



THEFT IN GOVT AT CLIMAX

By Mukosha Funga

Lusaka Province deputy permanent secretary Josephat Lombe and four accounting officers have been suspended after an audit report revealed mismanagement of millions of kwacha. According to records obtained by News Diggers! the five officers paid themselves allowances in amounts totalling K973,475 over days ranging from 612 to 732 days, which is way over the number of days in one calendar year. *To page 5*

PS Lombe, 4 others suspended for embezzling millions of govt funds

ZAF has mandate to protect Lungu in the sky, explains govt

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Sturdy Mwale says the Zambia Air Force has a constitutional mandate to protect President Edgar Lungu in the sky, and as such, the defence wing will procure the necessary defence assets to achieve its objective

in life with the prevailing geopolitical situations. In a statement yesterday, Mwale admitted that the defence modernisation committee had been investing in latest military assets to replace the old fleet at ZAF to ensure the safety of the Head of State. *To page 7*



Graduants at the Makeni College of Nursing attend the Zambia Association of Private Nursing Colleges 2nd graduation ceremony at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Changala asks the PSMD boss to resign

Story page 2

Kapata must be mindful of her influence on young girls, says NDC's Saboi

Story page 6

Sata left Lungu to act because he was the only drunkard without ambitions - CK

Story page 4

- >External Audit
- >Forensic Audit
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Chimbwali must resign, demands Changala

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Civil Rights Activist Brebner Changala says Public Service Management Division Permanent Secretary Boniface Chimbwali must resign for reducing this country to a sector of shame.

In an interview, Changala said there was no way the head of the PSMD would instruct a Permanent Secretary to exculpate himself to a party cadre like Munir Zulu.

This is after Chimbwali had called Northern Province Permanent Secretary Elias Kamanga and instructed him to exculpate himself to Freedom Sikazwe, Kaizer Zulu and Munir Zulu after he suspended his deputy.

Changala said this was a sign that President Lungu has failed to manage the country.

"This tells you that the governance system in this country has collapsed. There is no separation of powers and indeed there is no difference between the PF as a party and the government running the affairs of the state. There is delinquency. Having a PS reporting to a cadre is a breach of the Constitution. This actually tells you that President Edgar Lungu has failed to manage this country in a more reasonable and sensible manner. The PS for PSMD should not be allowed to continue in government. He has no moral right or constitutional right to stay in office for surrendering his office to PF cadres. That means that he is professionally incompetent," Changala said. He called for Chimbwali to resign and further asked the office of the public protector to take interest in the matter.

"Beyond that, that PS has

reviewed the picture which is prevailing in the Government of the Republic of Zambia now that there is total confusion. You cannot have a permanent secretary who is supposed to be acting professionally and impartial to be receiving instructions from even a simple civil servant like Kaizer Zulu and later on from a cadre. That is total mischief and I know President Lungu will not do anything, he will not protect the people of Zambia because he has reduced this country to a sector of shame. And one day President Lungu will be held accountable for Reducing this country to this

low," said Changala.

"My call as at now is that that permanent secretary must resign, the PSMD PS. This case must go to the public protector for disciplinary recommendations. He is abusing his position and he is operating at the means and instructions of PF cadres. It tells you that he is not independent, he is not impartial and most importantly, he is not competent to perform the national assignment that he has been sworn to uphold. And the public protector must take interest in the conduct of the PSMD Permanent Secretary," said Changala said.



I won't resign, Bahati didn't vote for me to sing praises, vows HK

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba says he is not going to relinquish his parliamentary seat because his people did not elect him to sing PF praises in parliament.

Kalaba told News Diggers in an interview that he was not going to allow Zambia to be ruled as if it was owned by an individual.

Meanwhile Kalaba said those calling for him to relinquish his parliamentary seat were only wasting their time because the people who elected him have not said so.

"The people of Bahati constituency did not elect me to sing praises, no. They

elected me to speak for them, to speak on wrongs and ills. So I am only doing that which I was elected for [and] if that is being looked as being opposition, I don't care. As for resigning my parliamentary seat, why should relinquish my parliamentary seat when the people that elected me have told me to continue as member of parliament? So if those are the insults they are referring to, then they should be prepared for those insults because we will continue offering checks and balances," Kalaba said.

"We will not allow this country to continue being governed as if somebody owns all of us. We will make

sure that there are proper checks and balances [and] if they thought that they will go to bed and take tax payers' money without being brought to check [then] they are mistaken because now is the time for Zambians to get a real deal [and] not a raw deal."

He said those calling him to resign as MP should as well call for those minister who were fired to relinquish their parliamentary seats too.

"So I resigned as minister because when the people of Bahati elected me, they didn't elect me so that I become minister. I became minister simply by coincidence, simply because the appointing

authority found me worthy at the time, to be appointed. That was a privilege to be a minister. [And] that is why it is not all members of parliament who are ministers. Unless you are telling me that all those that have not been appointed as ministers should also relinquish their being members of parliament. Unless you are telling me that those that have been fired as ministers should as well go and relinquish their positions as members of parliament because they have been fired as ministers because if they fire you as minister, then why should you remain in parliament? So there all these in parliament but you are not talking about them," Kalaba observed.

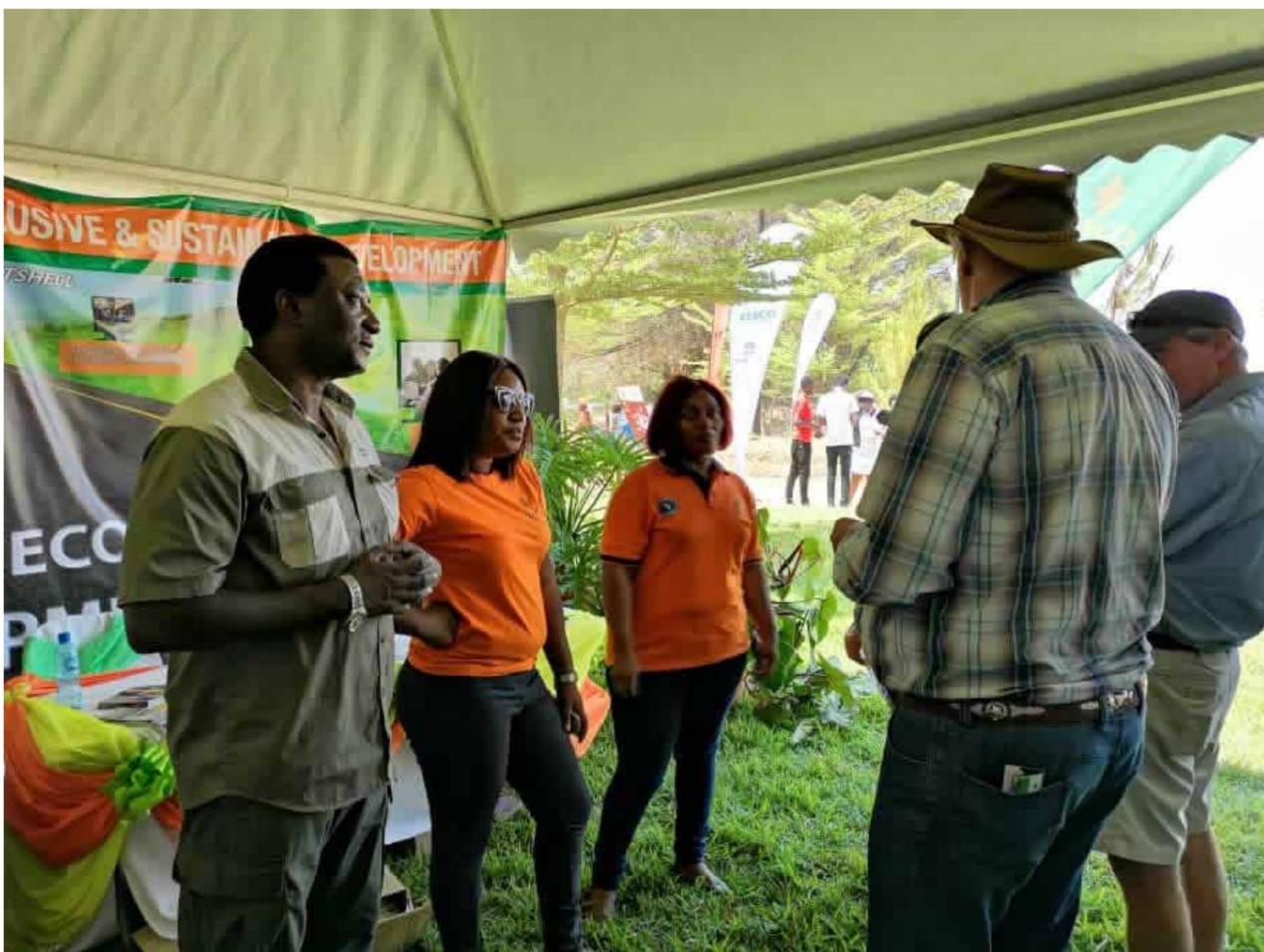
He said just like he resigned as Foreign Affairs Minister, he would choose to resign as MP if he saw the need, but without being pushed by anyone.

"When you are a member of parliament, the truth of the matter is I was elected by the PF people, fine and I am very grateful but it is also true that some of the people that elected me that time were not even belonging to the PF. It is also true that some people who voted for me as member of parliament could have been UPND, it is also true that some people who voted for me could have been even FDD and so on and so forth. So to resign simply because you have resigned as minister therefore you should also resign as member of parliament for me does not equate the equation," Kalaba said.

"I cannot resign because I was elected and I was elected for five years. The five years has not ended. Some were saying 'no Kalaba Harry should

resign because he is being hypocritical [and that] why should he hold on to a party that he keeps attacking and he doesn't want to relinquish', it doesn't work that way. It doesn't mean that because you are PF and therefore everything that the PF does you should support, no. When I resigned from the position of Foreign Affairs Minister, you must have been shocked, I shocked everybody because they didn't see it coming so even now, if at all it will come to relinquish my position of member of parliament, I will do it on my own accord and nobody is going to push me." Meanwhile Kalaba said he was man who has always kept his principles and his word because he refused to accept the K300, 000 which every minister is given for buying furniture.

"Me as Harry Kalaba, even in Bahati constituency, yes I am human and I am bound by human [limitations]... but I can tell you that even in my own constituency, that is why I kept having more votes every time I stood because I kept my word. When I told the people of Bahati constituency that my allowance from parliament will be going to the constituency from 2011, I kept my word. When I was appointed deputy minister in 2012 by President [Michael] Sata, they asked me to get K300, 000 which they give ministers when they are appointed to buy furniture and a TV, I refused to get that money. I said can you take this money to UTH to help the women that are suffering in the cervical cancer department. So this is just about leadership [and] it is about the country because the country is eternal," said Kalaba.



Zesco Public Relations Manager Henry Kapata engages showgoers at the ongoing Central Province Investment Expo.

Photo credit: ZESCO PR unit

Zaloumis sues woman for assault

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Local farmer, Maria Zileni Zaloumis, popularly known for her successful tomato farming business, has dragged her friend Mubaba Mangilashi to court for assault.

Mubaba is alleged to have assaulted Maria on September 15, this year, thereby occasioning her actual bodily harm.

The story of Mubaba and Maria had recently made rounds on social media, alleging that Maria grabbed her friend, Mubaba's husband Justin Phiri.

It is further alleged that the assault happened after Mubaba found her husband at Maria's house.

According to a Facebook posting by Mubaba, she confirmed having engaged in a physical fight with Maria after she found her husband in Maria's house, a person she considered as her mentor.

Mubaba had further stated that she felt so much pain and betrayed after a person she considered as her mentor, started hitting out with her husband.

"I wish to give my side to this story that has gone viral. Justin and I have been married for nine years. Like no marriage is perfect, ours was no exception. For most of his flaws, he would make up for them with lavish holidays and expensive gifts. I met Maria Zileni Zaloumis at LICS [Lusaka International Community School] as our kids attend the same school and are classmates. We soon hit it off on a business level and later became friends. She spoke about her surviving an abusive marriage and making it on her own. I was inspired by her story and drew closer to get mentorship," read part of her Facebook post.

"On September 15, I went to collect my daughter's jersey and shoes she had left at Maria's house. Upon arriving, I noticed my husband's car in the driveway and my heart skipped! As I approached the house, my husband's eyes met mine through the window and at that point I came out of the car and started shouting and screaming. Maria closed the doors and called the police. She gathered herself and came out of the house while my husband stayed in the house. There was no remorse in her tone and she insulted back at me. I couldn't believe what was happening to me; I felt betrayed and taken for granted. At that point I felt so much rage and pain. That's how we got into a physical fight. I was then arrested while nursing my broken heart."

Mubaba is expected to take plea before Lusaka Magistrate Alice Walusiku on October 15, 2018, as she was not present when the matter came up on Thursday morning.



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By Mukosha Funga

NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says late president Michael Sata entrusted President Edgar Lungu with so many responsibilities because he was only a drunkard with no presidential ambitions.

And Kambwili says police have been instructed to deny him permits for public meetings because the state doesn't want people to hear the truth about how useless it is.

Speaking when he featured on IWAZE radio in Chingola, Saturday, Kambwili explained that Sata was aware that there were too many people with presidential ambitions in the party, hence his decision to use President Lungu to act in his absence, as a way of unifying the party.

Sata left Lungu in charge because he was the only drunkard without ambitions, Kambwili explains

"People keep wondering why Sata left Lungu with so many positions, but they don't know the secret that was there. Only a few of us know this. Ba Sata bale tila, ni icho fye Ati nga abantu nabema, filya batila mob psychology, tabomfwa nagu mulondolele shani...ba Sata bale tila ba Kambwili mulefwaya ukuba president, ba GBM balefwaya

bu President, ba Wynter balafwaya bu President, na ba Lubinda bale fwaya bu President, kanshi pali imwe bonse, nga na fumapo, nshakula shako nagu ulionse. Nakulashako fye uyu winne chakolwa ewo takwata nangu aspiration ukutila tube United mu chilonganino. Echo Lungu balemusilapo ba Sata (Mr Sata used to say, it's just

that when people rise, because of mob psychology, no matter how much you explain they don't listen, but Mr Sata used to say that 'you Kambwili you have presidential ambitions, GBM has presidential ambitions, Wynter also wants to be president, even Lubinda wants to be president so among all of you, I can't leave you to act, it is better I just

leave this same drunkard whose got no ambitions so that there can be unity in the party. That's why Sata used to lave Lungu acting)," Kambwili said.

"You are suffering here in Chingola, a President comes and tells you that he has failed to solve your problems. Because that day he came here, that's the day

the problems should have finished. Now I want to tell you people Chingola that the day Lungu came here, that was the day your problems should have ended but Lungu has no capacity to solve your problems."

And Kambwili said the state did not want him to explain to the people how they were mismanaging the country.

"This government is taking us into a ditch. That's why they don't want to give me permits to explain this to be people, they keep denying me permits because they know that I will tell the people the truth and they will rise. Even in my own constituency now, I only talk on radio. When I go to address people, so many police officers come to disrupt.

Now I am telling the officer in charge that 'you the officer in charge, we suffer together'. Even Katanga, we suffer together, there is no difference. There is no market where you people will be going to buy cheap commodities, all of us are suffering together so give us permits, let us explain to the people, let us wake them up so that they can know that this leadership we have is a useless one. Now if you continue blocking us, that is your own fault," said Kambwili.

Police on Saturday denied Kambwili a permit to hold an outdoor meeting with supporters in Chingola.

Online media denting Zambia's image will soon face consequences – Wina

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Vice president Inonge Wina says online media and radio stations that have been giving negative portrayal of the country to the world will soon face consequences because their propaganda is affecting the economy.

Speaking during the vice president's question time in parliament Friday, Wina also said UPND Councillors are defecting to the PF because they have seen that the opposition party is nowhere near power.

And Wina said opposition MPs that do not want to work with civil servants in their respective districts should not expect development in their constituencies, and neither should they complain.

Speaking when she responded to a question from Bwana Mkubwa PF member of parliament Dr Jonas Chanda who wanted to know what government was doing about some unpatriotic Zambians collaborating with foreign entities to generate negative propaganda about Zambia which was tantamount to economic sabotage, Wina said soon they would face consequences.

"In some countries, economic saboteurs are dealt with very sternly by governments but this government of PF is a very democratic government and it is allowing freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of thought. If it did not, we would not have so many radio stations in the country, we would not have allowed the social media to operate in the country, but this government has not taken action against those people who are tarnishing the name of this country but soon they

should be ready to face some consequences. Economic sabotage really is a crime that should be taken very seriously because the negative portrayal of the country that we give to the world is affecting the economy of the country. It is affecting the kwacha [and] that is why our currency fluctuate so much simply because of the negative image that the country is receiving especially outside the country," Wina said. Wina urged Zambians to be patriotic and to protect their country's welfare.

"So madam speaker, we need to be patriotic, we need to love our country. being a patriot goes beyond political affiliation, it goes beyond ethnic affiliations because to be a patriot is for one to love one's country and to care for its welfare and the people living in that country," she said.

And responding to a question from Ikelengi member of parliament Elija Muchima who wanted to know why government had continued inducing elections amidst the austerity measures, the Vice-President said councillors were desperate in UPND.

"Your honour, austerity measures have been pronounced by your government yet we have seen the opposite. CDF has not been released, schools are not rehabilitated especially where we come from, even for simple Iron sheets for classrooms. Is it prudent for your government to continue inducing by-elections for councillors through offering money and employment?" Muchima asked.

Wina said Councillors were leaving the opposition

because they had seen that UPND was nowhere near power.

"Madam speaker, sometime in November this year, there will be by-elections in Mangango and the by-elections have been caused by a member of parliament who died in a road accident. That has nothing to do with inducing an election deliberately. The Councillors in many wards of this country [and] we have said it before that the PF does not buy Councillors or induce them. Currently madam speaker, for the first time in the life of local authorities, Councillors are receiving allowances of K3, 000 per month which has never happened before. So for a Councillor to leave that lucrative space and go to unknown destination, it

means that the Councillor is desperate, he does not want to stay where he is or she is and that is how the Councillors are looking to the future and saying that 'this UPND will never come anywhere near power.' So as a result, the Councillors have not seen the light at the end of the tunnel. So they are making early exits before the big hand falls," Wina said.

Meanwhile when responding to Luampa MP who wanted to find out how districts would develop if civil servants were threatened every time they were seen interacting with opposition MPs, Wina advised MPs to always register their presence with the provincial or district authorities.

"Madam speaker, that is speculation because

this government is encouraging members of parliament to participate in developmental projects in their constituencies. And I cannot see how a member of parliament can fail to interact with departmental heads in a district unless they have personal differences with some government officials in those districts. Otherwise it's very important for members of parliament to know what is going on [and] to report themselves when they arrive in the constituency to the office of the district commissioner or the provincial minister. Now, if you don't want to work with government civil servants in the districts, don't expect development in your constituency and don't complain," said Wina.



L-r: Central Province Permanent Secretary Chanda Kabwe, President Edgar Lungu listen to Chankwakwa Director Dorothy Eriksson when the President toured the stands during the Central Province Expo at Mulungushi University in Kabwe on Friday - Picture by Salim Henry

By Stuart Lisulo

The kwacha marginally depreciated against major currency convertibles to remain above the K12 per dollar barrier, while maintaining strong volatility following Zambia's credit rating downgrade.

And market players say the local currency's trading has been characterised by high levels of uncertainty and heightened speculation as

Kwacha tumbles on Fitch credit downgrade

economic conditions remain poor.

According to financial market players, the kwacha marginally depreciated against major currency convertibles to hit highs of K12.55 per dollar by mid-October, whilst maintaining unusual volatility.

This comes despite the deadline for provisional taxes due this month where corporates are expected to offload dollars onto the local financial market to help shore up the kwacha.

Data, however, shows that the local currency depreciated to hit K12.55

per dollar as news of Fitch's downgrading of Zambia's credit rating to 'B -' filtered through the market.

Fitch Ratings downgraded Zambia's credit rating, Thursday, to 'B -' from 'B', and maintained the country's economic outlook to negative, mainly triggered

by government's substantial upward revision in the budget deficit targets.

FNB Zambia stated that the country's credit downgrade saw the kwacha tumble to weaker trading levels of K12.55 and K12.60 per dollar for bid and offer respectively. "Yesterday's [Thursday's] trading opened at K12.25/ K12.30. The market then surged with the rate reaching a high of K12.55/ K12.60 in response to Fitch's downgrading Zambia from its currency issuer default rating B to B - with a negative outlook," FNB stated in a daily treasury newsletter released, Friday. "However, the dollar supply in the market eventually brought USD/ZMW back to K12.25/K12.30."

Cavmont also concurred in its market report that the credit downgrade negatively affected the local currency's performance.

"The local unit's movement was mainly driven by negative market sentiment following the downgrade of Zambia's credit rating by Fitch to B -," stated Cavmont. And a check around several bureaus in Lusaka found the kwacha had maintained its weak trading levels of between a range of K12.10 to K12.40.

The kwacha traded at K12.10 and K12.30 per dollar for bid and offer at Ace-FX Bureau by lunchtime, Friday, while at Golden Coin Bureau on Cairo Road quoted the local currency at K12.16 and K12.40, with Unifinance quoting the kwacha at K12.18 and K12.40 per dollar for bid and offer respectively. Ace-FX Bureau director of finance Brian Sakala noted that the kwacha's volatility has grown in intensity in the past few days.

"Actually, this week has been very volatile! Because on Monday, our opening was around K11.60, but, on the same day it shot to almost K12.40. Tuesday, it reduced again, it fluctuated, it came down; we opened at K12.30, we closed at around K12.37 so there was quite an increase going up," Sakala narrated in an interview in Lusaka.

"So, there is a lot of volatility in the market that's why there's uncertainty amongst the customers."

He also confirmed that the kwacha's sudden fall was triggered following Fitch's credit downgrade.

"Definitely! At the moment, I will tell you the investor confidence in Zambia is low. Even this downgrading now is giving us a lot of problems," disclosed Sakala.



Dovecot College of Nursing students sing at the Zambia Association of Private Nursing College 2nd graduation ceremony at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka on October 12, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Lusaka deputy PS, four accountants suspended over misuse of govt funds

By Mukosha Funga

Lusaka Province deputy permanent secretary Josephat Lombe and four accounting officers have been suspended after an audit report revealed shocking mismanagement of millions of kwacha.

The suspended accounts officials are Grace Mwenya, who is the principal accountant, Psela Banda, Gideon Zulu and Nzewa Chumbu.

According to records obtained by News Diggers! among the most glaring irregularities were that the five officers paid themselves meal and subsistence allowances in amounts totalling K973,475 for carrying out various activities over days ranging from 612 to 732 days, which is way over the number of days in one calendar year.

The records obtained show that Lombe alone was paid subsistence and meal allowances totalling K275,750 over a period of 732 days out of 365 calendar days, translating into an excess of 367 days. Mwenya also paid herself allowances for a period equal to two years but under one calendar year, amounting to a total K213,385. Assistant accountants Banda, Zulu and Chumbu paid themselves K127,190, K160,255 and K196,895 for 612, 683 and 726 calendar days respectively.

The records showed that millions

were spent on 28 officers to carry out various activities in Lusaka District, but an investigation conducted revealed that the officers either did not spend any money on the activities or did not visit the sites at all.

The records further revealed that Lombe had been getting subsistence allowances at the rate of Permanent Secretary, without authority from the Secretary to the Cabinet, resulting in overpayment of K49,600.

"Imprest paid for trips not undertaken: Amounts totalling K186,224 were paid to two officers on cheque numbers 24160 and 24182 and EFTA numbers 8250 dated 19th July, 2017, 2nd November, 2017 and 21st July, 2017 respectively to undertake a training needs analysis and payroll evaluation in all the districts of Lusaka Province. However, an analysis of the budget and the retirements revealed that amounts totalling K40,900 were allowances paid to three accounting staff; the inclusion of which was irregular because the activity was for Human Resource," read the records. "Imprest in amounts totalling K2.8 million was issued to various officers to facilitate payments of allowances for various activities. However, amounts totalling K824,152 had not been retired as of May 2018."

Sources at Cabinet office told News Diggers! that the theft of government funds had reached alarming levels because people were not being punished.

"Last year, you people had reported a very nice story where Lusaka Province PS was sweating to explain irregularities in the province before PAC. The committee actually recommended that a team of auditors must go and do a full forensic audit. So that's how that was done and some of these issues came to the fore. As I speak to you know, the deputy PS and four accountants have been suspended," the sources revealed.

"People are too greedy, when you look at the details of the audit, you will be shocked at the impunity with which they were looting. It is strange that the system was not capturing such glaring irregularities. From what we understand, the PF is under pressure to clean the mess, otherwise he is the one who will face the music at PAC."

The sources observed that most of the accountants being suspended now had a history of mismanagement. "When you look at this whole thing, you notice that some of the people who are being suspended do not have a clean record already, they were transferred from other places

after erring, hoping that they would reform but they continue with the same kind of pattern. When you look at this case from Lusaka Province, one of the accountants there was moved from Ministry of Works and Supply before it was split and even there, we heard that she had some scandals. So this is something that you the media has to focus on," the sources said.

And sources at the Ministry of Finance narrated that government was also under pressure to rebuild public confidence, especially from donors, to show that it was committed to ensuring accountability.

"You will see a lot more of such coming out very soon. There is pressure, and the ministry is also trying to prove a point that it can be accountable to these resources. Especially with the wave of donors threatening to pull out, that has added pressure on the system now," said the source.

In December 2017, The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) sent away Lusaka Province permanent secretary Charles Sipanje to pave way for investigations of theft.

This was after Sipanje failed to reconcile receipts which he had signed when he appeared before PAC to respond to audit queries

raised in the 2016 Auditor General's report.

It was revealed that that accountable imprest totalling K13,000 which was issued to four officers to undertake various activities had not been retired as at July 31, 2017 whilst some officers spent K75,293 on procurement of stationery, motor vehicle parts, among other things whose value could not be ascertained on the market.

"There has been a decision that has been reached in that we need to investigate on these issues especially that we have seen so many issues concerning the receipts that have not been cleared. You need to use your powers because people are doing things without any regard. They know that even if I don't retire, the PS will go to the committee, talk and it will end there. People are giving themselves loans. I think we need to crack a whip because it is a trend in the civil service. It is becoming a culture for people to do things with impunity, not following the laid down rules. They know that they will go scot free because the PS is not going to do anything about it, they will just recover. But this time around we are not going to go as business as usual. We want these things now to change," PAC chairperson Howard Kunda had told Sipanje.

By Mirriam Chabala
NDC chairperson for gender Saboi Imboela says the thuggery behaviour that was recently portrayed by Lands Minister Jean Kapata in Parliament may have a negative impact on young girls who look up to her.

And Chiengi FDD member of parliament Given Katuta says it is uncalled for for a Honourable member of parliament to insult her colleagues right inside the House.

On October 09, UPND members of parliament walked out of the House after Higher Education Minister Professor

Nkandu Luo charged that the opposition party was responsible for the riots at UNZA which claimed the life of fourth year student Vespers Shimuzhila.

Following the opposition's

Jean Kapata must be mindful of her influence on young girls – Saboi

protest walk, some PF members of parliament, led by Lands Minister Jean Kapata, hurled insults on their colleagues, branding them Satanists and suggesting a physical fight between the two camps.

“Bye bye polio... elo beshile nabafwala nefya black (they even here came dressed in black), get out! Nabafwala nefya black kwati balewanya (they are even dressed in black like they are doing the right

thing) [How can you be] politicking when someone has lost a child? Ata bane [more insults], one day members tukaiponone one by one, tukamone uwakosa ninani (one day we should engage in a physical fight

as members of parliament so that we see who is stronger). Ala imwe baice! Fi satanist (you little kids, [you are just] satanists),” said Kapata as her colleagues on the right agreed with her whilst others added their own unprintables to the fracas.

But commenting on Kapata's remarks in an interview with News Diggers, Imboela regretted that Kapata who is also PF chairperson for women affairs, was not cautious of the influence she possessed as a female leader.

As a women and for someone that most of us look up to, it is unfortunate. We would be very happy if the kind of debate or comments, are something which is inspiring to most of us young people who look up to her. So such comments where Parliament now starts looking like a battlefield, its not good for anyone and especially young girls who are aspiring for these leadership positions. Moreover, there are few women in Parliament, so our leaders should

remember that when they are there in Parliament they are not just there for themselves, they are there for all of us. The percentage of women in Parliament is very small. So the way they conduct themselves has a huge bearing on the number of women that the country is going to take to Parliament,” Imboela said. Imboela advised Kapata to guard her own mouth, saying most of the comments the minister makes during her debates in Parliament were very retrogressive and had a bad impact on women.

“So I can just give her a word of advise to say, we look up to her. And the comments that she makes and the issues that she tackles are very very retrogressive and they also have a bad impact on us women. It has that impact because people now will start saying ‘women are like this’, which is not good. So there has to be a difference with women leadership, there just has to be a difference. You know women are mothers, women are known to be care givers. So there is a way in which a woman should conduct themselves which has to be different from the men. So our Honourable should remember that we look up to her and we would be happy of she desists from some of these things. She should inspire most of us so that one day we can be inspired to be where she is,” said Imboela.

Meanwhile, Katuta condemned her Mandevu counterpart saying she was setting a bad example. “You know, initially I thought she was doing chimbuya [tribal jokes] with her traditional cousins... but really that was unnecessary and uncalled for. As one of the senior members of parliament, honourable Jean Kapata is expected to lead by example. But with what she is doing, she is such a bad example of the leaders that are in PF,” explained Katuta in a text message.



Chileshe Nkole of Makeni College of Nursing graduates as the best student in surgery at the Zambia Association of Private Nursing College 2nd graduation ceremony at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka on Friday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Increased cost of living will push more Zambians into poverty - CUTS

By Abraham Kalito
Consumer Trust Unity Society (CUTS) coordinator Chennai Mukumba says a huge percentage of the Zambian population is going to be relegated to the category of people living in poverty following increased fuel prices.

Commenting on the Energy Regulation Board's (ERB) increased fuel prices, which subsequently triggered an upward adjustment of bus fares by 22 per cent in Lusaka, Mukumba said the increment has a spiral effect, which would cause an increase in the prices on commodities and relegate a huge percentage of the population into the poverty category. “I mean there are three impacts that should be noted. Transportation obviously affects consumers, something that has to be noticed. Transportation is what we call

inelastic goods so regardless of how much the cost of transportation goes up, many people do need to use transportation in order to get on with their day-to-day lives. People need to get to work, people need to drop their kids at school and most of those journeys are not leisure. It's a necessary component. So, what that means is that, the proportion or the allocation that comes from spending on transportation is likely going to increase. And if you are, for example, a high earning consumer, there is a difference in the minimum of money that you can allocate in your monthly budget to cater for that increase. But if you are a low income consumer, already, the amount of money that you have, most of it is already being used on goods and services that you need such as groceries,” Makumba told News Diggers! in an interview in

Lusaka.

“So, what we may see is that money is being allocated, for example, to transportation is taking some money that the household had committed towards other very necessary parts of the day-to-day [expenses]; whether it's food, whether it's medicine. And so that will depend on the needs of a household. Many consumers will start taking away money meant for the day-to-day activities towards transport and this is going to be one of the numerous effects of the increase in fuel and commodity prices. We need to take a look at how our economy is doing, and our statistics are showing you that more than 60 per cent of the population is living in poverty, which means this part of the population is already squeezed in incomes that they are earning.”

She said the increment would put

pressure on households and that certain goods and services would become a luxury instead of a necessity.

“And just on that alone, if we are to see an improvement in the cost of living, it is going to put much pressure on individual households, and essentially have negative effects in terms of their welfare. And another implication we may see is more people starting to go into the category of people in poverty. This will relegate people into more and more poverty because of this increase in cost of living. So, I think for us, these effects are happening on a day-to-day life and because they have higher poverty levels, inequality is high, too; it going to affect the general population at large and many more people are going to fall into the category of the poor,” cautioned Makumba.

We will not tell you why we are buying defence assets to protect President - Govt

By Joseph Mwenda

Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Stardy Mwale says the Zambia Air Force has a constitutional mandate to protect President Edgar Lungu in the sky, and as such, the defence wing will procure the necessary defence mechanism to achieve this objective.

In a statement released late yesterday, Mwale rubbished the Africa Confidential exposé which revealed that the Zambian government had gotten a US\$400 million loan to procure an anti-missile VIP jet for the Head of State, but admitted that the defence modernisation committee had been investing in latest military aircrafts to replace the old fleet.

“The Constitution of the Republic of Zambia mandates the Zambia Airforce (ZAF) to provide air support and maintenance of the highest standards of aviation security to the President and all government officials duly authorised to use the air assets of the State. In this regard, to carry out this onerous constitutional mandate, the Zambia Airforce, in 2012, embarked on a programme to replace its ageing fleet of transport and fighter aircraft and other associated air defence equipment. This procurement of aircraft and associated air assets is a lengthy process and still on going due to the time it takes to select appropriate aircraft and equipment and the laborious legal procedures in line with the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) Act,” Mwale stated.

“The upgrading of our air defence system is in line with the mandate given to the Defence Modernisation Committee, which was appointed by His Excellency Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata. This Committee has regularly briefed His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia on the progress being made in the procurement process. Whenever budgetary allocations have been available, and procurement guidelines completed, we have, as an on-going process, purchased the required air and ground defence assets to respond to the defence and security needs of the country.” He said the Africa Confidential report was malicious.

“I therefore wish to inform the general public that information circulating regarding Zambia’s procurement of aircraft is not only misleading, but also manifestly malicious and designed to malign the reputation of the President and his government in

general. I wish to stress that aviation security for the Head of State is not a function of State House but that of the Ministry of Defence through the Zambia Airforce as per its constitutional mandate. The Zambia Airforce is the only State institution, which is mandated to provide air mobility to the Head of State and as such, ZAF remains the only procuring agent for government aircraft. This is the mandate ZAF has been carrying out since its inception in 1964 has supported all administrations as such. Let me therefore stress that there is no US\$400 million being spent on any single aircraft or military equipment as falsely and maliciously alleged by the Africa Confidential and other media platforms,” said Mwale.

“Again, in line with the Constitutional mandate of the Zambia Army, a decision was made to establish a Marine Unit for Special Forces domiciled at Kala Barracks in Kawambwa. The procurement process was done in full



Defence and Security Service Chiefs at the requiem mass for the Zambians who died in a road traffic accident in South Africa at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus on September 25, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

compliance with the ZPPA Act and this Unit for Special Forces was publicly launched by the President and the groundbreaking ceremony was also a public function. This was also the case with the decision to upgrade the Mina Soko Military Hospital. So there no truth

in the stories being peddled around on these two projects. Now that they are tired of attacking Chinese-financed projects, they have turned to attacking all procurement projects involving the State of Israel. I wish to state also that defence procurement is just what it is, it is informed

by geopolitical defence and security considerations. We are not going to tell you on a daily basis why this military unit is based here and not there. We are not going to tell you the configuration of our defence assets, capability and range of assets and why they are being bought.”

Magistrates' Court rejects cocaine traffickers' application for acquittal

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has dismissed an application by the defence lawyers to have the three men who originally trafficked in 24 kilogrammes of cocaine acquitted, saying their prayer was an afterthought

because it had arisen after the drugs had gone missing. And the court has ruled that the defence's other application to re-examine the cocaine is not attainable because the drugs have gone missing. Meanwhile, the court has

ordered the Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja to investigate the article circulating on social media titled 'The 24kg cocaine syndicate and court officials', saying the said article is contemptuous.

This is in a matter in which Sydney Mwansa, Teddy Matanda and Shaibu Likuta are alleged to have trafficked in 24.9 kilogrammes of cocaine, which had gone missing whilst in the custody of the Lusaka Magistrates' Court.

contents of the exhibits and secure the attendance of the public analyst.

He further ruled that it was not mandatory for a public analyst to attend court as a witness, but at times one could be called by the court or the accused to testify.

Defence counsels Keith Mweemba and Shadreck Mbewe applied to the court to have the purported cocaine subjected to a chemical re-examination and alternatively acquit the accused due to the missing drugs.

But in his ruling, Thursday, Chief Resident Magistrate Kenneth Mulife dismissed all the prayers by the defence. Magistrate Mulife said an order to have the drugs re-tested was not attainable because the drugs had been stolen and was a subject of criminal proceedings before Magistrate Kawama Mwamfuli.

He further ruled that the non-attendance of a public analyst as a witness to testify whether what was seized was cocaine was neither prejudicial nor did it entitle the accused to an acquittal.

Magistrate Mulife said the accused had an opportunity to challenge the veracity of the

And on an order to institute a Commission of Inquiry, the court said only the President had such powers to order for a Commission of Inquiry.

At this point, Mweemba challenged the court to review its judgement, but later ended his application after the court's guidance.

He, however, made another application asking the court to investigate an article circulating on social media titled '24kg cocaine syndicate and court officials', which alleges that the court, the State and defence were playing an active role in the disappearing of the drugs and reaping the benefits.

And delivering a ruling, Magistrate Mulife ordered Kanganja to investigate the article, saying it was contemptuous.

He said a complaint should be sworn at court so that an investigation was launched.



An Amayengi dancer invites a graduating nurse from Makeni College of Nursing to the dancing arena during the Zambia Association of Private Nursing College 2nd graduation ceremony on Friday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

When you are being governed by a regime that thrives on misinformation, it is very important for citizens to be exceptionally attentive to developments so that they don't let their leaders get away with wrong doing.

We are concerned that many a time, Zambians miss critical government decisions and only come to react when it's too late for any change of course. Examples are many, but we will refer to the most recent report about the Zambian government moving to buy a new sophisticated Presidential jet that can protect itself from bombs.

Citizens have gone bananas over this 'news'. They are in total shock that their President can allow such expenditure when the country is sinking in debt and the economy is crumbling. Zambians are reacting as though this decision was made last week or a week after Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe announced austerity measures. If only our fellow citizens took time to read and pay attention to developments, they would have known that this is actually an old move which is only coming to fruition now.

We reported this news on July 22, 2017, quoting Russian media that Zambia was getting four planes from that country, among them a VIP jet for the President. Our Minister of Transport and Communication Brian Mushimba refused to confirm this, saying it was outside his mandate and jurisdiction. But

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Zambians react to scandals when its too late to reverse

the Russian Minister of Trade and Industry as well as the President of the manufacturing company Mr Yury Slyusar confirmed to our fellow journalists in Moscow a day before we published the news in Zambia, that they were supplying this particular African Country with a fleet of aeroplanes.

"Yesterday, we signed [contracts] on an absolutely new market — the African market, we signed a contract with Zambian carriers to supply four [SSJ 100] planes plus one aircraft in the VIP version for the head of state," Slyusar said in an interview with Rossiya 24 television in July 2017.

"Russia's Sukhoi Civil Aircraft company has concluded a contract with

Zambian carriers to deliver a total of five Sukhoi Superjet 100 passenger planes in 2018. The delivery of the aircraft to the African continent will take place as early as next year 2018, to the newly created airline of Zambia."

But our Zambian government was tight-lipped on the deal.

"I can't talk about the President buying a plane for himself or not, that is not in my domain. But Zambia or a Zambian company has not bought planes to start flying in Zambia," said Mushimba.

"I think it's fake. I have no clue what that story is talking about. It does not mention the local entity the Chinese are working with...it's not correct."

This story is still on our

website under the headline: RUSSIA TO DELIVER 4 SUPERJETS TO ZAMBIA IN 2018, PLUS ONE FOR LUNGU. When we published this news, there was silence. In fact, some readers didn't believe there was any truth in this. They accused us of rumour mongering. They said we were a bitter publication bent on tarnishing the image of the government and the PF in particular.

It is clear now that at that time, the deal was only being entered into and Zambia was still pondering options around where to borrow money to buy the President a new jet. That period saw President Lungu playing the merchant role in the Middle East and Israel in particular, but there was not enough

noise from the public to foster accountability of the President's trips.

Today, over a year later, other media publications in the name of Africa Confidential and the Aftenposten of Norway have picked the details and brought them back to the Zambian people. We are told that the deal was actually a loan from Middle East banks and that most of the money, in fact, went towards tailor designing the presidential VVIP 'Ferrari in the Sky' that cannot be brought down by military projectiles. This is when Zambians are waking up to protest.

This shows that the problem we have in this country is not a leadership issue but the docility of

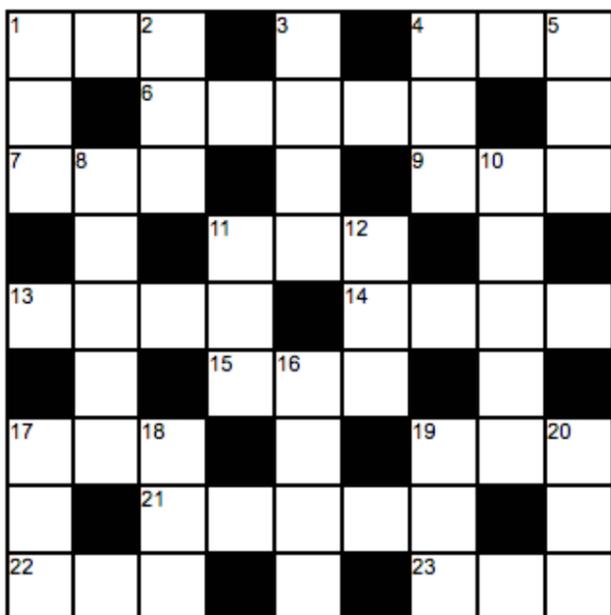
those who are being led. Surely, we should not point fingers at the crooks in government while ignoring those who elected them and those who don't demand accountability. The people of Zambia need to develop an attitude of demanding accountability at the right time when there is room to correct a wrong.

This deal of the so-called "Ferrari in the Sky" is done and dusted. Nothing can be done to reverse, it is too late. The only solution for government now is to use the same Minister of Transport and Communication who said he was not aware of such a deal, to defend it. Depending on how secretly they are guarding the paper trail of this transaction, they will very well deny that such a transaction ever happened. If it means diverting this plane, our government is to do it and auction it somewhere else for a song, just to prove that Africa Confidential lied.

On behalf of the people of Zambia, we are asking the Minister of Finance to deny that Zambia has existing loan agreement signed with the Hapoalim Bank of Israel. President Lungu travelled to Israel in March 2017, let State House disclose what deals our Head of State signed when he went for that five-day visit.

Last year, Russia supplied government with top grade military helicopters. Let the Minister of Home Affairs and Defence explain to the people of Zambia where money for this acquisition came from.

Crossword puzzle 208



"Education leads to enlightenment. Enlightenment opens the way to empathy. Empathy foreshadows reform."
- Derrick A. Bell

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take to court 4. Small round veggie 6. Metric measure 7. "_ go, girl!" 9. Small bill 11. Mischievous one 13. Left after cut heals 14. Vicinity 15. Not just some 17. Be nosy 19. Seeing organ 21. Have same opinion 22. River barrier 23. Meadow | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To speak 2. Ostrich cousin 3. Checklist unit 4. Professional 5. Mimic 8. ___ the Grouch, from Sesame Street 10. Deprived 11. Lyricist Gershwin 12. Buddy 16. Lie in wait 17. Group of seals 18. Potato substitute 19. Slippery fish 20. Baseball stat. |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 207



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

General Education's suspension of 80 other staff over donor aid theft

Editor,

"You cannot be saying, 'if there will be any need to recover the embezzled funds,' that is money that **MUST BE RECOVERED** by all possible means even if it means recovering it against their pensions." -

Haggai Thabo Chilabi

"This kind of irresponsible talk is very irritating. In the Financial Act, the law provides the recovery of tax payers' money lost due embezzlement, pilfering, negligence, irresponsibility, etc." - Haggai Gondwe

"Very soon, when pressure mounts, Amos will bounce back to say the money is actually stashed at some Zanaco account somewhere. Foolish Zambians will once more rejoice." - Mweetwa Mweetwa

"Amos is quiet because he was the one mocking the British High Commissioner and Africa Confidential for tagging them corrupt over \$4.5 million; now we'll see how they will repay K19.5 million." - Bernard Musonda

"Zambia must be leading in theft of public money and corruption. It's only under PF where a government official would not be sure on whether to recover the stolen money or not." - Marshalls Eric

"This govt is always reactive; instead of putting up strong and good oversight on those handling public funds, the Head of State is saying 'uubomba mwibala.' For as long as we have very powerful individuals and weaker institutions like ACC, corruption and pilferage in public offices will continue." - Mike Mambepa

"Please make misappropriation of govt funds a non-bailable offence, then the thieving will stop. Suspensions are not a solution, but arrest them, including beneficiaries for failure to report the crime. Strengthen the law and all these things will be a thing of the past." - Ndakala Lesa



Opposition MPs' objection to Chinese article in Times of Zambia

Editor,

"It's unacceptable! Can you find Bemba articles in a Chinese newspaper? What is wrong with this government? This is what happens when a country depends on external funding. What a shame." - Priscilla Muntanga

"I was also surprised when I saw the story of the suspended PS in Chinese!" - Don Mwale

"When a nation has been taken over, this is what happens. We are in bondage. There is no other explanation. The leaders

have given up the country. Don't expect those who have taken it and those who have handed it over to admit it. Let's just take it back." - Victor Chansa

"I don't understand Times of Zambia's specific kind of stupidity. But I do admire their total commitment to it!" - Phillip Brown

"How do you rush to start printing in Chinese instead of Tonga or any other local language?" - Dundumwezi Nega Nega

"The Chinese are not our problem" - Mike Phiri

Nakacinda's view that PF's greatest enemy is the economy

Editor,

"Raphael Nakacinda may have gotten his facts mixed up; it's actually PF that's the greatest enemy to the economy and not the other way round." - David M Mwanangombe

"Could it be the slip of the tongue by Nakacinda for him to reverse the words or was maybe he was thinking in reverse for if he was thinking properly; the statement should have sounded and I quote 'the biggest enemy to the economy of Zambia is the PF' not the other way - massive corruption; looting of public resources, Mukula tree included; political violence; suppression of expression; inflated costs of govt projects..." - Callaghan Mwamba

"No. PF's biggest enemy is itself." - Kelvin Mukube

"On many occasions, Raphael has been behaving like a propagandist; finally he wakes up from the slumber." - Allan Alinew Lungu

"Things have started falling apart between allies." - Chali Pride Zimba

"Now the marriage has cracks." - Manda Mands

"Could this be the beginning of the end of the PF/MMD marriage?" - Ignatius H Milimo

Hollywood stars joined Queen Elizabeth and her family for Britain's second major royal wedding this year, as the monarch's granddaughter Princess Eugenie married wine merchant Jack Brooksbank. Eugenie, 28, daughter of the queen's third child, Prince Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, tied the knot with Brooksbank, 32, in a traditional ceremony at Windsor Castle's 15th Century St George's Chapel. It was the same setting as the lavish wedding in May of Prince Harry and his American actress wife Meghan. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, as the couple are now known, were among Friday's congregation. Eugenie's nuptials had much of the same pomp and pageantry as Harry's, but the grandeur for a "minor royal" attracted some criticism. The 92-year-old queen and her husband Philip, 97, who has retired from official engagements, were joined by other royals and celebrities including Hollywood stars Liv Tyler and Demi Moore,

Queen Elizabeth's granddaughter marries in Gatsbyesque splendor

models Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell and singers Ellie Goulding and Robbie Williams.

Female guests had to cling on to their hats as a blustery wind threatened their wedding outfits.

Eugenie's dress, by Peter Pilotto and Christopher De Vos of London-based label Peter Pilotto, had a low back to reveal scars from surgery the princess underwent to correct scoliosis when she was 12.

"It's a lovely way to honor the people who looked after me and a way of standing up for young people who also go through this," she told ITV's "This Morning" ahead of the wedding.

The couple showed clear signs on nerves but beamed happily during the hour-long service. **REUTERS**



Suspended Gaza fuel deal shreds tough diplomatic efforts

By suspending badly-needed fuel deliveries to the Gaza Strip after deadly clashes, Israel has cast doubts on the viability of the hard-won measure aimed at helping the Palestinian people and easing tensions.

The deal, brokered by the United Nations and backed by the United States, Israel and others, had seen thousands of litres of

Qatari-bought fuel trucked into Gaza daily to boost the impoverished territory's electricity supply.

But only days after being brought into effect, Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman late Friday

ordered the deliveries to stop after clashes on the Gaza-Israel border.

Despite hopes the fuel would help ease months of deadly violence, thousands of protestors gathered again Friday at the border

fence. The Israeli army said five people were shot dead after "an organised attack" on an army post, using an explosive device which destroyed part of the fence.

The Gaza health ministry said seven Palestinians

were killed.

Saturday night, Lieberman said on Twitter the shipments of fuel and gas to Gaza would only resume if there was a "total cessation of violence, the launching of incendiary ballons

(from Gaza towards Israel) and the use of burning tyres against Israeli towns" near the enclave.

The fuel deal had been reached without the agreement of the officially recognised Palestinian government, in what diplomats said was a first for Gaza -- which is controlled by the rival Palestinian faction, Hamas.

And it had also raised questions on whether Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas is slowly being sidelined.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) headed by Abbas has semi autonomy in parts of the occupied West Bank, but lost control of Gaza to Hamas in a near-civil war in 2007.

But the PA has long been the only address for most international powers and a senior official declared Thursday it would no longer work with the UN envoy who brokered the deal.

The UN and other parties say they are merely seeking to improve the desperate humanitarian situation in the strip, under a crippling Israeli blockade for a decade. **AFP**

Jamal Khashoggi: UK and US 'could boycott' Saudi conference

Britain and the US are considering boycotting a major international conference in Saudi Arabia after the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the BBC has learned.

Mr Khashoggi, a critic of the Saudi government, vanished on 2 October after visiting its consulate in Istanbul.

The authorities in Istanbul believe he was murdered there by Saudi agents - claims Riyadh has dismissed as "lies".

Donald Trump has said he would "punish" Saudi Arabia if it was responsible.

Several sponsors and media groups have decided to pull out of this month's investment conference in Riyadh, dubbed Davos in the Desert, as a result of concerns over Mr Khashoggi's fate.

Diplomatic sources have now told the BBC's James Landale both the US Treasury Secretary, Steve Mnuchin, and the UK's International Trade Secretary, Liam Fox, might not attend the event, which is being hosted by the kingdom's Crown

Prince Mohamed bin Salman to promote his reform agenda.

A spokesman for the UK's international trade department said Dr Fox's diary was not yet finalised for the week of the conference.

A joint statement of condemnation, if it is confirmed that Mr Khashoggi was killed by Saudi agents, is also being discussed by US and European diplomats.

However, Mr Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, has said words alone will not be good enough if he has been murdered.

"If we have already lost Jamal, then condemnation is not enough," she wrote in a piece for the New York Times. "The people who took him from us, irrespective of their political positions, must be held accountable and punished to the full extent of the law."

She added that Saturday had been Jamal's birthday.

"When your loved one leaves this world, the

other world no longer seemed scary or far away. It is being left here all alone, without them, that is most painful."

President Donald Trump has said the US will inflict "severe punishment" on Saudi Arabia if the kingdom is found to be responsible for the death of Mr Khashoggi.

He said he would be "very upset and angry if that were the case", but ruled out halting big military contracts.

"I think we'd be punishing ourselves if we did that," he said. "If they don't buy it from us, they're going to buy it from Russia or... China."

Turkey's foreign minister, Mevut Cavusoglu, said Saudi Arabia was not yet co-operating with the investigation - despite a statement from Saudi Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz saying they wanted to uncover "the whole truth".

Mr Cavusoglu has urged the kingdom to allow Turkish officials to enter the consulate. **AFP**

Saudi Arabia warned Sunday it would retaliate against any sanctions imposed on the oil-rich kingdom over the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as the Riyadh stock market plunged on growing investor jitters.

From tech tycoons to media giants, a host of Western companies are now distancing themselves from the Gulf state, imperilling Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's much-hyped economic reform drive.

US President Donald Trump threatened ally Saudi Arabia on Saturday with "severe punishment" if Khashoggi, who has been critical of Prince Mohammed, was killed inside its Istanbul mission.

But Riyadh vowed to hit back against any action against it. "The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats or attempts to undermine it whether through threats to impose economic sanctions or the use of political pressure," an official source said, quoted by state news agency SPA.

He said Riyadh would "respond to any action with a bigger one", pointing out that the oil superpower "plays an effective and vital role in the world economy".

As investors took fright, Saudi stocks tumbled by around seven percent at one

Saudi Arabia vows retaliation if punished over missing critic

point on Sunday, wiping out their gains for 2018.

Business barons including

British billionaire Richard Branson and Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi, as well

as media powerhouses like Bloomberg and CNN, have pulled out of next week's

Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, dubbed "Davos in the desert".

Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor, vanished after entering the consulate on October 2 to obtain official documents for his upcoming marriage.

Turkey on Saturday stepped up pressure on Saudi Arabia by accusing the kingdom of failing to cooperate with a probe into the journalist's disappearance.

Turkish officials have said they believe Khashoggi was killed inside the mission and claims have been leaked to media that he was tortured and even dismembered.

Saudi Arabia insists Khashoggi left the building safely and dismissed accusations that authorities had ordered his murder by a hit squad as "lies and baseless allegations".

The kingdom's Tadawul All-Shares Index (TASI) lost more than 500 points, diving by seven percent in the first two hours when trading resumed after the weekend, in panic selling reminiscent of the days after the global financial crisis in 2008. *AFP*



St Peter's Square at the Vatican was packed for the canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero, Pope Paul VI and five other new saints. *AFP*

Journalist murder a toxic mystery in Malta one year on

A year after a car bomb killed Maltese anti-corruption journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, those who ordered the murder remain free while others continuing her work in the EU's smallest state are branded traitors.

The windswept field where the mother-of-three's burnt-out car ended up on October 16, 2017, has become a monument to her life.

Supporters of free speech like Tania Attard come to this isolated spot to place flowers under a banner calling for justice, fluttering alongside a Maltese flag.

"If the person responsible for this is established, perhaps then we can rest and see that justice is done," Attard told AFP.

"I'm sure they never realised that it would come this far, that it would... turn into something so important and international." After her death an international consortium of journalists launched the Daphne Project, coordinated by Forbidden Stories, a Paris-based organisation dedicated to continuing the work of killed or imprisoned journalists. "They just thought they would eliminate her and then feel better but I don't think that is the result at all, I think that it has backfired on them," said Attard.

But while journalists abroad can continue her work, those in Malta calling for justice say they are branded traitors.

Caruana Galizia's blog sought to expose scandals on the island of less than half-a-million people, from petrol smuggling to money laundering, offshore bank accounts

to nepotism, implicating members of the government and organised crime.

It also launched highly personal attacks on Maltese politicians.

Journalist and blogger Manuel Delia says that he receives threats and insults in the street because of his work, including speaking to foreign journalists, just as Caruana Galizia did when she was alive.

"The more time passes the more we realise that democracy doesn't really work well here, the rule of law does not prevail," said Delia, who worked for years for the Nationalist party until it lost to Labour in 2013.

"Institutions are completely co-opted and possessed by the government, and the government is possessed by people who are motivated by their own power and personal profit."

Supporters of Caruana Galizia hold a vigil on the 16th of every month, demanding justice. Meanwhile, officials regularly dispatch street cleaners to remove an impromptu memorial that keeps reappearing in Valletta's historic centre.

Despite repeated requests to the office of Labour Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and to the government for official comment ahead of the anniversary, none was forthcoming.

An official from Muscat's office briefly blocked an AFP journalist on Twitter for asking for comment, then invited questions via email which were never answered.

Three men who allegedly carried out the

car bombing have been arrested and are facing trial, but whoever ordered the killing remains free.

The political opposition to the Labour government consists of the Nationalist party, which was headed by Simon Busuttil until June last year.

He says that Caruana Galizia's corruption investigations and accusations crossed party lines, although she more regularly skewered members of the Labour party.

"You know her last words (on her blog) were 'the situation is desperate' and I feel that today the situation is even more desperate," Busuttil told AFP at his offices in Valletta.

"Because the people who ordered her killing are still at large and because the corruption stories that she revealed have still not been resolved and those corruption stories involve people who are actually running the country."

He says Brussels should ensure the rule of law is applied in the island, which joined the European Union in 2004.

The murdered journalist's sister Corinne says that the current criminal investigation is limited in scope, and that there should be an independent enquiry.

"They are not investigating whether Daphne's life could have been saved, they are not investigating whether there was a possibility of state complicity, they are not investigating the possibility of state neglect and they are certainly not investigating how to prevent future deaths," she told AFP.

AFP

Mogadishu bombings: Man executed on Somalia blast anniversary

A man convicted of involvement in the deadliest bomb attack in Somalia's history has been executed on the first anniversary of the blast.

Hassan Adan Isak drove one of the vehicles involved in the attack on the capital, Mogadishu, a court ruled.

Nearly 600 people were killed when a truck filled with explosives was detonated at one of the busiest intersections in the city.

A commemorative ceremony was held at the intersection on Sunday.

It has been renamed 14 October junction in memory of those who died there.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, although correspondents say all indications are that the militant Islamist al-Shabab group was responsible.

Saturday evening saw two suicide bombers kill 20 people in the town of Baidoa, in the south west of the country. Dozens were injured.

Al-Shabab said it had carried out the attack.

Meanwhile, the first commercial flight between the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and Mogadishu in 41 years has taken place. A plane from private airline Ethiopia National Airways landed at the Somali capital's Aden Adde airport on Saturday, the first of a planned four flights a week.

It is the latest sign of improving relations between the two neighbouring Horn of Africa countries. *BBC*

Marvel Studios made the entire world shout "Wakanda Forever!" when Black Panther hit theaters in February 2018, kicking off a spectacular run that has made the film one of the highest-grossing movies of all time, with the best reviews of any movie in Marvel's cinematic universe. Although the studio is playing coy until after the events of the Avengers: Infinity War sequel play out, Marvel has confirmed that Black Panther 2 is indeed in the works, and now the biggest question is when the film will hit theaters.

Expected to bring back director and co-writer Ryan Coogler along with star Chadwick Boseman in the role of T'Challa, Black Panther 2 (or whatever the film's official title will end up being) will likely be set in a very different Marvel universe than the first film, thanks to the events of both the original movie and Infinity War.

Here's everything we know about Black Panther 2 so

Black Panther 2: Everything we know about the sequel so far

far. Marvel Studios has already announced release dates for upcoming films in its cinematic universe through 2021, but the movies hitting theaters on each of those dates remain a mystery. Given the studio's affinity for releasing films in each solo series two or three years apart, Black Panther

2 will likely drop into one of the weekends set aside in 2020 or 2021. The release dates the studio has announced so far in those years are as follows: May 1, July 31, and November 6 in 2020; and February 12, May 7, and November 5 in 2021. Marvel also likes to reserve certain months for each franchise, with the last two Thor movies hitting theaters in November, all of the Iron Man movies debuting in May, and both Ant-Man movies premiering in July, for example. February is Black History Month, so it stands to reason that the studio could make it Black Panther month, too — making the February 12, 2021, release date a very likely target for the sequel.

DIGITALTRENDS



Family and U.S. politics collide in Thanksgiving film 'The Oath'

Satirical dark comedy "The Oath" could reflect many American households this Thanksgiving with its depiction of a family getting through the holiday while trying to avoid politically polarizing arguments.

Written, directed and starring Ike Barinholtz as a liberal news junkie, and Tiffany Haddish as his wife, the film is set around a Thanksgiving gathering after the government demands, on pain of arrest, all citizens to pledge an oath of allegiance to an unnamed U.S. president.

The movie, which arrives in U.S. theaters on Friday, turns into a tense horror film when law enforcement turns up to make an arrest and family members are forced to choose between their loyalty to each other and their political convictions.

Barinholtz denied the film's premise was far-fetched.

"As we were making the movie, there were things happening in real life that were echoing the movie," he told Reuters Television.

Barinholtz wrote the screenplay after President Donald Trump was elected to the White House in 2016, and although Trump is never mentioned in the film the director wanted it released before Americans vote in the Nov. 6 congressional midterm elections.

"We're at this very high

concentration point with politics and the midterms are going to be the next plateau. After that, we have another two years to see what happens, so we thought if we could get it out at this time we'd be hitting the target," he said. **REUTERS**



A night after the "America's Got Talent" Season 13 finale, where finalist Michael Ketterer placed fifth, he was arrested on a charge of felony domestic violence. Wochit. USATODAY

Twitter refuses to believe Cardi B censors herself for hubby's sake!

If you've heard Cardi B's music then you know that nothing seems off limits for her and she often comes for anything and everything in her raps but as it turns out, there's some lines she doesn't cross - out of respect for her hubby.

Everyone was just as shocked as you probably are right now.

During an interview with W Magazine the Bodak Yellow rapper revealed that she and her hubby Offset have agreed that are some "no go areas," which include no male models on her videos and her doing "crazy" things. "I can't rap about certain things because I don't want to insult my husband. And when I want to do a music video, I can't use a male model and do crazy things."

The same goes for Offset though: "He knows better than to do certain things in music videos. I'll beat his ass," she said in the interview.

Needless to say tweeps were shocked to hear this and the reactions were hilarious.

Fans could not believe that Cardi B could actually tow the line.

The very same Cardi B, who turned 26 on Thursday and released an explicit video revealing her birthday wish.

"I want my husband to f**k me in thirty different positions, I want that n**** to flex me like a New York pretzel."

Everybody knows that Cardi B and censorship could never be in the same WhatsApp group. **SOWETANLIVE**

Trevor Noah weighs in on Kanye West's visit to the White House

Ahead of his trip to Africa, Kanye West popped past the White House to meet with The Donald and launched into an almost ten-minute long rant about policy and alternative universes.

Ye even said that Donald Trump made him feel like Superman and his MAGA cap had given him power. Trevor Noah and his team at The Daily Show were

watching and tweeted their reactions as the meeting unfolded.

At the end of the meeting a dazed Trump could only stammer out: "I tell you what, that was pretty impressive folks."

Trevor deciphered the meeting on The Daily Show later in the night and joked about Trump wanting to

kick Kanye out of the White House.

"You know, Trump's mouth was saying, 'That was impressive' but you could see he was thinking, 'Is it racist if I call the cops? Is it?'"

Trevor added that it was great to see "Kanye make Trump feel like Trump makes us feel every single day". **SOWETANLIVE**

Opening up. Rapper Drake spoke out about his 12-month-old son in a new interview on Friday, October 12, while discussing his feud with Kanye West.

Celebrity Feuds: The Biggest Ever!

The DeGrassi: The Next Generation alum, 31, said on *Opens a New Window*. HBO's *The Shop* *Opens a New Window*. that he began to see stories online that included details of a conversation the two men had about relationship troubles Drake was having with the mother of his son, former porn star Sophie Brussaux. Drake said

Drake Talks About His Son for the First Time, Says Kanye West Revealed His Secret

he also showed West photos of his little boy at that time. "I tell him I'm having trouble with my son's mother. We had a conversation," he said. "I wake up, and all these dates are out ... Then the next two days, whatever, I wake up now to this text from him, passive like, 'Yo, I love you brother.'"

Kanye West's Most Outrageous Moments Things only got worse when Pusha T's track "Infrared," which insinuated that Drake's latest album may have been penned by Quentin Miller, was released on Pusha's Daytona album on West's label, G.O.O.D. Music, in May. (West also produced the

album.) "Then, the first album drops. And, of course, there's a diss song toward me that you produced, that's talking about writing?" Drake said. "I was just there with you as friends helping you, and now you're dissing me. So I'm like, man, this is dark." Drake hit back with his own

track, "Duppy Freestyle," which referenced how he helped West to write his singles "Father Stretched My Hands" and "30 Hours" from 2016's *Life of Pablo*. He also sent G.O.O.D. a \$100,000 invoice for "promotional assistance and career-reviving." Pusha-T then responded with

"The Story of Adidon," which outed Drake as a father and referred to him as a deadbeat dad: "Since you name-dropped my fiancée / Let 'em know who you chose as your Beyoncé / Sophie knows better, ask your baby mother," he raps in the first verse. "Cleaned her up for IG, but the stench is on her / A baby's involved, it's deeper than rap / We talkin' character, let me keep with the facts / You are hiding a child, let that boy come home / Deadbeat motherf---ka, playin' border control."

"I knew something was going to come up about my kid, they had to add, like, the deadbeat thing to make it more appealing," Drake said on *The Shop*.

Though the "God's Plan" singer confirmed the existence of his son on his song "March 14" from his double album, *Scorpion* *Opens a New Window*. , Drake's interview marks the first time he has spoken directly about his child.

The Grammy nominee told the show's host LeBron James that he hopes to be able to share his side of the story *Opens a New Window*. with his son one day and that he has no ill will toward Brussaux. "I do wanna be able to explain to my son what happened, but I don't have any desire for him to like, not love his mother," he said. "Or I don't ever want the world to be angry at his mother. We have found ourselves in a situation, and we are both equally responsible."

He continued: "I'm just really excited to be a great father. I have a son, he's a beautiful boy ... No matter what happens, I have an unconditional love for the mother of my child because I want him to love his mother and I have to project that energy."

West, for his part, apologized to Drake via Twitter in September, promising to come to a show during his *Aubrey and the Three Migos* tour. "Sending good energy and love to Drake and family and crew," he wrote at the time. "I haven't seen the show in person but the images look incredible online. I understand where the confusion started."

Sexy Celeb Dads One month earlier, the "Nice for What" singer dissed Ye on stage in the "Famous" rapper's hometown of Chicago, changing the lyrics in his track "Know Yourself" to say that his rival had "flopped." *Us Weekly* has reached out to both Drake and West's reps for comment. **USMAGAZINE**

'Star Wars' Comic Writer Says Marvel Fired Him for Social Media Behavior

Chuck Wendig, the New York Times best-selling author of the *Star Wars: Aftermath* series of novels, has been fired by Marvel Entertainment, he said on Twitter Friday. That leaves the future of numerous previously announced *Star Wars* projects, that Wendig was attached to, uncertain as a result.

In a series of tweets, Wendig — who was working on both the five-issue *Shadow of Vader* miniseries and an additional, currently unannounced, *Star Wars* series for the publisher — revealed that he had been fired by Marvel in the middle of his work on the titles because, in his words, "of the negativity and vulgarity that my tweets bring. Seriously, that's what Mark [Paniccia], the editor said. It was too much vulgarity, too much negativity on my part."

Previously, Wendig had written *Hyperion* and an adaptation of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* for Marvel. Wendig has been outspoken about his liberal political views on Twitter. On Oct. 7, he drew the attention of well-known conservative personalities, such as Ben Shapiro and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza, with a series of tweets surrounding the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who had been accused of sexual assault. In one tweet, which he later deleted because he said it had become a "funnel for harassment," he wrote, "Winter is coming, you callous f---necks, you prolapsed a--holes, you grotesque monsters, you racists and rapists and wretched abusers, you vengeful petty horrors."

Wendig's firing comes three months after Marvel parent company Disney fired James Gunn as director of *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.*



3 over old, offensive tweets that had been resurfaced by conservative personalities.

Wendig is no stranger to controversy within *Star Wars* fandom, with the writer being targeted by a vocal minority after introducing one of the franchise's first canonically gay characters in his 2015 novel, *Star Wars: Aftermath*. His outspoken response to that pushback — calling those that complained "the s---ty, oppressive, totalitarian Empire" — combined with his openness about discussing real-world politics on social media, made him a lightning rod within the more conservative elements of the property's fan base. Marvel's removal of Wendig comes a month after the publisher canceled *The Vision*, a six-issue miniseries, two months ahead of launch, with the creative team — which included another best-selling novelist, Chelsea Cain — only getting a few days' notice and little explanation as to why, beyond a change in publishing plans surrounding

the characters being used in the series. Notably, Cain is as vocal about her politics,

and equally visible as a target for right-wing trolls on social media, as Wendig —

although that was not given as a reason for the series' surprise cancellation. **MSN**



Queen Elizabeth II shunned traditional autumn hues in favour of this pale blue suit by Angela Kelly at the royal wedding. [Photo: Getty]

'New' Djokovic wins Shanghai to close on world no.1 Nadal

The "new" Novak Djokovic warned that he was gunning for Rafael Nadal's world number one ranking after winning the Shanghai Masters with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric on Sunday.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion has been imperious all week and barely offered a sniff to the 19th-ranked Croatian, a good friend and sometime-training partner.

The end when it inevitably arrived was anti-climactic, with the Serb winning the championship point after a video review.

Djokovic buried his head in his hand at the absurdity of it.

The 31-year-old will leapfrog Roger Federer into second in the world when the rankings are released on Monday but will not stop there as the season reaches its climax.

Spanish great Nadal, who was not in Shanghai or Beijing last week because of a knee injury, will be just 215 points ahead of Djokovic in

the race to finish as year-end number one.

"I could not ask for a better

scenario," Djokovic, who last sat atop the rankings

two years ago, said of his

late surge to the summit of men's tennis.

"I am very close now to

Nadal in the rankings and put myself in a good

position for the last period

of the year."

Red-hot Djokovic has now been victorious in 18 ATP matches in a row and in recent months won Wimbledon, the Cincinnati Masters, the US Open and now Shanghai for a fourth time.

It is all a far cry from just five months ago, when Djokovic fell to 22nd in the world as he struggled following elbow surgery in February.

He missed the second half of 2017 with elbow and off-court issues, but said he had adapted his game since the operation.

Djokovic, who has been particularly dominant on his serve, not dropping one service game in Shanghai, said: "I think you're seeing the new Novak.

"I don't need to describe him, that's all I can say.

"I had to reinvent myself and find, you know, (a) proper formula for success.

"I found it and I'm just trying to hold on to it as long as I can."

Asked by AFP if he had a message for the under-pressure Nadal, the Serb smiled: "I will leave that up to your creative spirit of journalism."

The 32-year-old Nadal could return from his latest injury for the Paris Masters, which starts at the end of this month.

Djokovic said he could play Vienna or Basel, the week before Paris, in an effort to further rein in his rankings rival.

The 21-year-old Coric said that he had no complaints about losing to "one of the best in the history of tennis".

In what was the biggest match of his life, he wore heavy strapping on one thigh and has been troubled by a stiff neck that saw him ponder pulling out before the tournament. AFP



Novak Djokovic of Serbia poses with his trophy after beating Borna Coric of Croatia in the Shanghai Masters

German press hammer Loew after Dutch mauling

The German press turned on Joachim Loew after the hammering by the Netherlands left the future of Germany's head coach in doubt with world champions France looming on Tuesday. "Not at the moment," Loew replied in the post match press conference when asked if he can still decide his future following the 3-0 drubbing - Germany's heaviest defeat to the Dutch.

Dutch captain Virgil Van Dijk gave the hosts a first-half lead before late goals by Memphis Depay and Georginio Wijnaldum capped a golden night for the Oranje in Amsterdam. "That was a brutal and disappointing defeat, especially as we had the game under control in the first 30 minutes," said Loew, whose contract runs until 2022.

"At the moment, you can literally feel that we do not have the self-confidence that we used to have."

It could have been 4-0 as Depay also hit the crossbar in the dying stages as the German defence collapsed in the last 10 minutes.

If Loew's side loses to world champions France in Paris on Tuesday, it will mean a record sixth defeat for Germany in a calendar year, which Loew can ill afford.

Having steered Germany

to the 2014 World Cup title, Loew was irritated when asked if the heavy defeat was his 168th -- and final -- international.

"For me, or what?" he replied, flustered, with his 12-year reign in peril.

"We need to move on quickly (to the next question), I am the wrong person to talk to about that."

He only signed a new contract with the German Football Association (DFB) in May until the next World Cup, yet unless results improve, it is doubtful he will see it through.

After the World Cup debacle, when Germany crashed out after finishing bottom of their group, the Germans again find

themselves last in their Nations League pool.

The Germans must win

their last two games, against the French on Tuesday and Dutch in Gelsenkirchen

on November 19, or risk relegation in the competition's debut. AFP



Germany defender Jerome Boateng is out of Tuesday's match against France after injuring his calf in the 3-0 defeat to the Netherlands. AFP

Henry has 'everything' to become good coach - Deschamps

Thierry Henry has "everything" needed to become a good manager, France coach and former international teammate Didier Deschamps said of the newly-named Monaco coach.

"Thierry's ready," Deschamps told TF1. "He has everything" to be a good coach.

"He's throwing himself into an exciting, exhilarating

project where he'll have to take responsibility. It'll be up to him to take the reins."

Former Arsenal star Henry was named Monaco coach on Saturday, his first job in club management after leaving his position with the Belgian national team.

The 41-year-old French World Cup winner, who had been working as an assistant to Belgium coach Roberto Martinez since 2016, returns to the club where he began his professional career.

Henry replaces Leonardo Jardim, who in 2017 guided

Monaco to their first Ligue 1 title since 2000. He was sacked on Thursday after a string of poor results left Monaco in the relegation places.

Deschamps, who captained the France team featuring Henry that won the 1998

World Cup and Euro 2000, also started his coaching career at Monaco, back in 2001.

"The first season was very complicated," he said, wishing Henry "lots of courage and big success". AFP



Alfred Muwowo (r) rumbles with Tanzania's Haji Jung in a flyweight fight. Muwowo won on knock out - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



South African boxer Asandiawe Nxokwana on her knees after being knocked down by Catherine Phiri on Saturday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Shepolopolo commence AFCON preparations

By Alex Chilumbwe
The Zambia Women National Team yesterday commenced preparations for the 2018 Africa Women Championship with 26

players summoned for camp. Coach Beauty Mwamba named a blend of youth and experience in the fulcrum of the team from the 2018

COSAFA Castle Cup squad that emerged fourth in South Africa. The team will be accommodated at Cool Breeze from October 14 to November 3 and only Buffaloes' Anita Mulenga had not yet reported for camp as the letter to the command was not sent on time. Ghana will host the Total Women's Africa Cup of

Nations scheduled for 17 November to 1 December. **FULL SQUAD**
(GOALKEEPERS)
Catherine Musonda (Indeni Girls), Maleta Muwindwa, Hazel Nali (both Green Buffaloes), Chiko Nkhoma (Red Arrows) (DEFENDERS)
Jackline Nkole (Indeni Girls), Lweendo Chisamu, Anita

Mulenga, Martha Tembo (all Green Buffaloes), Margaret Belemu, Rebecca Nyirenda (both Red Arrows), Elizabeth Nachivula (Red Arrows), Vast Musonda (Zesco Girls), Mweemba Lushomo (Nkwazi) (MIDFIELDERS)
Misozi Zulu, Rhodah Chileshe (Indeni Girls), Mary Mwakapila (Green

Buffaloes), Hellen Chanda, Prisca Chilufya (Red Arrows), Avel Chitundu (Zesco Girls), Tamara Mbewe (Green Eagles) (STRIKERS)
Theresa Chewe, Rachael Kundananji (Indeni Girls), Barbara Banda, Rachael Nachula (both Green Buffaloes), Hellen Mubanga (Red Arrows), Penelope Mulubwa (Zesco Girls)

FAZ mourns former ZESCO United Chairman

By Alex Chilumbwe

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) on Saturday through a press statement conveyed its condolences to ZESCO United Football Club and the family of the former chairman Bruno Mukeya on his passing. The former ZESCO United boss died on Friday in Ndola after an illness. Mukeya served as club Chairman from 2005 to February 2011 and oversaw a glittering period in the club's history that included a debut Super League title in 2007. He was also at the helm of the club when it made its debut in CAF competitions in 2008. Under his chairmanship, ZESCO United won the league title in 2007, 2008 and 2010 and reached the CAF Champions' League Group Stage in 2009. ZESCO were also Barclays Cup champions in 2007, 2008 and 2010 with also the Coca-Cola Cup crown in 2007.

Catherine, Lorita, Muwowo stand tall at Boxing Night

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zambian boxers held the national flag high at the non-title International Boxing tournament on Saturday evening after recording three technical knockouts and unanimous decisions against their foreign counterparts. Catherine Phiri, Lorita Muzeya and Alfred Muwowo were the highlights of the evening as the

three gave their boxing stable, Oriental Quarries Boxing Promotions (OQBP) and other sponsors value for their money. While the biggest fight of the evening was between Catherine Phiri and South Africa's Asandiawa Nxokwana, 23, Lorita Muzeya stole the spotlight as she handed a technical knockout to Emeley Kubwalo of Zimbabwe after a minute, 30

seconds into the second round of their super welterweight bout. Emeley was seemingly tough but only in appearance as she could not handle the intensity of Zambia pugilist. Alfred 'Ibrahim' Muwowo wowed the audience with his enterprising jabs and uppercuts in the Flyweight category that took out his Tanzanian rival through a technical

knockout after 2 minutes, 23 seconds of the third round. The most anticipated fight was a Super Bantam bout between Phiri and Nxokwana that did not last neither as the Xhosa warrior succumbed to a successive combination of hooks and jabs in the second round after a thrilling 2 minutes, 31 seconds. Nxokwana blamed it all on a shoulder injury that she sustained. "My shoulder and part of my ribs were hurting too much to continue. I planned to go all the way and win the bout but what has happened has happened and cannot be changed," said Nxokwana. Meanwhile, Phiri said Nxokwana was still a very good boxer whose height favoured her. "I was prepared for all the rounds but unfortunately she could not challenge the technical knockout. I'm glad I have won in a very short time as this fight was a test to my rematch against Kenya's Fatuma Zarika," said Phiri. In other results, Lusaka based Lemmy Simbeye defeated Bazla Ngosa who hails from the Copperbelt Province, while Philemon Hara punished fans' favourite Pethias Chisenga through a unanimous point decision. A less convincing win for David Mwale against Zimbabwe's Wiseman Chuma attracted little applause from the audience as viewers judgement went Chuma's way.

Mabaso's 3 pointer spell downs Matero Magic

By Alex Chilumbwe

Nelson Mabaso's 33 points and Ernest Chew's 11 assists and 6 points guided Green Buffaloes to a 86-75 win over Matero Magic in week 14 of the Midlands Basketball Association (MIBA) league on Saturday. The Combatants recorded their first win against Magic in the five encounters that the two had met in both the league and playoffs, thanks to their shooting guard Nelson Mabaso. Mabaso came in after Humphrey Mwangula got substituted and it was not regrettable. Assists from Chew were so well-timed that Mabaso managed to attempt 16 three pointers, notching 12. Supplemented by Lawrence Mubanga and Bright Chokolo's tight defence, the youngster despite his unfavourable height, also made notable drives that accumulated more baskets for the army side. It was not a totally dry game for Matero Magic as their overly energetic and determined point guard Augustine

Kainda kept replying to Mabaso's three pointers until he managed to reduce the point difference to 8 from a wide 17. Fred Kaela supplied most of the assists to Kainda while Chongo Choono tightened the defence but to little success. Magic shooting guard Fred Kaela was hopeful his side would do better against Buffaloes in the final serie (serie 3) of the league. "We could have pressed from the start and not allow them to make cheap points out of our loose defence. They were clever enough to create shooting space for Mabaso and he was not missing. This is homework to us and I am positive we will do better in serie 3," said Kaela. Meanwhile, Buffaloes defensive forward Ernest Chew could not hide his excitement over the victory. "I think every team rejoices when it beats Magic. It is not easy at all and I'm hoping we will maintain the composure and creativity we had throughout the game and use it in remaining fixtures. We just need to work even harder so that we keep

collecting maximum points. Our team has been maintained for four seasons so we should utilize this advantage," said Chew. A top four finish in the league had never been this unpredictable since the past four seasons where it had always been Matero Magic, UNZA Pacers, Buffaloes and Hawks. The table lists Munali Suns, Pacers, Matero Magic and LCC Looters while the fifth and sixth positions are occupied by Hawks and Bulldogs that could easily escalate to the top four if they squared up on aggregate with the current top four teams. In the feminine league, UNZA Honeys, Magic Sparks, Green Buffaloes and Napsa Breeze were still topping the table in that order. The weekend results were as follows in the senior league. Munali Suns 86 and Hawks 75 (Musculine) Unza Honeys 57 and Hotspurs 42 (Feminine) Shells 39 and Green buffaloes 68 (Feminine) Green Eagles 78 and Napsa 75 (Musculine) Unza Pacers 84 and Lcc Looters 76 (Musculine)

Hazard vows not to force Madrid move



Eden Hazard has refuted suggestions that he could look to leave Chelsea when the January transfer window opens. The Blues forward has long been linked with a switch to Real Madrid but, despite strong rumours he could make the move in the summer, he remained at Stamford Bridge. The Belgian has since reiterated it is his dream to sign for the Liga giants, leading to reports that he could even look to jump ship in the January window. But speaking to Telefoot, Hazard has insisted that will not happen and that he will not look to clash with the club in an attempt to force a move to the Santiago Bernabeu. *Goal.com*



Former WBC female bantamweight Champion Catherine Phiri (l) fights South Africa's Asandiawe Nxokwana in a non-title super bantam at Government Complex on Saturday. Catherine won with a knock out – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

ZAMBIA PUNISHED

... wasteful Chipolopolo leave Guinea empty handed

By Alex Chilumbwe | served Zambia the | Chipolopolo managed in | Wednesday, in Lusaka that | Guinea Bissau yesterday | same 2-1 scoreline that | their first clash last week, | has seen the West Africas



Toulon winger Julian Savea's late yellow card helped condemn his team to a one-point loss to Newcastle - AFP

top group K in the AFCON qualifiers. Three scares by Guinea characterized the first four minutes of the game while Zambia had only tried one shot over the bar. A free kick after Red Bull Salzburg's Enock Mwepu got fouled near the 18 box presented Zambia a chance to take lead. Orlando Pirates' Justine Shonga did not disappoint as his beautifully taken free kick gave Chipolopolo the lead in the 12th minute of the first half. Guinea equalized through an own goal by Stopilla Sunzu whomkisc an effort to deflect a shot from a Guinea forward. A couple of back-to-back counter attacks by both sides rocked the early minutes of the second half and it was only fruitful to the

Guineans side as they found the back of the net in the 65th minute. Sven hoped the replacement of Augustine Mulenga by Lazarous Kambole could change things for the Copper bullets in the 78th minute while Patson Daka and TP Mazembe's Reinford Kalaba made little positive improvement to the team adjustments. A golden chance for Zambia in the 82nd minute went too wide to allow Chipolopolo boys to equalize. An expression of disappointment could be seen on Patson Daka but the attacks were mostly blocked by Guinea's Luis Mendez. Three minutes of additional time could not help as Zambia left Guinea empty handed with a 2-1 defeat.