



THE ROT AT FAZ

By Abraham Kalito

World's Soccer governing body FIFA has revealed how international match fixers connived with former FAZ treasurer and vice-president Boniface Mwamelo to instruct Chipolopolo Boys to lose the 2010 Cairo Olympics Tournament, in order for them to win football bets against Zambia's victory prospects.

And FIFA has handed a life ban on Mwamelo from all football activities, for accepting bribes from the international match fixer named Wilson Raj Perumal

FIFA reveals how Chipolopolo boys were told to lose games, for match fixers to win their bets on Zambia

with intent to manipulate results of the Under-23 squad at the tournament.

The FIFA Chamber of Ethics found Mwamelo

guilty after conducting an investigation into an alleged match fixing scheme, which revealed incriminating email

correspondence in which the Zambian official allegedly got downpayment from Perumal.

According to a FIFA report, Mwamelo and match fixer Perumal, colluded to handpick national team players who could be guided on how to lose games, a move that would earn the ex-FAZ official and the selected Chipolopolo boys US\$30, 000 on top of other bonuses.

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Boniface Mwamelo (above) served as FAZ treasurer and vice-president under Kalusha Bwalya

ERB cuts fuel prices by K1

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has announced the reduction of fuel prices from K16.06 to K15.20 on Petrol, K14.65 to K13.34 on Diesel and K16.94 to K15.72 Low

Sulphur Diesel, effective midnight last night. ERB adds that the reduction is due to reduced movements in the international oil prices and the exchange rate between the Kwacha and US Dollar.

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Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo (l) and his Luapula counterpart Nickson Chilangwa (r) enjoy a light moment with UPND Mazabuka MP Gary Nkombo yesterday

Being in the Opposition Alliance tarnished my image – Andyford

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda says he wasted a lot of

time being in the Opposition Alliance when he would have attended to more important party matters.

And Banda says it is disrespectful and demeaning for the Opposition Alliance

to call his party as a cancer which needed to be amputated just to score political points when they knew very well that he was already in the process of leaving the group. To page 3

Mwila invites applications for Roan seat

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says Chishimba Kambwili wasted a lot of time by clinging on to the Roan seat.

And Mwila says party members should focus on mobilization. To page 7

Amos vows to continue giving a piece of his mind to provocative opposition

By Thomas Mulenga

President Edgar Lungu's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations, Amos Chanda says he will continue exchanging words with his critics, rubbing advice that he should tone down on confrontations with opposition political party leaders. To page 5

GMOs safe to eat – Health Minister

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MPs agree to end political violence

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Members of parliament from both sides of the House on Wednesday united on the need for the Executive to put in place practical measures to end electoral violence. The MPs were supporting a motion moved by Choma Central UPND member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa. In his Motion, which was seconded by Zambezi East UPND member of parliament Brian Kambita, Mweetwa urged the executive to outlaw the use of offensive weapons by Law Enforcement Agencies during elections. "That the executive should put in place measures to stem out electoral violence that (i) we return or restore the rule of law because most of the criminal activities

that are perpetrated during these elections are actually acts that the law prohibits whether committed during an election or outside an election, we have this far sufficient laws to be able to curb those criminal acts. And I suspect Mr Speaker through you to the honourable Minister of Home Affairs that if we leave police to do professional work without interference, without them listening to the posturing of the political leadership and just do work in accordance with the training, we can make headways in ensuring that during these elections, the police do what is right to stem out electoral violence," Mweetwa stated in his Motion. "Allow me also sir to add on that what we have

seen after the just ended [Sesheke] by-elections where police officers who in my view were trying to be professional and disarm people who were armed with Pangas (machetes) and fire arms and then those whom their commanders retired on national interest and subsequently in public interest is an upset and a stain to the governance of this country and the watch of our colleagues. We think that wherever there should be capable people, those responsible should have taken responsibility unlike meting out punishment on innocent citizens because there is a provision of retiring people in national interest. Retiring people should be used judiciously and reasonably." Mweetwa said the

President, as the Commander in Chief of Armed Forces, had the ultimate say on how police should behave during elections. "Mr Speaker, I would also like to state at this point that we have the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces who is a President of the Republic of Zambia and therefore that Presidency with the powers vested in that Presidency has the ultimate say on how the police should behave unlike now sir where we have cadres wanting to overrun a police station," Mweetwa said. He said that for as long as politicians continued sniffing into the operations of the institutions of governance, electoral violence would never end.

"[With] these things, we are creating a dangerous state for our children in future. The Commander in Chief is clothed with enough authority to ensure that sanity retains in the operation of Zambia Police and that through his or her good will, the police can operate professionally. For as long as politicians continue to think that they are supervisors of institutions of governance at a level where they begin to interfere, Mr speaker this problem will continue to be with us for a very long time, [which is] something very undesirable. And I am pretty sure that neither ourselves on your left nor PF wouldn't like Zambia [to] degenerate into an election violence state. Therefore through you Mr Speaker, I think that

President Lungu should take post and begin to offer direction if he does exhibit political will to end electoral violence," he said. "The second issue I would like the executive to do is to outlaw the use of offensive weapons by Law Enforcement Agencies because the possession and use of offensive weapons by cadres and citizens is already outlawed at law. We now require to move on in terms of legal reforms to step up and move forward and ensure that during elections, we know that that is generally harmonious atmosphere where we choose our leaders. Police should not go there with offensive weapons as if they are going to confront criminals. They are going to confront unarmed citizens," said Mweetwa.

In supporting the motion, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo described it as a progressive motion which required all leaders to co-exist in ending electoral violence. Meanwhile, MMD national secretary, and nominated member of parliament, Rapheal Nakacinda said the Motion required the House to speak in unison. And Eastern Province Minister Makebi Zulu said he would support the motion for his own reasons and not the reasons advanced by the mover. Other people who supported and debated on the Motion were Bwana Mkubwa PF member of parliament Dr Jonas Chanda, Elijah Muchima of Ikelengi and Sesheke's Romeo Kangombe.

Mushimba unblocks critics, says he paid for his SA medical expenses

By Mukosha Funga

Transport and Communication Minister Brian Mushimba says he was out of line when he blocked those who questioned him on who footed his medical bill in South Africa after breaking his arm in an accident. On Monday, Mushimba blocked critics on Twitter after they demanded justification for his decision to get his broken arm treated in South Africa, where he stayed for over a month. In a tweet, Wednesday, Mushimba apologized for this saying after some reflection, he had decided to unblock them. "After much reflection, I totally have realized my part in the storm surrounding my being discharged from hospital. I want to unreservedly apologize and open a new page on our friendship and our online interactions.

I take responsibility for the events referenced. #unblockpeople," Mushimba tweeted. One of his followers, Abraham, who uses the Twitter handle; @Maidas, wondered whether Mushimba only realized his mistakes after News Diggers carried a story about his conduct. "Learn to listen to people you serve..after you have been published in the newspaper mwasebana now you see that insoni ebuntu ka," Abraham tweeted. But Mushimba claimed he only apologized because he felt he was out of line. "Have I been published? I didn't know that! But I have had many bad articles written about me. It comes with the territory. I have apologized because I felt I was out of line. Period," Mushimba tweeted. Mushimba went on to explain that he used personal resources

to rehabilitate his arm in South Africa. "After the accident, UTH did their best to stabilize me. I lost lots of blood. My wife was crying uncontrollably. My hand was crushed. Damaged beyond redemption. Bones, nerves, ligament, soft tissue. Damaged. cut[ting] it off was suggested. Finally, a referral for 2nd opinion. Enter SA," Mushimba tweeted. "I went to South Africa with only my wife to keep costs low. Every bill that was handed to

me and my wife while in SA, we paid out of our own personal funds and we have receipts." He invited those who wanted proof to stop by Parliament to have a look at receipts of all transactions regarding his trip to SA. "Please stop by parliament, if u can. U can see all the bills we were given and receipts of payment with a debit card in my wife's name (Brenda Mushimba)," Mushimba tweeted. The Transport Minister said add his voice

to advocating for specialized treatment for all Zambians. "Experiences shape us. Access to specialized treatment we must accelerate because no Zambian should lose their arm, if it can be saved. I offer myself; I want to be your additional voice on this so that we fast track access to specialized treatment for ALL ZAMBIANS in our lifetime," tweeted Mushimba.

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By Thomas Mulenga

The Zambia Medical Association has opposed the increase of attachment fees for medical students by the ministry of health. In a statement, Thursday, association president Dr. Abidan Chansa said the increase in fees would put more pressure on students from poor families whose parents were already struggling to source funds for them with the current biting economy. "The Zambia Medical Association (ZMA) Executive has learnt that the Ministry of Health has released a memo to the effect that clinical placement fees have been revised upwards. We have seen this memo doing the rounds on Social Media. Our members have asked very important and pertinent questions that beg answers. We have also noted the outcry from members of the public. We wish to put it on record that we do not agree with this increase in the clinical placement fees. In fact, this goes against most of the pronouncements that have been made by the Minister of Health, Dr Chitalu Chilufya. This memo goes against some of the tenets of the 7 National Health Strategic Plan 2017-2021, the National Development Plan," Dr. Chansa said. Chansa said the increase in fees would put more

Medical Association opposes increase of clinical attachment fees

pressure on students from poor families whose parents were already struggling to source funds for them with the current biting economy. "It is our considered view that these fees are aimed at weakening the Private Sector involvement in the affairs of medical education and health service provision which will be catastrophic in the long run if left unchecked. The current economic situation does not allow in the remotest of terms to effect such astronomical increases in the fees. As professionals who interact with most of these students on a daily basis, it is clear to see that most of them come from poor families, like most of us did "who are privileged today" at the time we were in medical school," Dr. Chansa said. "It is clear that their families are struggling to make ends meet and are sacrificing a great deal for the education of their children, whose education should be treasured as these are our future national heritage. These are sons and daughters of fellow doctors, nurses, teachers

and other civil servants, as well as unemployed Zambians and those struggling in business who have not seen adjustments in their incomes, and yet strive to offer meaningful

education to their children." Dr. Chansa has since called on the ministry of health to rescind its decision. "We should also remember that in our current developmental

agenda, we cannot afford to neglect education and only think of it as a preserve of the rich. We are duty bound to promote harmony and inclusive engagement. Lastly

as an Association we call upon other relevant Government agencies like the Business Regulatory Authority to assist in the formulation of policy on matters that affect the economic situation of the intended consumers of such policy. We are calling upon the Ministry of Health to withdraw the said memo and call for a meaningful stakeholder engagement as we seek the way forward," said Dr. Chansa.



President Lungu (right) with Permanent Secretaries and Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) National Coordinator Chanda Kabwe (second from left) shortly after the Cluster meeting at State House yesterday - Photo by Salim Henry

Being in the Opposition Alliance tarnished my image - Andyford

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda says he wasted a lot of time being in the Opposition Alliance when he would have attended to more important party matters. And Banda says it is disrespectful and demeaning for the Opposition Alliance to call his party as a cancer which needed to be amputated just to score political points when they knew very well that he was already in the process of leaving the group. Meanwhile Banda told News Diggers in an interview that he had intelligence information that

he was just being used by the alliance as the group is only serving the interest of one individual. "I think they were a cancer themselves. We were definitely half committed because the scoop of the formation of the alliance was not being followed. We realised later that the alliance started focusing on a lot of issues that had nothing to do with why it was formed. That made us a bit uncomfortable because it looked like we were meeting to discuss issues that had nothing to do with us and they had everything probably to do with one member of the alliance [whom] we will not mentioned

because we would like to move on from this episode," Banda said. He said a lot of alliance decisions were made without consulting other group leaders. "So we had difficulties in dealing with these issues especially in dealing with the alliance when we were not actually consulted for example the moving out of the ZCID. We just heard a press statement that 'the alliance has decided to pull out of ZCID,' and we were not consulted about those things. Then also a number of those issues have made us to stay away from the alliance but it was always difficult

for us to actually pull out because we wanted to find an appropriate time to pull out when we could actually do that in a mature manner without injuring any person in the alliance. So it was very unfortunate that our colleagues decided to issue a statement which we find very disrespectful because they called us an "infectious disease," Banda said. "They knew that we were not compromised and that we were going to leave on our own. They know the truth but because they want to sugar-coat statements in order to validate their points, that's where the problem is. But we are

very happy that we do not have to think about this alliance anymore and attend unnecessary meetings, or have that meeting in an hour's time. It looks like only one person was being consulted and the rest of us we had to comply. And for me I don't operate like that. And we think that the alliance didn't have a strategy, they didn't have an objective and they didn't have a plan and our brand was being tarnished for nothing," Banda said he could no be agreeing to everything for fear of being labelled negatively. "I think it will be very childish to validate statements just to score a political point, there is no place or evidence that they can show you to say that I was dealing with the PF. The point is that we have to be objective in everything that we are doing. We cannot just be agreeing because someone is going to label us like this. We can't deal with the PF, you read our articles that we write in the Diggers [and] there is no chance that we would be compromised. So it was actually quite premature on their side to do that. The other issue is that they never called us to say 'guys what is wrong with you? Why is it that you have not committed to the alliance?' and we could have discussed as brothers because we call each other as brothers and comrades. And we could have opened up and said 'we cannot continue to be part of this alliance and feel that we can focus on building our structures and that we will discuss in 2021 if need be depending on the political climate at that time.' So for them they just decided to go ahead," Banda explained. He said referring to his party as an infectious disease was

cheap politics which has backfired on the opposition. "I was actually in Zimbabwe and came back on Tuesday and on Wednesday that was when I learnt about that. But most of these guys in the alliance, we were communicating on WhatsApp. So they cannot have an excuse of saying they tried to call me because my WhatsApp was active. So we find the act of calling us as an infectious toe as demeaning and playing with the politics as usual. They were just trying to play with cheap politics which has backfired on them. And the issue of being compromised, we can't be compromised, we can't work with PF, it's not possible at all [and] even if the PF were to change their president, we can't work with the PF [because] the system is rotten. So we shall continue to push the party. It is clear that some people want change and it our caution to the people of Zambia on the need to be weary on what kind of change they need," he said. "Actually my time was wasted [during the alliance] because it seems like there were other hidden agendas that were hidden which we were not aware of. Our internal intelligence warned us that 'these guys were just trying to use you' but we wanted to be patient. We didn't want to rush the decision in order not to score political points. And whatever happened, it's not like we are going to miss out something. It is something that was coming even from our side. In fact when I was coming to the office yesterday, I even told the SG of the party that 'we need to sort out this thing of the alliance, we need to get out of it' even them they know the truth," Banda added.

Kaloba confining people to poverty, laments Nsenga chief

By Zindilikani Banda

Chieftainess Nyanje of the Nsenga people in Sinda has expressed worry over the level at which her subjects borrow money from lending institutions and individuals who claim interest. In interview, the traditional leader observed that unreasonable borrowing, commonly known as Kaloba, had brought misery and poverty among families. "We need to borrow money with sense but it's unfortunate that people don't weigh themselves when collecting money from people. You find that someone borrows K5,000, an amount which they can't pay

back because they are poor such that even borrowing them K1,000 still won't achieve anything. Surely, most people borrow money without a concrete purpose and at the end it attracts problems to them" she said. She said it was sad that some people even travelled to Mozambique to borrow money. "Some of these people even go to Mozambique to borrow money. I am told if you borrow K5,000 you have to pay back K10,000. Imagine! And they go ahead and when they are in trouble they come to me to help, how can I help when they crossed beyond their limit? It is sad that

people don't reason before borrowing and we are in problems because of such," Chieftainess Nyanje said. She appealed to money lenders to weigh people before lending them money to avoid causing problems. "I think even lenders are at fault because they are able to see the poverty some people have even the way they look and appear but they end up lending such people more money which they can't manage to pay back and at the end they take them to courts or police which is bad because some even if you take them wherever they won't manage to pay back because poverty is what they live on," said Chieftainess Nyanje.

Mwaliteta, four others sue State for false imprisonment

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka Province UPND Chairman Obvious Mwaliteta and four others have sued the State in the Lusaka High Court, seeking special damages of over K700,000 for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution on charges of aggravated robbery. Mwaliteta, Evans Mukobela, Mcmillan Shimukonka, Laswell Phiri and Emmanuel Mumbi who have sued the Attorney General, were acquitted in 2017 after High Court judge Mwape Bowa in a ruling on whether the five had a case to answer or not, found that there was insufficient evidence to place the accused persons on their defence. And in a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Thursday, the plaintiffs stated that they were wrongfully arrested on August 14, 2016 on aggravated robbery charges. "On or about August 14, 2016, the plaintiffs while at the Electoral Commission of Zambia offices in Longacres of Lusaka along Haile Selassie Avenue, were apprehended wrongfully and without reasonable and probable cause, on suspicion of having committed aggravated robbery and stealing a handbag and K350 cash altogether valued at K750. Further, stealing Blackberry mobile phone valued at K4,000 and

also stealing statements of the Announcement of Results (Gen Form 12) from ECZ agents," read the statement of claim. The plaintiffs added that they were falsely imprisoned for a year, from August 14, 2016 to August 8, 2017 and sustained loss and damage. They added that as the result of the false imprisonment, they had also suffered

pain, embarrassment, humiliation and injury. "Particulars of loss and damage; loss of their personal liberty from August 16, 2016 to August 8, 2017, inconvenience during the period of arrest, deteriorated health due to protracted period of incarceration, embarrassment, humiliation and damage to personal

reputation, business image and goodwill," read the statement of claim further. They are now seeking special damages in the combined form of K768,971, damages for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, aggravated and exemplary damages as well as, general damages, interest, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.



Technology firm ponders drone-delivered courier services in Zambia

By Thomas Mulenga

Global Air Media, a company specialised in drones, have announced their intention to set up a drones courier business in Zambia to ease the delivery of goods. US investor, Uno Umoh, who is co-founder of Global Air Media that is specialised in the drone business, said his company intended to set up a drones supply and service provision business in Zambia to ease the delivery of goods. "I know that sometimes there a lot of natural occurrences here in the rainy season that affects the roads. So, when you are able to use drones that can travel long distances

faster, that would help extensively in delivering goods. We have seen neighbouring countries like Rwanda use drones for blood transfusions. So, for instance, if you are a clinic, all you need is to send an SMS to the blood bank and within few minutes you can have the blood that you need for your patients!" Umoh revealed in an interview on the side-lines of a cocktail reception in honour of a visiting American business delegation at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka, Tuesday. "We want to explore investment opportunities in so many sectors in Zambia that include the mining, agriculture and the health sector. Very

soon, we'll start setting up the drones; we are meeting with our partners at the Civil Aviation Authority and other people from the private sector that have already explored the use of drones, but what will really help is the regulations. So we are hoping that the

regulations are passed so we can have a license that can operate in Zambia safely and officially." During the cocktail event, U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote told stakeholders that in order for local businesses to grow and thrive in

the country, there was need for predictable economic policies. The US Envoy noted that while the country remained stable, there was still much work to be done to attract large, divergent sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

They also told Sata his mouth was a problem - Kambwili

By Thomas Mulenga

National Democratic Congress leader Chishimba Kambwili says those who used to tell PF founder leader Michael Sata that he would never be president because his mouth was a problem are today acting more PF than original members. Speaking on Radio Phoenix breakfast show via phone, Thursday, Kambwili said those who thought he would never be president would be shocked. "The same people what they are saying is what they used to tell Mr Sata; Mr Sata will not go anywhere, he is a problem, he is arrogant, his mouth is his problem. Today the same people have come to PF, to behave like they are more PF than people who formed PF," Kambwili said. He said Sata appreciated his mobilization skills. "I was first Copperbelt Provincial

chairman, I was national youth chairman and Mr Sata used to say if I had five people like Kambwili, PF could have formed government, Mr Sata had so much confidence in me that I was a good organizer," Kambwili said. And Kambwili insisted that State House instructed Speaker of National Assembly Patrick Matibini to declare his seat vacant. "You can see that that's manipulation because I already had intelligence information that there was a meeting at state house at which the speaker was told that he should do it at all cost, despite the fact that he did indicate to them that that was going to be illegal. But anyway, it's water under the bridge and like I said, I am not interested in going to fight this matter in court anymore. In my language they say 'Umwaiche nga alomba isembe, mupeni limukome' (If a child asks

for an axe, give it to him so that it hurts him). The child has insisted that he wants an axe, so let's give the child an axe!" Kambwili said. Meanwhile, Kambwili said suspended NDC Secretary General Mwenya Musenge sold him for a few coins just like Jesus Christ was sold by one of his disciples. "My relationship with Mwenya Musenge has always been very cordial and even what he did came to me as a very big surprise. But you know, money is the source of all evil so I can't blame him, even Jesus Christ was sold off by his own disciple for few coins," Kambwili said. When asked about his next political move, Kambwili said he would announce his political direction in few days. "That is the story for another day, I will announce my political direction in the next few days to come," said Kambwili.

Nothing strange about my transfer - Kamanga

By Thomas Mulenga

President Edgar Lungu has transferred Northern Province Permanent Secretary Elias Kamanga

to Lusaka, swapping him with Charles Sipanje. In an interview, Wednesday, Kamanga confirmed his transfer to Lusaka, saying was nothing extra ordinary about it. "For me I know that for us as civil servants, we must be ready to serve wherever our services are required and I have served in the Northern Province with the passion that is required, I was so passionate about this place, I still love it. However, the authorities feel that my services are now required in Lusaka and my job is to oblige. I have undertaken to serve anywhere where my services will be required, so for me there is nothing extraordinary about the movement, as civil servants we move from one station to the other," Kamanga said. "I have already started working, I was in Lusaka the whole lot of last week. I only came back to Northern Province over the weekend to hand over to the New PS. And now I have to deal with the challenges of Lusaka, being the capital city of this country and obviously you know there are a lot challenges in Lusaka but with

my experience as deputy PS, PS for Copperbelt, and Northern Province, will be sufficient to give me the impetus to confront those challenges," Kamanga said. And speaking during the handover ceremony at the Provincial Administration in Kasama, Monday, Sipanje pledged to continue with where Kamanga left, promising to follow up on investment pledges made by investors during the expo that was held in the province last November. "I am looking forward to working with all of you. I would want to thank the leadership of Provincial minister Honourable Brian Mundubile and PS Elias Kamanga for having put Northern Province on the World map, I think they deserve to be commended. Having come also from a background of a business man from the private sector, I want to assure PS Kamanga that I will follow up on all those investment pledges, that's the reason why I have said I am very excited because the expo that was held here was a marvel, you did a very good job," said Sipanje.

Amos Chanda vows to continue giving a piece of his mind to opposition leaders

By Thomas Mulenga

President Edgar Lungu's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations, Amos Chanda says he will continue exchanging words with his critics, rubbing advice that he should tone down on confrontations with opposition political party leaders. Speaking when he addressed the Zambia Public Relations Association conference in Livingston, Thursday, Chanda said some people were lecturing him to avoid responding to accusations from critics such as ADD President Charles Milupi. And Chanda also wondered whether some workers at ZICTA were conniving with people who were committing cyber crimes, as the authority had not taken action against the suspects despite having the capacity to do so. Earlier this week, Milupi accused Chanda of being among State House officials who instigated violence in the just ended Sesheke by-election, but in denying his involvement, the President's spokesperson said the opposition leader was a lunatic who needed psychiatric attention - a comment which caused mixed public reactions. "So I have gotten the whole week being lectured that I can't talk to Milupi in that manner, that he is an old man. Excuse me, what about a twelve year old daughter who asks me why I am a [being called] criminal suspect? They say no... because where he went to church, some people were asking him 'how can that young man Amos Chanda call you a lunatic? Now, you are PR experts and I will repeat this and it can last the whole last time; if Milupi saw me in Sesheke where I was not, tell me the description of that state of mind? If he insists that he saw me, he is seeing ghosts isn't it? What state of mind is that? If he heard me speak to somebody, if you hear voices when people aren't speaking, what state of mind is that? So the reason why they are saying don't answer, is to perpetuate that falsehood," Chanda said. "And what are the reactions that I am getting? That 'no, you can't answer to this, you are presidential spokesperson' give me a break!



there is Amos Chanda the person, a parent, friend of somebody, an uncle to somebody. If I am going to walk into the living room and a twelve year old daughter is going to ask me why I am a criminal suspect, somebody must [also] answer before their son, why they are a lunatic, it's a fair game!" Chanda said some desperate Politicians who were being praised by rogue online media institutions were the ones influencing the spread of fake news. "There is a political party that enjoys sympathy of most rogue websites and that's not a political party of the President I represent, I think that he is not praised on rogue websites so I will leave that one for another day. So who influences fake news? It's desperate politicians, people with personal grudges, compromised media houses, media personalities on a political agenda, media houses with a grudge against political parties, international agencies with an interest. I was dealing with social cash transfer myself, personally I was assigned to do that and newspapers who could just walk to the British High Commission and DFID or go to the Swiss, or go the Americans and ask 'there is a tweet that the western donors have frozen aid' go and ask the Swedish ambassador, he says no but he continued to print that story. That is not quoting the British High Commissioner, it's you as newspaper that is propagating fake news," Chanda said. And Chanda wondered whether

some workers at ZICTA were conniving with people who were committing cybercrime as the authority had not taken action against the suspects despite

having the capacity to do so. He however said government would soon crackdown on people who hide in the cyberspace to spread false news as minister

of Home Affairs Steven Kampyongo had told him that his ministry and the ministry of Communication and Transport, had finished constituting a special team to deal with cybercrime. "So Police, ZICTA and all regulators have no excuse and what pains me is this information I have that the capability within ZICTA is there to get these people. When it really matters and we want to get them, we have told ZICTA to find them and they have found them. So is there collusion between these mischief makers and some individuals in these organisations? We are forced to ask these questions but the good news is; as I was coming Honourable Kampyongo called me and said I should say this that he and Honourable Brian Mushimba have completed the

constituting of a special team that will live in the dark spot where these criminals are living and they will have no hiding place. They will be trained in the same way that these people are trained. If for a moment we are going to sacrifice freedom for order, we are going to do that," said Chanda. "So the days for anonymous cyber space are over, the days of comfort that you won't be seen are over and of course there will be some irritations here, there, there will be some noise about our dissent on freedom, I do not advocate for a moment that the open democratic space available, necessary for the success of our democracy must be narrowed or squeezed, no! The point I made was that freedom without responsibility is dangerous."

We've no power to stop hippo culling, says Tourism PS

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Ministry of Tourism and Arts Permanent Secretary Rev Howard Sikwela says the planned hippo culling exercise on the Luangwa Valley of Eastern Province slated for May this year, will proceed because his Ministry has no powers at this stage to overrule that decision. And US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote says government's move to start hippo culling will make it impossible to attract American visits as most of the tourists will opt to go to other countries. According to a statement issued by Ministry of Tourism and Arts Public Relations Officer, Sakabilo Kalembwe, Thursday, Rev Sikwela was speaking during a meeting held at his office with Ambassador Foote. Rev Sikwela said his Ministry had no powers at this stage to overrule the decision on the

planned hippo culling due to contractual obligations. "My institution concerted to the cull because of the challenges of hippo carrying capacity of the Luangwa River Ecosystem and contractual obligations that were already undertaken," he said. And Rev Sikwela added that government appreciated the support of the US Embassy

to the growth of the tourism sector especially in the South Luangwa National Park where an estimated number of 40,000 American tourist visits contributed around US\$37 million, each year. However, Ambassador Foote said he wished there could be an alternative solution to the cull. He said America remained

number one tourist source market to the South Luangwa, adding that it would be sad that the tourists would opt to go to other countries because of the negative perception created by the undertaking. The ambassador however added that he was not there to tell Zambians what to do about their wildlife resources.

Inflation marginally drops to 7.8%

By Stuart Lisulo

The annual rate of inflation reduced to 7.8 per cent for February, 2019, with food and non-alcoholic beverages accounting for 4.1 per cent, according to Central Statistical Office (CSO) data. Announcing Zambia's annual rate of inflation for the month of February, CSO acting director of census and statistics Iven Sikanyiti said food items and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 4.1 per cent, while non-food items accounted for 3.7 per cent. Sikanyiti noted that transportation contributed the highest non-food item on a year-on-year comparison between February, 2018, and February, 2019 of 1.2 percentage points followed by housing, water and electricity, among others. "The year-on-year inflation rate as measured by the

all items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for February, 2019, decreased to 7.8 per cent from 7.9 per cent in January, 2019. This means that on average, prices of goods and services increased by 7.8 per cent between February, 2018, and February, 2019," Sikanyiti told journalists in Lusaka, Thursday. "Of the total 7.8 per cent annual inflation rate recorded in February, 2019, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 4.1 percentage points, while non-food items accounted for a total of 3.7 percentage points. Of the 3.7 percentage points, transport contributed the highest at 1.2 percentage point followed by housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels that contributed 0.9. Health; communication and; restaurant and hotels accounted for the least at 0.0 percentage points each."

News Diggers! Ear to the ground

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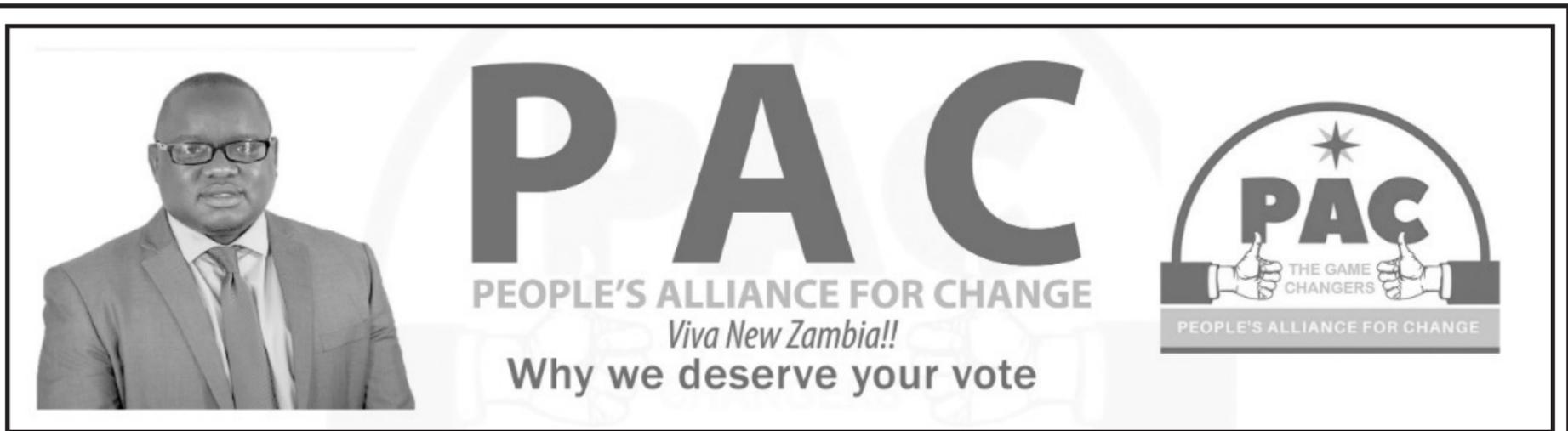
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Why we couldn't work with Alliance partners

Press Statement

Press briefing held on 28th February 2019 at
Premier Consult by PAC President ANDYFORD
BANDA

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, PAC executives and members, our colleagues from the media and all invited guests, on behalf of the People's Alliance for Change (PAC), we are grateful that you have taken time to come and attend this press conference.

1. In as much as we shall touch a few issues that concern us as a party, we shall mainly focus this press briefing in highlighting our dealings with our former colleagues in the opposition alliance.

2. Ladies and gentlemen, in order to understand this properly, we must understand why we mistakenly got involved in the opposition alliance.

3. The opposition alliance was formed with the sole purpose of working together on matters of common interest. These included mainly issues that are supposed to be tackled through the long awaited national dialogue.

4. These issues include matters to do with the electoral reforms, public order act, constitutional reforms etc.

5. Matters that affect all of us as members of the opposition. When we were co-opted, we didn't discuss fielding a sole presidential candidate in 2021. We didn't agree that we will be having meetings every other day to discuss matters that affect one alliance member. We didn't discuss that we must stop participating in by elections hence we were within our rights to participate in the Sesheke by-election.

6. A week or also after our initial meeting in December 2018, while I was away outside the country, I saw media statements attributed to an alliance member that the alliance had resolved to field one presidential candidate in the 2021 General Elections. We didn't say anything, we just told ourselves that we needed to be careful with how we dealt with the alliance.

7. Later we noticed that the opposition alliance started dealing with issues that were very much outside the scope of the formation. It is at that point that we knew that we were about to be used by some people for very personal agendas. The alliance started dealing with too many issues and we were slowly becoming one political party. The biggest issue is that most of these issues had nothing to do with PAC and nothing to do with issues of common interest hence you may have noticed that we stopped attending those press briefings.

8. Yes we became half committed and the predicament was, how do we get out in a mature manner without actually tarnishing anyone's image.

9. I personally do enjoy a cordial relationship with the media and I did consult some of you to give me advice on how best we can come out in a mature manner **without** playing the usual politics similar to what our colleagues in the alliance have done by referring to us as 'an infectious sore.'

10. We have always respected everyone hence our purpose was to work towards a mutually agreed separation, probably through a joint statement.

11. In yesterdays' statement, issued by our colleagues, it was insinuated that we had become infectious hence they needed to amputate us. There was also a further lie that we had become compromised hence they started to play a fast one on us.

12. Members of the press, and everyone listening live on radio as a party we shall not play to the gallery of trying to win cheap political scores but we shall be mature and say things as they are.

13. As we have mentioned the alliance started focusing on issues that had nothing to do with the formation of the alliance and issues that clearly seemed to be an agenda to push the interest of one alliance member. This you can attest from the statements and media briefs that you have been bombarded with in recent times.

14. The alliance was not truthful in saying that we had become infectious but they should have told you that we were half committed. This is the truth.

15. We were half committed because we felt the alliance had no strategy, there was a serious lack of planning, no clear timetable, meetings and press briefings were called an hour or two hours prior, sometimes even on the same day, when we have other things to do. The alliance lacked purpose, focus and objectivity in its dealings. It was clear our brand as a party with brand new politics was being threatened. We started slowly looking like we had been bought and we were pushing one agenda.

16. At one point I was asked to fly to South Africa with only a days notice, with some alliance leaders to see Mr. Mulongoti in hospital - I would like to wish him a quick recovery. It seemed like a scheme to hoodwink hungry politicians, which we are not.

17. Ladies and gentlemen, here lies our problems with the alliance.

18. So therefore, it must be noted that as PAC we are not surprised by the behaviour and the subsequent announcement of our exit from the alliance. We are not surprised because from the onset we knew and expected that this initiative would become a contest of egos. We are however relieved by the shameful behaviour and announcement by our colleagues. As PAC we are at peace with reality and we will continue to pursue an agenda that benefits the public. While we cannot contest a decision by the Alliance, we will respond to their demeaning statement which was issued by

their spokesperson.

19. The alliance refers to us as an infected toe [please refer to their statement to their statement]. As PAC we believe that any meaningful collaboration or alliance should be built on mutual respect. This reference exposes the spirit in which this alliance was founded on and has continued to operate on. If PAC was just a toe in the alliance then one wonders which political party is the heart and which one is the head. We entered into the alliance with a pure and clear conscience and respect for all the alliance members even though some alliance members are just WhatsApp based political parties. As PAC we have not just moved from radio station to another but we have visited every corner of this country and contested elections. This did not in any way inspire us to disrespect some of the alliance members who have never stepped out of Lusaka or contested any election. It is our firm belief that for any union to stand the test of time, the involved parties must respect each other and consider each other as equal players.

20. The alliance also implied that we were not a credible political party. We may need to remind the alliance partners that as PAC we do not get our credibility by abandoning our own vision for the country to champion an individual's agenda. If the alliance thought or assumed that we were a party that could be swallowed in by any individual or political party, they were wrong and they continue to be wrong. We are a party that was founded on firm beliefs and convictions which we cannot abandon just for us to be appealing to any single individual or party.

21. It is unfortunate that the Opposition Alliance has chosen to 'amputate' PAC from the alliance for reasons that have been subtly alluded to as '.....compromising themselves through being used by the oppressors to undermine the aspirations and existence of the alliance.' What is most unfortunate is the manner in which the matter has been dealt with. There has been no communication from the so called alliance to suggest any problems; nor has there been any disagreement to warrant this. However, this melodramatic behavior appears to stem from the fact that PAC does not agree with some of the antics of the alliance and where PAC is in disagreement, it has chosen to keep quiet or stay away from making rushed decisions.

22. Having said that, PAC holds no grudges and within the limitation of our resources, we shall continue to reach out to Zambians with our message of promise and hope. We are young, we may be wet behind the ears, but we stand for truth. We do not have experience - totally agreed.

23. To the alliance, we say all the best. God bless and we respect your decision. We are thankful for whatever work we did together for the betterment of the Zambian populace. For whatever flaws we had, we pray our 'amputation' has fixed this.

Mwila invites applications for Roan seat

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says Chishimba Kambwili wasted a lot of time by clinging on to the Roan seat.

And Mwila says party members should focus on mobilizing the party instead of fighting over bus stations because that is not the only work they are supposed to do. Speaking when he addressed party officials at Nakatindi Hall in Lusaka, Thursday, Mwila invited applications from people who wanted to be adopted on the PF ticket.

"We are very much ready to go into Roan as a party and I want to say that tomorrow we are going to put up an advert, all those who want to stand on our ticket, they can apply

starting from tomorrow. Our brothers wasted our time. Chishimba Kambwili there is no way you can be doing double dealings. You might not know what will kill you if you keep on holding on to two things. Just like the way [Harry] Kalaba went, you should have left in the same way, now unless you are dragged until a point where you go with no respect because that is what he wanted," Mwila said.

And Mwila said party members should focus on mobilizing the party instead of fighting over bus stations.

"The President has directed us that we have to start mobilizing the party [and] the people who are in the fore front of mobilizing the party

are the constituencies, the wards, and the branches and that's the more reason I invited the branch chairmen so that they can listen for themselves. Elections are behind us now [and] time has come for us to forget about them. Our work now is to form branches. If

we can have many branches, we are going to do better in 2021. Mobilizing the party is very cardinal, not just fighting for stations and markets, that's not the job you were elected for, that's a by-the-way [thing]," said Mwila.

"I thought I should talk

about that issue because you like talking about markets, bus stations as if that's the only work you are supposed to do. Go in the township and mobilize the people the way Jesus Christ did with his disciples. Time is not with us. We want unity and discipline.

In any organizational institution, if there is no discipline nothing goes well."

Mwila also announced the Lusaka Province interim executive committee to be headed by member of the central committee, Paul Moonga.

GMOs safe for consumption - Health Minister

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) food stuffs have been found not to affect the health of human organs following their consumption.

Explaining the findings of studies undertaken into GMO consumption in Parliament, Thursday, Dr Chilufya told MPs that GMO food stuffs were safe for consumption.

He was speaking when responding to a written question from Kabwe Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube on whether the ban on the importation of GMOs was still in effect, and if so, why supermarkets in Lusaka had continued to import such products.

Ngulube further asked the Minister what measures government was taking to curb the illegal importation of GMO food stuffs, and what health hazards GMO food products had on people who consumed them.

But Dr Chilufya explained that government had actually lifted the ban on the importation of GMO food stuffs, and that supermarkets were already stocking them on their shelves but in accordance with the provisions of the Biosafety Act.

"Supermarkets in Lusaka have continued to import GMO products in accordance with the provisions of the Bio-Safety Act No. (10) of 2007. Government has put the following measures to curb the illegal importation of GMO food stuffs; Enactment of the Bio-Safety Act No. (10) of 2007, which has established the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) as a statutory body responsible for the regulation of all activities related to GMOs; enhanced collaboration between the National Biosafety Authority and other government agencies, such as the Department responsible for public health in the Ministry of Health and the Department responsible for veterinary services under the Ministry of Livestock and Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that the provisions of the Act are implemented," Dr Chilufya told Parliament.

"All imported products are subjected to a risk assessment to ascertain their safety to humans and animals and the environment; routine inspections are carried out and products that do not adhere to the provisions of the Biosafety Act are confiscated, and several studies have been made on the safety of GMOs in human consumption [and] these studies have found organ health and function to be unaffected by GMOs [such as] fertility, pregnancy and offspring are also unaffected by the consumption of GMOs."

He said the ban on importation was necessitated because Zambia did not have the capacity to handle GMOs.

"The ban on Genetically Modified Organisms is no longer in effect. The House may wish to note that the ban GMOs was effected because Zambia did not have the capacity to handle GMOs due to lack of qualified human resource and appropriate infrastructure as well as absence of policy and legal framework to guide the use and application of modern bio-technology. Government made strides in putting in place the bio-technology and bio-safety policy of 2003 as well as by enacting the bio-safety Act (10) of 2007 and the subsequent establishment of the National bio-safety Authority," said Dr Chilufya.



Inspector General of Police leading other officers in charity work after he made a donation of assorted food stuff to Living Hope Foundation in Roma township yesterday ahead of the Police Day to be held on March 4, 2019 under the theme; Police and the community working together to promote public order and safety to a smart and prosperous Zambia - picture by Mwape Kasote

ERB cut fuel prices by an average K1

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has announced the reduction of fuel prices from K16.06 to K15.20 on Petrol, K14.65 to K13.34 on Diesel and K16.94 to K15.72 Low Sulphur Diesel, effective midnight tonight.

ERB adds that the reduction is due to reduced movements in the international oil prices and the exchange rate between the Kwacha and US Dollar.

In a statement issued, Thursday, ERB Board Chairman Ratmond Mpundu stated that the new prices were to take effect midnight and failure by retailers to effect these changes would attract regulatory sanctions.

"Approved retail pump prices; Petrol was 16.06, new [price] 15.20, variance 0.86. Diesel was 14.65, new 13.43, variance 1.22. Low Sulphur Gasoil (LSG) 16.94, new 15.72, variance 1.22. The new prices are to take effect today (yesterday) February 28, at midnight," he stated.

"Following this reduction in prices, retailers of petroleum products are reminded that failure to effect these changes shall attract regulatory sanctions. Our inspectors shall therefore be dispatched to monitor service stations and ensure that the new

prices are implemented timely so that consumers are not taken advantage of. Further consumers are advised to report any service station that fails to implement the price reduction timely to the ERB through the Toll Free Line 8484."

Mpundu stated that the price reduction had been largely influenced by movements in international oil prices, the exchange rate between the Kwacha and US Dollar and recent amendments to the Customs and Excise Act. He added that ERB had reviewed the wholesale and pump prices of fuel for the most recently imported cargo of petroleum feedstock and finished petroleum products and determined that a reduction be made.

"This adjustment of pump prices is consistent with government policy to review fuel prices of every cargo, which lasts about 60 days taking into account changes in the economic fundamentals at any one given time. This price reduction based on a review of; (i) The 100,689 metric tonnes of petroleum feedstock cargo imported in January 2019 at a cost of US\$69.51 million. (ii) Imported finished petroleum products supplied to government

comprising, 28,221m3 of petrol and 70,493.50m3 of Low Sulphur Gasoil at a total cost of US\$62.91 million," Mpundu stated.

He noted that after the price adjustment in October 2018, international oil prices significantly dropped while the Kwacha continued to depreciate steadily to around K12/US\$.

Mpundu stated that the sustained

depreciation of the Kwacha implied that the possible gains from reduced international oil prices had been slightly negated.

He noted that while prices of petroleum products were consistently reviewed in 2018, there were only two price adjustments made upwards in February and October 2018, respectively.

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FOR CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Elias Muleya of plot No 2644/610 Elaine Britell Livingstone intends to apply for a certified true copy of the document described in the Schedule hereto.

THE SCHEDULE

- 1.0 Certificate of title deed in respect of property No. 2644/610 Elaine Britell under the names Elias Muleya
- 2.0 All persons having any objections to the said document are required to lodge the same in writing with the Registry of Deeds Livingstone City Council within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Dated at Livingstone this 16th January, 2019

Petronella Pule Kaungu
COUNCIL REGISTRAR
LIVINGSTONE CITY COUNCIL

Losing soccer to win bets, the criminality under FAZ

The revelation that FIFA has handed a life ban on Mr Boniface Mwamelo, the former FAZ treasurer and vice-president after being found guilty of colluding with international match fixers to deliberately let Zambia lose a football match so that they could make millions from betting, has left us speechless.

This new, thrilling bribery scandal exhumed from the Football Association of Zambia involving the past executive is shocking in many ways. We cannot understand how a Zambian citizen, granted a rare privilege of serving in the soccer administration of the country, could deliberately give instruction to national team players to go and lose games at an international tournament, for personal enrichment.

How evil does one have to be: watching your fellow citizens gather around televisions sets, cheering a national team that you instructed to go and lose? This is the worst betrayal that anyone can ever imagine! So, when Zambians were complaining about the wastage of money on a poorly-performing Chipolopolo, someone in FAZ was getting rich from the tears of soccer fans? This is unbelievable!

We appreciate that Mr Mwamelo, a highly respected accountant in this country, denies all the charges, but we feel our readers deserve to look at the facts contained in the e-mail correspondence between him and the match fixers, as exposed by the FIFA investigators.

Facts are that on June, 2010, an international match fixing organization represented by an agent called Mr Wilson Raj Perumal, approached Mr Mwamelo and asked him to assemble a national team squad that could take part in the 2010 Cairo Olympics Tournament in Egypt. And Mr Mwamelo confirmed

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Ear to the ground

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that he had discussed the matter with his FAZ colleagues and an Under-23 team was selected.

FAZ official (Mwamelo): "I have also ensured that the players who have been picked are only those who will listen to orders."

Match fixer (Perumal): "If as agreed, you and your team give us your total co-operation, you and your team stand to go home with US \$100,000 (about K1.2 million)."

FAZ official: I have done my work diligently by picking boys who will listen to orders. I had to do it discreetly because such schemes are illegal in Zambia and if caught, it's a life sentence in jail! This was the most difficult part, which I have managed to sort out.

In July, 2010, Mr Perumal demanded for a breakdown of costs for the national team on a FAZ letterhead, signed by the FAZ general secretary in order for the match fixing company to release the funds. The match fixer told Mr Mwamelo that if he wanted, he could go to Cairo and pocket the money in the

absence of FAZ paperwork, which secret would remain between the two of them. Mr Mwamelo even demanded for the agreed US \$5,000 down payment.

But as fate would have it, the Under-23 national team boys were determined to go to Cairo and bring glory to mother Zambia, and they devotedly outplayed Cameroon and won the game – a result which went contrary to the wishes of the match fixers who apparently betted on the prospects that Zambia would lose the game.

On July 28, 2010, Mr Perumal initiated correspondence in which he was breathing fire on the FAZ official for sending a winning team to the Olympics Tournament, contrary to their agreement.

Match fixer: "Our agreement was that you have to bring players who are ready to work and listen to instructions. I get info from my people that this team is dying to win every much of the tournament. This is not what you promised me. You told me you would handpick players who will work with

me. I am not a holiday provider; I bring teams here to make money. And because of your negligence, I lost lots of money! If you can bring me six or seven boys who are ready to do business, we can work on something."

FAZ official: "This is unfair! The four boys I worked with played according to instructions, but the Cameroon team was just too poor, they could not even beat a schoolboy team. Even with the help they had from the referees, they still could not beat a team, which had boys who were tired from a long journey. I did my part and my understanding is that it did not work out due to circumstances beyond my control."

Sadly, the four unidentified Zambian players were dropped from future international games because they played terribly in Egypt, thereby ending their careers in a scheme, which did not earn them any money, as Mr Mwamelo confirmed.

FAZ official: "Two of the four players suspect that I was given the money and I pocketed. I am humbly

requesting if you can send me something to give them so that they keep quiet. My fear is that if they continue grumbling, the stories will leak out and I will be in similar situation like the officials of the Zimbabwe Football Federation. In future, I promise, we will be better organized."

This was the actual wording of the e-mail correspondence between our FAZ official and the international criminals who wanted to make money out of the poverty-stricken Chipolopolo boys. Citizens would be consoled if a FAZ official was making money from match fixing that was resulting in victory for Chipolopolo. But getting angry with our players for winning a game, which they were instructed to lose, is dumbfounding!

We understand Mr Mwamelo is appealing against this FIFA judgement. But until it is overturned, we have some questions. How heartless can someone be? Zambian soccer lovers and taxpayers are complaining of losing money through national team sponsorship,

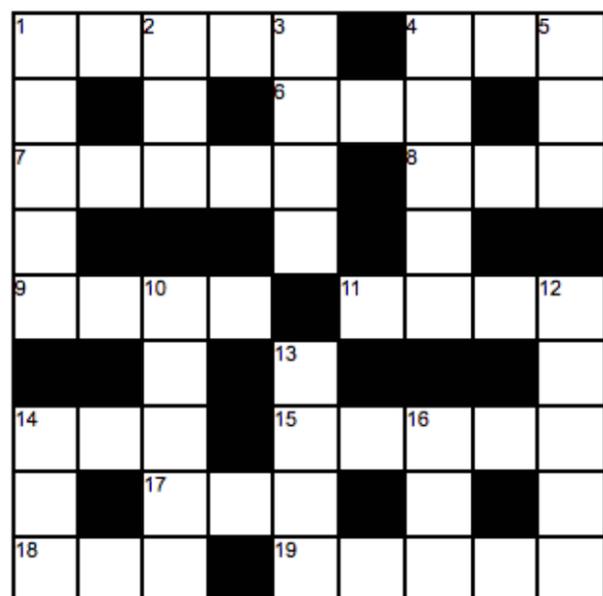
not knowing that some officials at FAZ are eager to reap from the loss that we suffer! This is just one exposed case, how many such match fixing scandals are yet to be exposed? What else has been happening at FAZ that we don't know about yet?

Our suspicion actually is that Zambia probably won that game against Cameroon because another match fixer paid the Chipolopolo opponents even more money to lose the game. So, it must have been a race to the bottom. There is a serious rot in FAZ that needs to be fixed. These people who are being exposed who served under Kalusha Bwalya's administration are not the only culprits of corruption. We have a strong feeling that the revelations of what is currently going on in the Andrew Kamanga-led executive regarding abuse of power and misappropriation of funds will be even worse.

What is stunning in this whole corruption and bribery matrix is that our Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is failing to pin down a single FAZ official for these crimes! How can this huge investigation take place for two years and our ACC is not aware? What kind of links and connections does this ACC have? This is really embarrassing, and an indictment in our law enforcers.

As for the soccer fans, next time Chipolopolo loses, they must think twice before shedding a tear. Our boys are being paid to lose, not to win. What a shame!

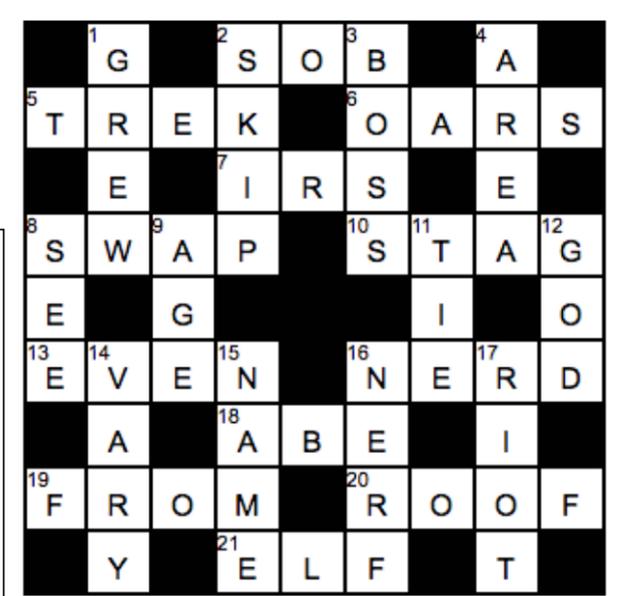
Crossword puzzle 304



"The grass is not 'greener' on the other side – it is just another shade of green."
- Annika Sorensen

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circus comedian 4. Silent approval 6. Ram's mate 7. Let happen 8. Shake, as a tail 9. Brain section 11. Cultivate 14. Feline sign 15. Big 17. In debt 18. Join together 19. Bread variety | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swimming stroke 2. Hooting bird 3. Info 4. More recent 5. Canine 10. Drac snack 12. One of the 5 W's 13. Had flown 14. Down in the dumps 16. French monarch |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 303



Reader's feedback

Dr. Sishuwa's analysis on real reasons Luo withdrew students' meal allowances

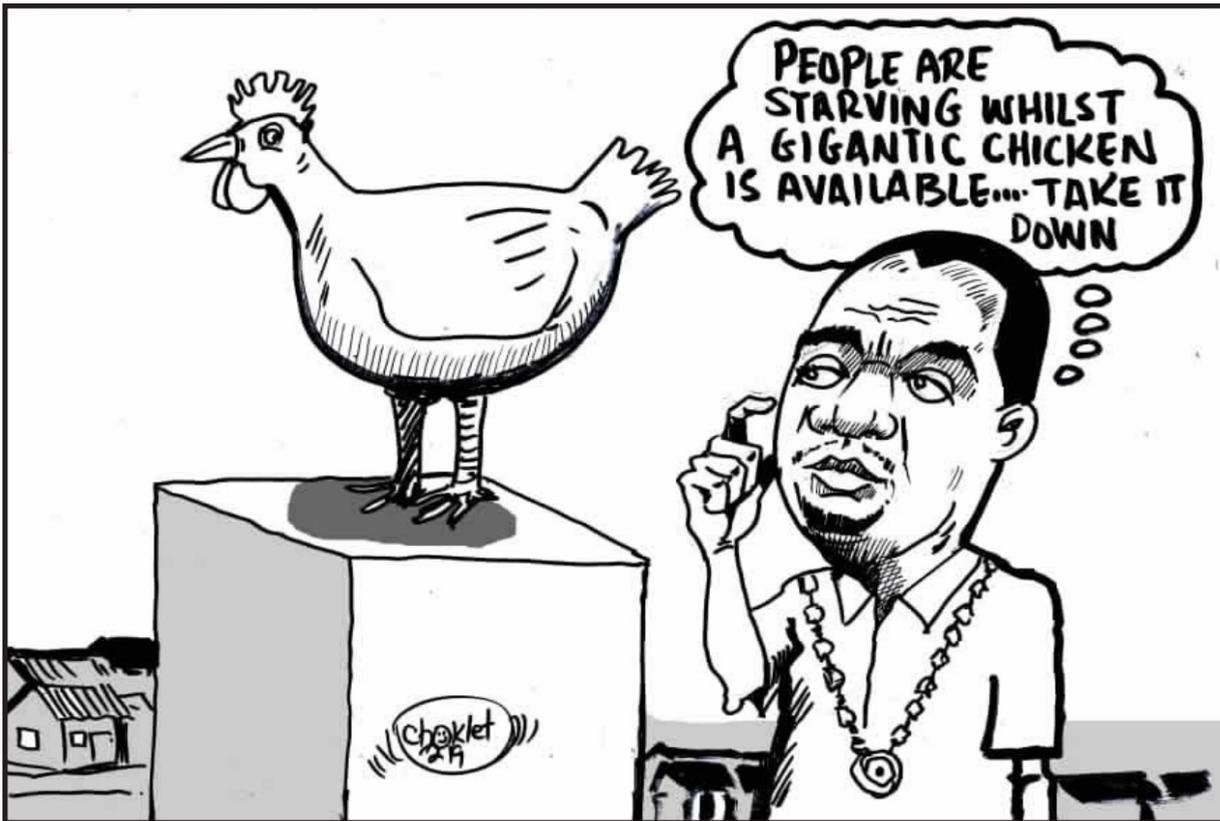
Editor,
 "Great article from someone who sat in class and came out a Doctor of substance! Thanks, Dr Sishuwa!" - Mwaba Chibale Kataya

"Great article! She is the modern queen Antoinette of 'let them eat cake!'" - Andrew Sakala

"Well analysed & articulated! Hon Luo was surely not being truthful! If our public resources can be unnecessarily looted & exorbitant sojourns undertaken for a defunct cause, how about the mere TRUTH? They are even stealing the truth from us!" - Aandrew Nonde

"When citizens choose ignorance over information and knowledge, when they sit or sleep on their rights, when they abdicate responsibility to hold the rulers accountable, when university students who are supposed to be the vanguard of resistance

to the excesses of those who wield power recoil and withdraw into their cocoons of hopelessness and powerlessness, then society incubates disaster! And when those in the know endeavour to digest and articulate issues for us, to help us understand what is at stake, to help us make the right decisions regarding the fate of the motherland, all we hear are voices from some citizens who loudly proclaim the status quo must continue. If this is not disaster, then I do not know what else to call it." - Kanyata Mubita



'Diggers' move not to blackout Petersen commendable!

Dear Editor,
 "WOW! News Diggers! are professional

journalists. Good work and analysis of that issue; continue with the same spirit!" - Shadreck Yoram SY

"Thanks for taking this position. The media in Zambia needs to reflect on this transport refund thing. When you organise events and you don't pay transport refund for most media houses that's the end of your story! This normally has to do with the journalist who covered the event. You need to be a politician to be covered without paying for transport refund. Instead of getting upset, the media needs to address this issue within the industry. When media personnel have asked me for transport refund, I have always wondered whether the money I have to pay influences the way my event is covered. Please don't blackout Petersen, but sort out this cancer, it's not good for the development of the media in Zambia." - Martin Kapenda

Tourism Minister on Sesheke cops being fired for putting Lungu's life in danger

Editor,
 "That's the highest madness I have ever seen in this world! How can Edgar Lungu's life be in danger when the PF and UPND camp were 40Km apart?" - Himbula Munamonga
 "He lies as if this country is a nursery school, shame!" - Wisdom Hang'andu
 "Total confusion! That's what happens when fear grips people; they make a lot of mistakes. Just reinstate the four!" - Noah Chizinga
 "Very soon, you will hear someone say they were fired because they were putting on UPND regalia!" - Comrades Gladson Sinzala
 Harrison Muolice officers in Sesheke, no concrete reason."

Maj Kachingwe on HH's 'betrayal'

"After the Rwandan genocide, many people were caught by surprise when their close relatives were cited for committing atrocities they thought they were not capable of. You can't know what your grown-up children can do. If they're suspects, let them clear their name." - Lubasi Lubasi

"Kachingwe has short memory. The people he wants to be supporting today are the ones that beat him to the point of undressing him!" - Mwambwa Kwikoshi

"I think there is more to this, sir. You have cried a lot. What is really a problem? Is it still about your son or what? Or some invisible hands are sponsoring to be making noise...?" - James Phiri

"Get a life, major! Is your son not old enough to sort out his own mess?" - Emelda Litana

"Actions speak louder than words! Why have you opted to sever your ties just after one-off incident? Simply put: you were already on your way out, but just waiting for an incident to use as a scapegoat! Otherwise, good riddance as we are reliably informed that you were a mole!" - Chiundule Wansimbi

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.

"EVERY time I read a Diggers' opinion, I fall in love with this publication. Thank God for you guys. You are indeed a breath of fresh air. Keep it up." - Kapangala Masangala

"Well articulated. Good counsel to Petersen and other journalists and, indeed, an eye opener to those of us who are not journalists on what journalists go through." - Sylvester Chongo

"News Diggers! nothing more/less than that!! You've nailed it." - Chilambwe Muselu

Rise in net migration from outside EU

Net migration to the UK from countries outside the European Union has hit its highest level for 15 years, says the Office for National Statistics.

Figures show 261,000 more non-EU citizens came to the UK than left in the year ending September 2018 - the highest since 2004.

In contrast, net migration from EU countries has continued to fall to a level last seen in 2009.

The figures are the last set before the UK is due to leave the EU next month.

In December, the

prime minister said the government was sticking to its longstanding ambition to bring net migration down to the "tens of thousands".

In the year to September, a total of 627,000 people moved to the UK and 345,000 people left the UK - a net migration of 283,000.

Jay Lindop, director of the Centre for International Migration at the ONS, said: "Decisions to migrate are complex and a person's decision to move to or from the UK will always be influenced by a range

of factors, including work, study and family reasons.

"Different patterns for EU and non-EU migration have emerged since mid-2016, when the EU referendum vote took place."

Overall, net migration, immigration and emigration figures have remained broadly stable since the end of 2016, the ONS said.

The report also showed: More citizens from Central and Eastern European countries known as the EU8 - which includes Poland,

Slovakia and Lithuania - are leaving the UK than arriving. This pattern differs from all other EU countries



The number of people

coming to the UK for work has fallen to its lowest level since 2014 - this follows a fall in the number of EU citizens arriving to work

More people are coming to the UK to study, with non-EU student immigration at its highest level since 2011. **BBC**

Cancer death racial gap narrows, but still higher for blacks

The black-white disparity is narrowing for lung, prostate and colorectal cancer and has stabilized since 2010 for breast cancer, experts say.

For a long time, blacks have died of cancer at higher rates than other Americans. But a new report says the gap is narrowing.

Nearly 30 years ago, black men had a 47 higher cancer death rate than white men, says an American Cancer Society report released on Thursday. Now it's 19 percent higher. Black women had a 19

percent greater cancer death rate. Now it's 13 percent greater.

Cancer deaths have dropped for all Americans, but the rates have fallen faster in blacks than whites. The biggest declines were in lung, prostate and colon cancers.

Experts say the main reason is that smoking rates fell more dramatically in blacks in the past 40 years, and that's paying off in fewer deaths now. Another reason is more blacks are getting screened. **NBC News**

Robot to handle home deliveries

FedEx Corp this summer plans to begin testing a robot to handle home deliveries for partners ranging from Walmart Inc to Pizza Hut.

Shippers, retailers and restaurants are experimenting with robots, drones and self-driving cars in a bid to use automation to drive down the high cost of delivering gadgets, groceries and even cups of coffee the "last mile" to consumer doorsteps.

FedEx is teaming up with DEKA Development & Research Corp, whose founder Dean Kamen invented the Segway stand-up scooter and iBot stair-climbing wheelchair, for its project. The delivery company said the robots could become part of its SameDay service that operates in 1,900 cities around the world.

The battery-powered robots look like coolers on wheels. Cameras and software help them detect and avoid obstacles as they roam sidewalks and roadways at a top speed of 10 miles (16 km) per hour.

The project must win approval in test cities, including the shipper's hometown of Memphis, and the first deliveries will be between FedEx office stores.

On average, more than 60 percent of merchants' customers live within three miles of a store location. FedEx said it is working with its partners, which also include AutoZone Inc and Target Corp, to determine if autonomous delivery to them is a viable option for fast, cheap deliveries.

The "last mile" to the home accounts for 50 percent or more of total package delivery costs. Restaurants pay third-party delivery companies like Uber Eats, DoorDash and GrubHub commissions of 10-30 percent per order.

Investors and companies are pouring millions of dollars into projects aimed at lowering those costs and overcoming regulatory hurdles. For safety reasons, many states want autonomous vehicles to

have humans as emergency backup drivers.

Starship Technologies, which has raised more than \$40 million in venture funding, last year deployed robots to deliver packages in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In January, it teamed up with French food service company Sodexo to take Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts and Blaze Pizza orders to the 40,000 students at George Mason University's Fairfax, Virginia, campus. That service costs

\$1.99 per order.

Slideshow (3 Images)

Amazon.com is testing its own delivery robot dubbed "Scout".

FedEx rival United Parcel Service Inc is not testing robots - but like FedEx and Amazon, it is experimenting with drone deliveries.

Other tests include tie-ups between grocery seller Kroger Co and self-driving car startup Nuro, as well as DoorDash and General Motors Co's Cruise Automation. **Reuters**



Duke and Duchess of Sussex in Morocco: The duchess received a traditional rosewater greeting at a reception at the British ambassador's residence. She used her speech at the event to spread a message of female empowerment, telling the audience: "Women have to challenge everywhere in the world."

Melissa McCarthy's Oscars bunny dress criticised by top designer

A leading Hollywood designer has described the wacky outfits worn by Melissa McCarthy and Brian Tyree Henry to present the Oscar for best costume design as "tasteless and insulting".

The actors wore spoof period costumes inspired by the film *The Favourite*.

They included a group of fake rabbits on the train of McCarthy's dress.

Arianne Phillips, who has been nominated for two Oscars for best costume design herself, said it made a "mockery" of her profession. "I like to think I have a sense of humour. And I love Melissa McCarthy and Brian Tyree Henry," she wrote on Facebook. "But... I honestly thought this was tasteless and insulting to costume

design.

'Major steps backwards' Phillips received her Academy Award nominations for designing outfits for Reese Witherspoon, among others,

in *Walk the Line* in 2006; and for *WE*, directed by Madonna, in 2012.

On Sunday, McCarthy drew laughs by fumbling with a rabbit puppet while introducing the category.

The Academy Award went to Black Panther's Ruth Carter. "The Oscars are an opportunity to honour our craft(s)," Phillips wrote. "As costume designers we struggle with people

in our own industry UNDERSTANDING our job. "On this one night where the work is supposed to be elevated (look at the international ratings) this is perhaps the most egregious misrepresentation not only of taste (which is subjective) but of value to the filmmaking process.

"We are not just 'shoppers', as our job is so often misunderstood. We constantly have to explain our job, this kind of mockery only underscores frustration. Feels like major steps backwards.

"SHAME on The Academy for allowing this to be broadcast." The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has been contacted for a response. **BBC**



By Abraham Kalito

World's Soccer governing body FIFA has revealed how international match fixers connived with former FAZ treasurer and vice-president Boniface Mwamelo to instruct Chipolopolo Boys to lose the 2010 Cairo Olympics Tournament, in order for them to win football bets against Zambia victory prospects.

And FIFA has handed a life ban on Mwamelo from all football activities, for accepting bribes from the international match fixer named Wilson Raj Perumal with intent to manipulate results of the Under-23 squad at the tournament.

The FIFA Chamber of Ethics found Mwamelo guilty after conducting an investigation into an alleged match fixing scheme, which revealed incriminating email correspondence in which the Zambian official got downpayment from Perumal.

According to a FIFA report, Mwamelo and match fixer Perumal, colluded to handpick national team players who could be guided on how to lose games, a move that would earn the ex-

FIFA reveals how ex-FAZ official connived with match fixers in soccer betting scheme

FAZ official and the selected Chipolopolo boys US\$30,000 on top of other bonuses.

The judgement quotes Mwamelo as having written to Perumal, informing him that the activities he was indulging in were illegal in Zambia and attracted a 'life imprisonment' sentence.

FIFA reports that "On 29 June 2010, Perumal approached Mwamelo to assemble a squad that could 'work together' in order to participate in the 2010 Cairo Olympic Tournament. In a series of correspondences exchanged on 18 July 2010, Mwamelo and Perumal discussed financial aspects in relation to the participation of the Zambia U-23 team in the Tournament, and Perumal stated that he could pay an amount of US\$5,000 to Mwamelo as an advanced preparation fee.

The international match fixer

wrote: "If as agreed you and your team give us your total co-operation, you and your team stand to go home with 100,000 USD," read the statement.

In reply, Mr Mwamelo stated: "I have done my work diligently by picking boys who will listen to orders. I had to do it discreetly because such schemes are illegal in Zambia and if one is caught, it's a life sentence in jail. This was the most difficult part which I have managed to sort out."

On 19, 20 July 2010, another exchange of correspondence occurred in relation to financial matters, during which Mwamelo provided Perumal with official documentation from FAZ, after Perumal asked for a breakdown on official Zambia letterhead, signed by the general Secretary in order to get the funds released from his company.

Perumal added: "Or you can choose to pocket the money in

Cairo if there is no such letter. It will be between the 2 of us."

Mwamelo replied by enclosing the requested breakdown of costs and asking, "Can you send the US\$5,000 as discussed?"

In an email of 28 July 2010 (a day after Zambia beat Cameroon at the tournament), Perumal accused Mwamelo of an apparent breach on their previous agreement to bring players who were ready to work and listen to instructions (presumably underperforming in the referenced match targeted for match fixing for betting purposes).

"Our agreement was that you have to bring players who are ready to work and listen to instructions. I get info from my people that this team is dying to win every match. This is not what you promised me. You told me you will handpick players who will work with me. I am

not a holiday provider. I bring teams here to make money. And because of your negligence I lost lots of money. If you can bring me 6 or 7 boys who are ready to do business, we can work on something," FIFA quoted Perumal as saying to Mwamelo. FIFA revealed that Mwamelo complained to Perumal for accusing him of taking a determined winning team to Egypt, when in fact it was the Chipolopolo opponents who proved impossible to lose to.

"This is unfair. The four boys I worked with played according to instructions, but the Cameroon team was just too poor, they could not even beat a schoolboy team. Even with the help they had from the referees, they still could not beat a team which had boys who were tired from a long journey. I did my part and my understanding is that it did not work out due to circumstances

beyond my control."

Mwamelo also told the international match fixers that the four unidentified Zambian players whom he had "talked to" were dropped from future international games because they played terribly in Egypt, thereby ending their careers in a scheme.

"I am in a bit of a fix. While our arrangement in Egypt did not go as expected, there were 4 players whom I had spoken to before we left Zambia and they played according to instructions. The unfortunate thing is that because they played so badly in Egypt, they have been dropped from the national team. Their biggest complaint is that because they played according to instructions, it has affected their international careers and yet I did not even give them any money," FIFA quoted Mwamelo's email to Perumal.

On the same day, Mr Perumal replied to Mr Mwamelo: "Please note that I work for someone and I am not the boss myself. If your boys were not brought forward to the respective bosses, no payment will be made. Your boys were never given instructions and they never followed any instructions. Airfare and accommodation for Zambia was a total waste because there was no business with your boys. You let me down. I specially told you to handpick the players. But I realise you had no authority over the players."

Mwamelo was quoted as having further colluded to manipulate results of other matches which were scheduled to be played in Finland and the Caribbean involving the U-23.

"In an email exchange from 21 July 2010, Perumal clearly stated to Mwamelo: "You will be my men behind all the Zambia work. I need an inside man and you are the right person".

He then offers to Mwamelo to arrange various international matches for the Zambia national team in Europe, including one match in Finland or Amsterdam, as well as one against Jamaica in September or October 2010, indicating that he would pay US\$30,000 per match to Mwamelo and his players.

"In conclusion, Mr Mwamelo is hereby banned for life from taking part in any football related activity (administrative, sports or any other) at national and international level. In addition, Mr Mwamelo shall pay a fine of CHF 10,000," read the FIFA statement.

Mwamelo has confirmed receipt of the FIFA judgement, denying any involvement in any match fixing schemes, and saying that he intends to appeal the ban. He said he would do everything within his means to clear his name.

Nadal blasts Kyrgios for 'lack of respect' after Acapulco defeat

Rafael Nadal accused Nick Kyrgios of lacking respect "for the public, the opponent and himself" after a stormy defeat to the Australian firebrand at the Mexico Open.

Kyrgios survived three match points to beat top-seeded Nadal 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (8/6) on Wednesday and reach the quarter-finals.

However, 17-time major winner Nadal was furious with Kyrgios who at one stage complained of being sick, served underarm late in the match before cupping his ear to the boos of the crowd at the conclusion of the second round tie.

"He is a player with huge talent and could be winning Grand Slams or fighting for the number one ranking," said Nadal.

"But he lacks respect for the public, the opponent and for himself."

Kyrgios, ranked 72 in the world, hit back at Nadal.

"I'm different, Rafa's different. He can focus on what he needs to do. He doesn't know the journey I have been on, he doesn't know anything about me," said Kyrgios who famously stunned Nadal as a

teenager at Wimbledon in 2014.

"I am not going to listen at all. That's the way I play. The way he plays is very slow between points. "I've got my game, he's got his game. People are different, that's the sport."

Nadal, playing his first tournament since falling to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open final, had three chances to close out Wednesday's match after taking a 6-3 lead in the third-set tiebreaker.

Kyrgios saved the first with a leaping drop shot, and the second with a net-skimming volley.

Nadal was just wide with a passing shot to make it 6-6, double-faulted to give Kyrgios a chance and sailed a backhand long to end the match after three hours and three minutes.

Kyrgios screamed and dropped to the court in celebration -- a conclusion that seemed unlikely when he complained to a trainer after the opening set that he was feeling ill but feared the fallout should he retire.

Kyrgios steeled himself to continue, and distractions seemed forgotten as he became absorbed



in the battle.

Down 0-40 in the ninth game of the second set, Kyrgios saved four break points to keep the set on serve and raced to a 5-0 lead in the tiebreaker.

Kyrgios, who received treatment on his lower back before the start of the third, was in trouble again in the sixth game, but fought off five break points to stay on terms and push it to the decisive

tiebreaker.

Kyrgios leveled his head-to-head record with Nadal at 3-3 and will play three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka for a place in the semi-finals. **AFP**

Prince William slams football clubs over mental health care

Prince William has launched a withering broadside at football clubs, lambasting them for a "dereliction of duty" in their lack of care for players' mental health.

Prince William, who along with younger brother Prince Harry have spoken openly about their own mental health issues, said clubs appeared to only see the players as investments not as human beings.

Prince William, who is the President of English football's governing body the Football Association (FA), made the remarks during a meeting at Windsor Park, the home of the Irish Football Association in Belfast.

"Some clubs don't do anything about mental health. We've got to change the whole way we look after players," the 36-year-old Prince said to members of Ahead of the

Game, an organisation that delivers mental health support to grassroots football clubs. "Many players come from difficult backgrounds and may have all sorts of issues going on.

"So just to have them as a complete financial asset...it's a dereliction of duty, I think."

Prince William, who decried the manner in which players are "discarded" and said they should be "supported" instead of the clubs wiping their hands of them and told to "move on", said he was in talks with the FA over the possibility of organising a "Mental Health FA Cup".

"We're working on something with the FA at the moment, trying potentially to get a mental health FA Cup to have a really punchy campaign we can base something

around," said the Prince, who is a noted supporter of second tier English side Aston Villa.

Prince William's rare outspoken comments drew praise from across the football community including Michael Bennett, the Professional Footballers' Association's head of welfare.

It emerged last year a record number of players approached the body for support with mental health problems.

"Clearly, not everyone is earning £100,000 (\$133,000) a week," said Bennett.

"There are things you don't see. Players could suffer an untimely death in the family or suffer a serious injury.

"Money isn't going to stop emotional feelings surfacing," he said.

Several former and current high profile

players have spoken of their battles with mental issues including Tottenham Hotspur and England star Danny Rose, former England international Aaron Lennon and the now retired Stan Collymore.

Collymore, 48, is presently struggling admitting for the last three weeks he has been sleeping for 20 hours a day revealing his "longing never to wake" but he said the Prince's remarks could be a game changer for the issue.

"Prince William's comments will carry a serious amount of clout and are potentially game-changing for the way mental health issues are dealt with in football," Collymore wrote in the Daily Mirror.

"If this doesn't resonate through the organisation, as guardians of the game, and through the corridors of power at the

Premier League and the English Football League then, frankly, I don't know what will.

"Football is like a factory these days with clubs looking for the next Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo."

Former Wales star Robbie Savage said Prince William's remarks would hopefully prompt the clubs to be more caring of those they let go.

"It can only be a good sign Prince William, who genuinely cares for the game, is taking such an interest," Savage told the Daily Mirror.

"This summer, dozens of teenagers who dream of a career in professional football will be released -- and it's important that they are not simply left to pick up the pieces." **AFP**

Suarez double sends Barcelona past Madrid and into Copa del Rey final

Luis Suarez scored twice on Wednesday as Barcelona inflicted another defeat on Real Madrid to move within touching distance of winning a record fifth consecutive Copa del Rey. Madrid were the better side for at least half of a wild Clasico at the Santiago Bernabeu but three goals conceded in 28 chaotic, second-half minutes sent Barca through to the final with a 3-0 victory, 4-1 on aggregate. Suarez would have had a hat-trick had Raphael Varane not beaten him on

the line to Ousmane Dembele's cross, Varane's own-goal coming between the Uruguayan's smart finish and a mischievously chipped penalty. He now has 11 goals in 13 games against Madrid.

"We have other players apart from Leo Messi that can score goals," Barca coach Ernesto Valverde said. "Luis' numbers are incredible, historic for Barca. We know he is always there."

By then, Barca were coasting and after thrashing Madrid 5-1 at the Camp

Nou in October, they will return for Saturday's La Liga game boasting an accumulative score of 9-2 from the clubs' three meetings this season.

But this was not the humiliation of four months ago and if the result can be put to one side, Santiago Solari might take heart from the handful of golden opportunities his team wasted before their opponents began their spree.

"We are sad, we wanted to play in the final," Solari said. *AFP*



Real Madrid's Ballon d'Or winning midfielder Luka Modric pulls Lionel Messi's shirt in an attempt to stop the world's best player during Wednesday's Copa del Rey el Clasico at the Bernabeu. Barcelona won 0-3 on the night and 4-1 on aggregate to reach their 6th straight final in the competition



Prince William says he is working with the FA of which he is president to organise a Mental Health FA Cup. *Story page 11*

Axed Kepa's still my number one, says Sarri

Maurizio Sarri insists Kepa Arrizabalaga is still Chelsea's first choice goalkeeper despite dropping the rebellious

Spaniard for Wednesday's 2-0 win over Tottenham.

Sarri axed Kepa following his star's astonishing mutiny in the League Cup final against Manchester City on Sunday when he refused to be substituted after suffering an extra-time injury at Wembley. With Argentine veteran Willy Caballero in goal while Kepa languished on the bench, Sarri's side recorded a vital Premier League victory against their London rivals at Stamford Bridge.

Kepa was fined one week's wages by Chelsea for his behaviour, but Sarri appeared keen to draw a line under the damaging row when he faced the media after the Tottenham game.

Asked if Kepa was still his number one, Sarri said: "Of course. I think it was the right decision. Kepa made a big mistake, he paid with the club and then he had to pay with the team. *AFP*

TAYLOR TAKES ZAMBIA TO PDGA

By Abraham Kalito

Zambia will this year be represented at Professional Association for Disc Golfers (PDGA) tournament by a unique citizen David Taylor who has since vowed to work towards winning a silverware.

Taylor who is also an evangelist, expressed confidence that Africa's representation at the PDGA would in time improve because citizens understanding of the game has improved.

"Firstly, it's an encouragement to

me that there are people across the world who share my faith and that are strong in their faith. Playing those tournaments, everyone was just so happy," Taylor said.

"I got to help bring them joy and a new opportunity, which is pretty great.

Zambia is now an officially recognized country by the PDGA. Never before has an African national been to our World Championships, and the PDGA has been around since 1976. I am fully confident that there are going to be Africans at this year's Worlds."

