Kaluwe Kelly

"Ba Mayor, it's not good leadership to expose a big chain store like Pick 'n' Pay on a birthday bonanza for Choppies chain store. A wise leader would not have mentioned the store name." - Albert Kasonde

"For real, Pick 'n' Pay sells rotten stuff, particularly dairy products. I experience such several times at the East Park branch. I reported them to consumer protection and LCC; the service I got from these two institutions was more rotten than Pick 'n' Pay staff." - Mulenga Tembo

News Digger's OPINION: The 'Fantastic Four' and their fantastic agenda

"To these four, to them the issue between them and UPND it is personal: 1. Saki lost to HH then he went on rampage and started calling UPND tribal. Out of frustration he formed his own ULP because he believed he had what it takes to be a political party leader. As fate is the man failed to manage his own party; 2. Nawakwi: They formed UDA, HH as leader, then before they could even win Nawakwi started demanding for her share in terms of leadership, like what ministries will she control because by then she had an MP in parliament. The alliance failed. In conclusion, these four envy UPND. Despite all the losses, the party has remained strong and is the strongest opposition. Therefore, out of jealousy and envy, they wouldn't want the UPND to rule!" - Mable Kayula

"No wonder Zambia can't develop; we have people like abena Nawakwi who don't know whether they are coming or going just because they are so scared that HH is forming the next govt. They would rather dine with their enemies to prevent that from happening!" - Steve Lenx

"A lot of parties in Zambia should be killed off for only serving the purpose of splitting votes; paid to bring divisions!" - Joe Mumba Kawimbe

"News Diggers! is simply the best. Great piece of writing!" - Misheck Leyo

Mutati's cadres' attack of Nevers at United Voice Radio

Editor,

"Mutati has PF blood in his veins! No wonder the violence." - Obrain Ndumba

"Cage Mutati! He is going against the court ruling on the MMD presidency." - Alstone Sakala

"Now that Felix Mutati is in alliance with PF, even the behaviour of his party cadres is like of PF thugs! Birds of the same feather flock together." - Christopher Kalima

"Is there a difference between MMD and PF thugs? Educated or not, violence is the only tool that they know to resolve issues." - Mike Phiri

"Why not report them to police for trespass with intent to commit a felony? Despite the police having

gone there, they still need one from the radio station to complain on behalf of the station." - Chrispin Chanda

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

Environment in multiple crises - Report

Politicians and policymakers have failed to grasp the gravity of the environmental crisis facing the Earth, a report claims.

The think-tank IPPR says human impacts have reached a critical stage and threaten to destabilise society and the global economy.

Scientists warn of a potentially deadly combination of factors. These include climate change, mass loss of species, topsoil erosion, forest felling and acidifying oceans.

The report from the centre-left Institute for Public Policy Research says these factors are “driving a complex, dynamic process of environmental destabilisation that has reached critical levels.

“This destabilisation is occurring at speeds

unprecedented in human history and, in some cases, over billions of years.”

So what is needed?

The IPPR warns that the window of opportunity to avoid catastrophic outcomes is rapidly closing.

The authors urge three shifts in political understanding: on the scale and pace of environmental breakdown; the implications for societies; and the subsequent need for transformative change.

They say since 2005, the number of floods across the world has increased by 15 times, extreme temperature events by 20 times, and wildfires seven-fold.

At least climate change features in policy discussions, they say – but other vitally important impacts barely figure.

What issues are being underplayed?

Topsoil is being lost 10 to 40 times faster than it is being replenished by natural processes

Since the mid-20th Century, 30% of the world’s arable land has become unproductive due to erosion

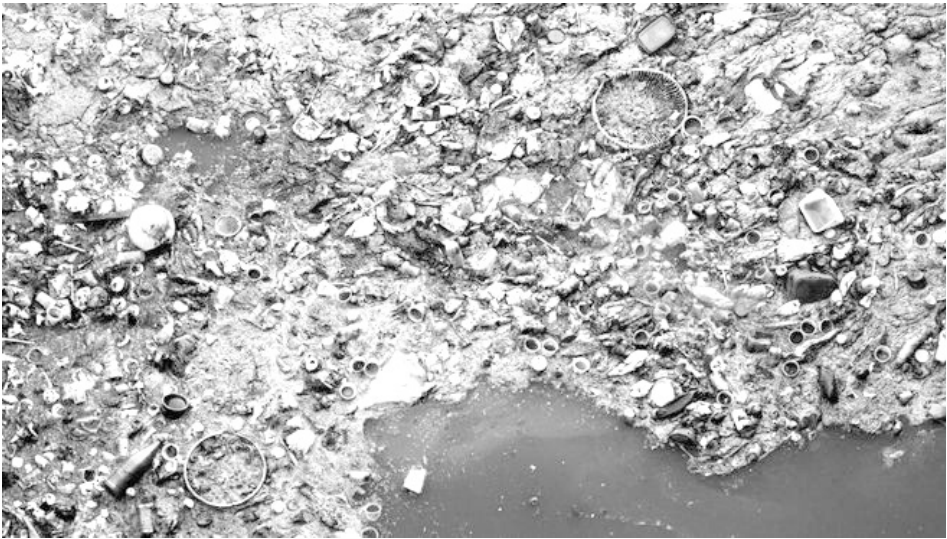
95% of the Earth’s land areas could become degraded by 2050

These matters are close to home for British politicians, the authors argue, with the average population sizes of the most threatened species in the UK having decreased by two-thirds since 1970.

The UK is described as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

Some 2.2 million tonnes of UK topsoil is eroded annually, and over 17% of arable land shows signs of erosion.

Nearly 85% of fertile peat topsoil in East Anglia has



been lost since 1850, with the remainder at risk of being lost over next 30–60 years.

The IPPR says many scientists believe we have entered a new era of rapid environmental

change.

The report warns: “We define this as the ‘age of environmental breakdown’ to better highlight the severity of the scale, pace and implications of environmental destabilisation resulting from aggregate human activity.”

Will society take the solutions on offer?

Simon Lewis, Professor of Global Change Science at University College London, told BBC News: “IPPR are right to say that environmental change is happening ever-faster and threatens to destabilise society.

“Future problems with food supplies could cause price spikes that drive civil unrest,

while increases in levels of migration can strain societies.

“Both together could overload political institutions and global networks of trade.

“This century will be marked by rapid social and environmental change - that is certain. What is less clear is if societies can make wise political choices to avoid disaster in the future.”

Harriet Bulkeley, a geography professor at Durham University, told BBC News that the IPPR paper was a good interpretation of the current evidence, but she said it raised the question of how firm evidence of environmental threats had to be to prompt government action. *BBC*

Dairy foods help burn fat, speed weight loss

Stocking the refrigerator with milk, cheese, and yogurt may make it easier to lose those extra pounds and burn fat without cutting back drastically on calories, according to new research.

Although calories still count, the study showed that obese adults who ate a high-dairy diet lost significantly more weight and fat than those who ate a low-dairy diet containing the same number of calories

“If you compare a dairy-rich versus a dairy-poor diet you can nearly double the rate of weight and fat loss with the same level of calorie restriction,” says researcher Michael Zemel, PhD, professor of nutrition and medicine at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Zemel says the study also showed that eating three to four servings of dairy products a day is more effective at enhancing



weight loss efforts than calcium supplementation alone with pills or calcium-fortified foods.

The study appears in the April issue of Obesity Research and was supported by the National Dairy Council, a WebMD sponsor.

Previous studies have already shown that dieters who eat a calcium-rich diet are more successful at losing weight, but this study indicates that it’s more

than just the calcium in dairy products that helps shed pounds.

“Calcium is a critical factor in controlling what your body does with calories, and dairy is an even more critical factor,” says Zemel.

“Without changing how many calories we take away, we can alter how much weight and fat you lose.”

Dairy Products Beat Calcium for Weight Loss

In the study, researchers compared the effects of three different calorie-restricted diets on weight loss in 32 obese adults. Each of the participants reduced their daily calorie intake by about 500 calories per day for 24 weeks and were divided into three groups:

High-dairy. Total calcium intake of 1,200-1,300 milligrams per day from three to four servings of dairy foods, specifically milk, hard cheese, and yogurt.

High-calcium supplemented/low-dairy. Total calcium intake of 1,200-1,300 milligrams per day made up of no more than one serving of dairy per day plus an 800-milligram calcium supplement.

Low-calcium/low-dairy. Total calcium intake of 400-500 milligrams per day with no more than one serving of dairy per day and a placebo supplement.

WebMD

Channel 4 rejects Michael Jackson estate complaint over documentary

Channel 4 is to air a controversial documentary about Michael Jackson, despite receiving a letter of complaint from the late singer's estate.

Leaving Neverland focuses on two men who claim the pop superstar abused them when they were children.

The family of the late singer have asked the broadcaster not to show it, saying the film-makers did not ask them for a response to the allegations.

In a statement, Channel 4 said it had followed the right response procedure.

“Channel 4 viewers will make their own judgement about the testimony of the two victims interviewed in the film,” it said.

In the letter, which was released to the Associated Press, the Jackson estate claimed the documentary’s makers broke programming guidelines by failing to get a response from the singer's family and friends.

“I think we can all agree that the false allegations being made in your ‘documentary’ are ‘significant allegations,’” the letter said.

“It is hard to imagine more



significant accusations that can possibly be made against anyone.”

A similar letter was also sent to US broadcaster HBO, which co-produced the documentary.

Jackson denials

Leaving Neverland will be broadcast on Channel 4 on 6 and 7 March.

It includes interviews with Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who were aged seven and 10 when the singer befriended them and their families.

Mr Robson acted as a main witness for Michael Jackson at his 2005 trial, but has now changed his story.

Channel 4 said the film does include a response to the allegations in the form of footage of Jackson’s own denials.

“The documentary deals with the criminal trials and civil court cases and any involvement our principal interviewees had in those,” the broadcaster’s statement said.

“It is not unusual for victims of

child sex abuse to only feel able to disclose what happened to them in later life.”

The documentary, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival last month, has also been defended by its director, Dan Reed.

“Anyone who sees the film will know it is solely about hearing the stories of two specific individuals and their families in their own words, and that is a focus we are very proud of,” he said. *BBC*

Childish Gambino has made Grammy Awards history by winning both song and record of the year for This Is America.

It’s the first time a rap song has won both categories - although Gambino did not attend or perform at the event.

He was the first artist to be absent from collecting one of the “big four” Grammys since Amy Winehouse in 2008.

Gambino - aka actor Donald Glover - beat competition from Drake, Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper in both categories.

Kendrick Lamar and SZA’s All The Stars, Brandi Carlile’s The Joke and The Middle by Zedd, Maren Morris and Grey were also up for both awards.

This Is America, which was accompanied by a symbolic music video, sparked debate when it was released in May.

It looked at the representation of black people in America and the prejudices they faced.

While record of the year recognises everyone involved in a song, including the artist, producers and engineers, song of the year is awarded to the writer.

This Is America co-writer

Ludwig Goransson collected the awards on Gambino’s behalf.

He said he did not know why Gambino had declined to attend but explained how important recognising rap and hip-hop artists at the Grammys was.

“I think if you listen to the radio or if you just watch our culture, if you look at the most downloaded, streamed artists... you see what people are getting inspired by,” said Goransson backstage.

“It’s about time that something like this happened with the Grammys. They’re getting the same kind of senses as the people.”

In addition to song of the year and record of the year, This Is America won awards for best music video and best rap/sung collaboration.

Rapper 21 Savage, one of the collaborators on the track, was unable to attend the ceremony because he is being detained by US officials over an expired visa.

The British-born, Atlanta-based performer was also nominated for two awards in his own right. *BBC*



Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici has disclosed how the summer signing of Cristiano Ronaldo finally materialised and that a move for Mauro Icardi was overlooked by the Serie A champions.

The Bianconeri brought the Portuguese star to Turin for €112m (£99m/\$111m) following his departure from Real Madrid last year, with the 34-year-old having proven to be an inspired purchase as the club chases domestic and European glory. Speaking to *Gazzetta dello Sport* however, Paratici stated that they initially were looking to swipe Icardi from rivals Inter, with whom the Argentina international had been struggling to agree fresh terms.

The 25-year-old had netted 29 times throughout the 2017-18 campaign, making him an attractive prospect – but Paratici admits there was only

Paratici explains Ronaldo to Juventus deal

one course once Ronaldo entered the reckoning. "It all started when we played vs Real Madrid in the Champions League," said Paratici. "I met [agent] Jorge Mendes, like I always do and he told me: you may not believe it but if Cristiano leaves Real he'd want to join Juventus. "Then I started to study the move. During the talks to close a deal for the phenomenal [Joao] Cancelo, Mendes looked at me and said: remember what we talked about? "If you want him, he is ready'. Then, in our next meeting, I asked Mendes: so what figures are we talking about? "He replied: this is the salary and this is the transfer fee. So I told him I would get back to him in a few days, because if I had said no, he would've



contacted other clubs. "There were hours of extreme tension and energy. Many thoughts started crossed my mind: we have [Gonzalo] Higuain who we'll need to sell, but Ronaldo is a star who will open various channels: technical and commercial. "Finally I convinced myself that we must at least try. Up to this point, I had not told anything to anyone (at Juventus). "I met with Andrea (Agnelli) and Pavel (Nedved) and we

all agreed. We must give the entire environment a shock. A positive shock that can project Juventus to a new level. "So, I told Agnelli and Nedved: I have an idea...but it is yet to be evaluated, so do not laugh and do not throw yourselves out of the window. "There are two ways to galvanise the team: one which I cannot disclose now and the other is to sign Cristiano Ronaldo. "The first way? It was to buy Icardi and unleash an

incredible fiasco or we can sign Cristiano Ronaldo. "I told them: Mendes told me to tell you that if Juve wants Cristiano and meets his demands, he is going to come to Juventus. He does not want anyone else other than Juventus. "You must also understand that Andrea is not just a president. He knows football and business very well. And always wants to make Juventus bigger. "So he said 'give me a moment

to think about it'. At that point I was happy I wasn't thrown out of the window! "On the same day, during the afternoon, he told me to confirm all the numbers that we had discussed, because if it was like I said it was, we are going to go forward with the operation." Ronaldo is more than repaying that investment since arriving on Turin, currently leading the Serie A scoring charts with 18 goals. *Goal.com*

ZESCO poised to maintain top spot

By Abraham Kalito

ZESCO is poised to maintain top spot in group C when they take on Asante Kotoko in the confederation cup at the Baba Yara stadium in Kumasi Ghana today. Kotoko has never lost in the stadium having played 14 matches with 12 wins and 2 draws. The match is scheduled to be played at 18 hours Zambian time having been moved from 15 hours at Kotoko's request. ZESCO will be without new signing Kosuke Nakamuchi who joined the club on a two-year deal. Meanwhile Zambian 2018 top scorer Idris Mbombo will face former club Nkana when his side Al Hilal of Sudan takes on the former in Kitwe. On Monday, CAF declared Nkana stadium fit to host a Confederation cup match, a move that elated fans. Nkana boasts of serious local support and with the home ground being declared fit to host a match, it is believed that Mbombo and Al Hilal will find it difficult to win.

We need to plan for the next generation of footballers

By Abraham Kalito

Former Green Buffaloes coach Bilton Musonda says there is serious need for Zambia to strategize

on how the country can produce quality footballers for the next generation. Musonda told Goal Diggers! that Zambia needs to plan

for the next generation and help develop quality footballers who will put the country on the map again. "On that one I think we just

have to sit as stakeholders of the football family. Everyone has to get involved so that we can improve the quality of players to be produced by the country. That's one issue that we haven't done as a country for a long time. We have to sit down as coaches, FAZ and sponsors and ask questions such as why aren't we producing players that can put Zambia on the map? And from those questions' answers can be found. We can't just point fingers at anyone, this is everybody's job. It's something that has to do with everybody involved. That is the only way we will find a way forward, if we put our heads together," Musonda said. Meanwhile Musonda expressed gratitude to FAZ for the opportunity given to him and four others to go and train further as coaches. "It's a great opportunity for me to go and train further. It gives me great joy that I will have another chance to upgrade my studies and be one of the best coaches in the country. That is what we need as a country. We need to improve by being the best and we can only be the best if we study the game further."

Japan's Olympic poster girl Ikee diagnosed with leukaemia

Japanese swim queen Rikako Ikee, the poster girl for next year's Tokyo Olympics, has been diagnosed with leukaemia, the 18-year-old tweeted on Tuesday. In a shock announcement, Ikee said: "After feeling unwell I returned in haste from Australia and following tests I was diagnosed with leukaemia. I still can't believe it myself, I'm in a state of confusion." Ikee shot to fame at last year's Asian Games, where she captured a record six gold medals to fire a warning for the 2020 Olympics in her home city. The teenage superstar, who holds a string of national records, has been tipped to push for gold on several fronts, in particular in the women's 100 metres butterfly. Ikee told fans she was determined to beat her illness after being forced to abandon her training camp on Australia's Gold Coast. "If treated properly it's a



disease that can be beaten," said Ikee, who confirmed she will withdraw from the Japanese championships in April. "I will devote myself to my treatment and strive to be able to show an even stronger

Rikako Ikee." Ikee's coach Jiro Miki confessed he had never seen the swimmer struggle as much as she had while training in Australia. "I had never seen her breathing as heavily as that,"

he said. "We took her to a local hospital to check her blood and heart but decided to return to Japan as quickly as possible to undergo further tests. But as for her motivation to beat this disease, I can only bow my

head at her determination." Miki revealed that Ikee has been admitted to hospital to begin treatment. "She is not moping about," he added. "She is absolutely positive about beating this as quickly as possible." *AFP*

Nkana FC of Zambia host Al Hilal of Sudan in the CAF Confederation Cup this Wednesday boosted by a record of never having lost at home in 56 African matches.

The 40 victories and 16 draws came in the CAF Champions League, Confederation Cup and two now defunct competitions, the African Cup Winners Cup and the CAF Cup. Unfortunately, the magnificent home run has not led to any CAF titles for the Kitwe-based outfit, who came closest when losing the 1990 Champions League final on penalties.

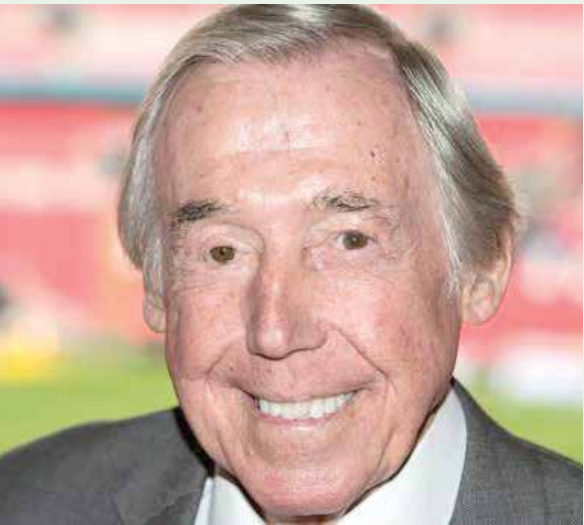
Nkana need maximum

NKANA HOPE TO DEFEND RECORD

...after staying unbeaten in 56 CAF games at home

points against Hilal to get back into contention for a top-two finish in Group C after losing their matchday 1 clash at fellow Zambians Zesco United. "Our goal remains unchanged -- we want to progress beyond the group stage," stressed Nkana coach and former star Beston Chambeshi. "One loss does not deter us." **AFP**

Gordon Banks, England World Cup-winning goalie, dies at 81



England's 1966 World Cup-winning goalkeeper Gordon Banks has passed away at the age of 81.

The veteran shot-stopper, who played for Stoke City and Leicester City among a storied career, died peacefully in his sleep overnight, his family confirmed.

Banks was a two-time League Cup winner with the Potters and the Foxes but is best remembered for his contributions on the international stage, where he won 73 caps for his country. He started every game for his country during the 1966 tournament and played in the 4-2 victory over West Germany in the final.

Four years later, he was a member of the England squad which reached the quarter-finals in Mexico, where he made a legendary save against Brazilian striker Pele in the group stages. **Goal.com**



Paul Millsap #4 of the Denver Nuggets puts up a shot against Josh Richardson #0 of the Miami Heat at the Pepsi Center on February 11, 2019 in Denver, Colorado

Juventus go cold on Pogba return: It is very difficult

Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici says Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba's return to the Serie A champions is "very difficult" to foresee.

The France international has continually been linked with resuming his career at the Allianz Stadium since leaving for Old Trafford in 2016 for £89 million (\$114m).

Indeed, Pogba's return to Italy appeared inevitable earlier this season amid a series of public fallings-out with Jose Mourinho.

But the sacking of the Portuguese boss and appointment of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has been the catalyst for the 25-year-old's return to form and reports that he wants to sign a new contract with the 20-time English champions.

And, as a result, the Juve hierarchy appear to have abandoned plans to bring Pogba back to Turin.

Paratici told Gazzetta dello Sport: "Will Pogba return to Juventus? No. In football, you never know, but I think it is very difficult."

Central to Juventus all-but giving up on Pogba is their reported pursuit of James Rodriguez, who is not expected to remain at Bayern Munich - where he is currently on loan - beyond the end of the season. **Goal.com**