



KATANGA EXPLAINS

PASTORS' ARRESTS

Story page 7

...they were discussing politics not budget



Miss Bikini models pose during the beauty contest at Alliance Fraincaise in Lusaka. The event was graced by Mayor Miles Sampa and soccer star Christopher Katongo

Mosho demands K5m from Kambwili, Gary or face bankruptcy proceedings

By Mukosha Funga
Lusaka lawyer Lewis Mosho has threatened to commence bankruptcy proceedings against NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili and Mazabuka UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo if they fail to pay K5 million within two days. In May, Mosho's law firm wrote to the two parliamentarians

demanding K5 million as compensation after the Lusaka High Court threw out the dual's petition to

join the impeachment case with costs. In a follow-up letter addressed to their

lawyers, Lewis Nathan Advocates threatened bankruptcy proceedings. **To page 5**

Chazanga wife locks husband in, sets matrimonial house ablaze

By Mukosha Funga

Police in Lusaka have arrested a 46-year-old woman of Chazanga Compound for killing her 54-year-old husband by locking him in their house and setting it

ablaze.

In a statement, police spokesperson Esther Katongo explained that Solomon Zulu was rescued by his landlord but died at UTH due to severe burns. **To page 3**

Exam leakages will mess up 2019 calendar - ZNUT

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Zambia National Teachers Union (ZNUT) says it is afraid that exam leakages will mess up the 2019 academic calendar and stretch pupils as well as teachers. **To page 7**

ZRA still owes mines \$600m in VAT refunds - Chishimba

By Stuart Lisulo

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) still owes mining companies an outstanding US \$600 million in unpaid VAT refunds, according to the Chamber of Mines. **To page 6**

DCs campaigning for PF in Mangango - Mwiimbu

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Leader of the opposition in Parliament Jack Mwiimbu says District Commissioners in Western Province have mobilised government vehicles to campaign for PF in Mangango and the ECZ has no capacity to stop the malpractice. **To page 2**

UNZA law school explains poor performance at ZIALE

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Convention will be a formality, HH is our candidate - UPND

Story page 2



By Daniel Chansa

UPND Chairman Elisha Matambo says party will go for a formality convention because it has already picked Hakainde Hichilema and his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba as candidates for any presidential elections. Matambo said the UPND was resolved to protect its national leaders from any attacks any cost.

Matambo was speaking at the UPND Kabushi Constituency card renewal exercise on Saturday afternoon in Ndola.

“So prepare to meet Hakainde Hichilema and his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba. Whether they like it or not. We are the 10 provinces have already decided. The PF should not force us to go for a convention. We will go. They will be shocked. But let me tell everyone that as the

Convention will be a formality, HH is our candidate – UPND

10 provinces in our country, the UPND has resolved that our candidates in any presidential elections is HH and GBM. Whether PF likes it or not, they will face the two,” Mutambo said. “Ala kutumpa (it’s being stupid), why should they want to bring confusion

in our party? Let me focus on the lies they told the Zambian people. The convention that we will have is just for formality. Only other positions will be contested. President is HH, vice is GBM and these are the leaders for the Presidential elections.

So bakose (they should be strong). Zambians are more upset with this PF. Just move around and you will see. Today we are at this meeting, just look at the people that have come.” He said the PF should not be so scared if they have delivered to the Zambian

people.

“Why are people scared? Why should they block us in everything? Ba PF should not panic if they have delivered. But because of failures, aba baka bolala (these thieves) are now in panic. These guys can’t let go of power because of their

criminal activities. They know that there next place is jail. So they will do anything to remain in power. But we are encouraged by the support from the Zambian people,” said Matambo.

“They will try to use the police. But again, we are happy with the police because they inform us. They are equally not happy with these bakabwalala. They will arrest you based on instructions to keep their jobs. The police are under pressure, but we understand them. They say, we are bitter, but look at how Kambwili has exposed them. Look at how Harry Kalaba has exposed them. Look at KBF who believes in PF, he is exposing them and he wants better leadership in PF than these bakabwalala.”

Earlier, Ndola District Chairman James Phiri advised police not to be used by the PF.

“I think time for intimidation is now over. The police should not think we can’t act. Every time they cancel our meetings and think we are foolish. I think let me arrest me now. I will go on with the meetings with or without the permits, just like the PF does. So there should not be selective application of the law. Why should we be intimidated everyday. We will not fear the police anymore,” said Phiri.

During the same card renewal exercise, 425 people defected from the PF to the UPND.

“How do we dununa reverse in poverty? That is foolishness, we can’t continue in this PF. Let them come and see us. These are just thieves that give us little money. We are now in malnutrition. We dununaned ourselves in the head,” said Cleopatra Mulenga who led the defectors.

DCs have mobilised government vehicles to campaign for PF in Mangango - Mwiimbu

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Leader of the opposition in Parliament Jack Mwiimbu says the Electoral Commission of Zambia remains a toothless bulldog because they fear the government of the day who can remove it’s leadership at anytime.

And Mwiimbu complained to Parliament that District Commissioners in Western Province have mobilised government vehicles to campaign in the Mangango parliamentary by election.

Meanwhile, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says Zambians should be proud of ECZ because its a very important institution.

Debating Head 05-Electoral Commission of Zambia in Parliament, Friday, Mwiimbu charged that ECZ was a toothless bulldog because they feared the government of the day.

“And the Electoral Commission has been toothless. The institution is a toothless bulldog. They have been failing to enforce the code of conduct because they fear the government of the day. The complaints that have been raised and brought to the attention of ECZ have never been attended to. ZNBC, Times of Zambia, Daily Mail, with impunity they ignored the Constitution of Zambia. Why should we allow public institutions to ignore with impunity what is provided for in the law?” he asked.

Mwiimbu said ECZ was afraid to defend the rights of the opposition because its leadership is appointed by the President.

“District Commissioners

in Western province have been mobilised, they are all in Mangango and campaigning for PF and they are using government vehicles. It therefore entails that DC’s are using government’s resources in the campaigns. The law does not allow any other person in this country to utilise government transport apart from the President and Vice-President. Why are we allowing junior civil servants to be using government resources to campaign for a political party and ECZ is quiet? They have the power to take action against those DC’s,” he said.

“They have never done that, they fear because the leadership of the electoral commission is appointed by the President. And the President can remove them at any time without giving reasons. That is the tragedy of ECZ. ECZ has no security of tenure, they fear that if they rise up and defend the rights of the opposition, they will be removed.”

Mwiimbu observed that one of the factors that led to strife in Zambia was management of the media.

“We are all aware that one of the factors that have led to strife and discontent in this country arises from the management of the media. The public media supervised by the Ministry of Information have let this country down. During the last elections and all the other elections, the public media have been consistently biased against those they perceive to be in the opposition. Members of the opposition have been crying foul pertaining to

the way ZNBC has been managing its affairs. The complaints ended up being in court [but] despite court orders, ZNBC never obliged,” he said.

And Mwiimbu further charged that violence during elections in Zambia was to a large extent caused by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the police.

“The Ministry has failed to perform their functions in ensuring that there is law and order. What has happened is that the police are now under the supervision of a political party. If you are a member of the opposition, you report a matter of violence to the police, the police will not take any action. They fear that if they take any action, they will be victimised,” said

Mwiimbu.

“Maybe the tragedy is that the one who is leading the Ministry of Home Affairs is also the chairperson of the youth wing of the political party. So the police don’t see the difference. There must be a division here. And the youths in the ruling party must be told that they have no power to supervise the police. As a result members of the public have lost confidence in the police.”

Meanwhile, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo said Zambians should be proud of ECZ because it was a very important institution.

“Indeed this is a very important institution and we as a nation should feel proud of ECZ. This is an

institution which has been able to demonstrate that they can work in conformity to the SADC guidelines and procedures in terms of SADC member states holding credible elections. We as government are quite proud of ECZ and we can only encourage them to continue the very best they are doing. With respect to dialogue they have tried their best to bring stakeholders together,” said Kampyongo. “We as political players must appreciate that this referee (ECZ) has a role to play. So if you have opted to be a perpetual loser, you don’t change your team, you play with the same political strikers who can’t marshal support from the people, you can’t blame the ECZ.”



Emilly Kuwema shakes hands with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting permanent secretary Godfrey Malama as she graduates as the best student in feature writing during ZAMCOM's 5th graduation ceremony on October 26, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Mukosha Funga
 Police in Lusaka have arrested a 46-year-old woman of Chazanga Compound for killing her 54-year-old husband by locking him in their house and setting it ablaze. In a statement, police spokesperson Esther

Chazanga woman locks husband in, burns matrimonial house to ashes

Mwaata Katongo explained that Solomon Zulu was only rescued by his landlord but died at UTH due to severe burns.

“Police in Lusaka have arrested a woman of Lusaka’s Chazanga Compound identified as Mary Phiri aged 46

in connection with the murder of her husband identified as Solomon Zulu aged 54. Brief facts are that on 26th October,

2018 between 04:00 hours and 04:30 hours, Mary Phiri allegedly set ablaze the house, which the couple was renting,

after locking her husband inside the house,” Katongo narrated. “The victim was rescued by the Landlord Lazarus Mwila who heard him call for help and when he went outside, he noticed that the house in which the victim was, was on fire and that the victim was trying to escape through a window but it was small. He then called for help from other people in the neighbourhood who put managed to rescue the victim and put out the fire. The victim suffered severe burns and was rushed to Chipata first level Hospital and was later referred to UTH where he later died on 27th October, 2018 at about 11:00 hours.” Katongo stated that Phiri was in police custody, yet to be charged with murder and arson. “At about 17:45 hours members if the public managed to apprehend the suspect who had initially run away and handed her over to Police. The body of the deceased is in UTH mortuary while the suspect is in police custody yet to be charged with Murder and Arson,” she stated. Meanwhile, Katongo stated that police in Kawambwa District received a report of drowning from Innocent Nkamba aged 39, of Thomas village, Chief Munkanta in Kawambwa District. “Brief information stated that on 27th October, 2018 at unknown time, his son male juvenile Joshua Nkamba aged 12 of the same address also a Grade 6 pupil at Mpota Primary School went to swim in Ng’ona River near Kawambwa/Mbereshi Road Bridge in the company of 12 friends. The deceased’s friend only noticed that the Joshua was missing from the group around 17:00 hours. They went and informed the deceased’s father who later reported to Police. The Scene was visited and a search was conducted by members of the community and Police but could not find the body. The search continued today, 28th October, 2018 and around 08:00 hours, the body was found and has since been retrieved from the river,” stated Katongo.



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Graduates of Zambia Institute of Mass Communication celebrate the 5th graduation ceremony at ZAMCOM grounds on Friday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Zondiwe Mbewe

University of Zambia acting registrar Rodgers Phiri says UNZA School of Law was, by far, the strongest performer in the recently ended ZIALE examinations. And Phiri says UNZA School of Law is still, by far, the premier Law School in the country adding that, no other University surpasses UNZA in the number of students that are ultimately called to the Bar.

In a statement issued, Friday, Phiri stated that due to misinformation on media platforms about the performance of UNZA School of Law students in ZIALE examinations, UNZA was taking a step to publicly set the record straight, after conducting a statistical analysis of the released results.

“On October 19, 2018, the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education (ZIALE) publicly released the results of its 2017-2018 Legal Practitioners’

UNZA law school defends its credentials, explains poor show at ZIALE

Qualifying Examinations (LPQ Examinations). We have conducted a statistical analysis of the released results which are independently verifiable and public facts,” Phiri stated.

“Further, this statement itself, is not intended to sensationalise the ZIALE examination results for any gain or advantage to UNZA or its School of Law, but simply to provide the general public and stakeholders with an accurate set of facts on which

to base their perceptions. As will be evident from the facts presented in this statement, the UNZA School of Law was, by far, the strongest performer in the recently ended ZIALE examinations.”

Phiri stated that approximately 379 students sat for the final ZIALE Examinations adding that out of this number, approximately 28 percent were UNZA degree holders. He stated that among the four students who passed the ZIALE examinations,

three were first-attempt passers while the other one was not sitting for the first time.

Phiri added that one of those three “first-attempt passers” was an UNZA degree holder.

“Out of the 379 students attempting the examination for the first time, only three students cleared all 10 courses. This translates to an overall pass rate of 0.8 percent. The fourth candidate mentioned in the press was not sitting the LPQ Examination for the

first time. The public may also wish to know that one of these three “first-attempt passers” is a UNZA degree holder,” he stated.

“Since 2013, UNZA has been running two Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) streams: a “general stream” at UNZA Great East Road Campus and a “commercial law stream”, in conjunction with the Zambia Centre for Accountancy Studies. Graduates from both streams receive University of Zambia (UNZA) law degrees.”

And Phiri stated that the widely publicised news that no UNZA degree holder passed the examinations, was wholly untrue.

He further stated that a staggering 92 percent of all candidates who passed nine out of the 10 courses examined, were UNZA degree holders.

“86 percent of these students were drawn from our main stream and six percent were drawn from our commercial stream.

Further, all of the UNZA students that failed only one course, failed the exact same course. This may indicate that our students encountered a common problem in that particular course. We intend to analyse what problems the students may have encountered in order to make necessary interventions that will assist our students when they re-sit the course in December, 2018,” Phiri stated.

He bragged that no other University surpassed UNZA in the number of students that were ultimately called to the Bar

out of any given cohort.

“The true picture of any law school’s performance is therefore not in the small sliver of students that clear on the first attempt, which this time around, is 0.8 percent; but rather, in the number of students, from any given University, that are ultimately called to the Bar out of any given cohort. In this regard, no other University surpasses UNZA. With the strong performance of our students this year, we have no reason to believe that it will be any different with this cohort,” Phiri stated.

“For seven years straight (2011-2018), UNZA has recorded the best overall performance at ZIALE. This unrivalled performance must be understood in the context of the serious resource challenges plaguing all public universities. In spite of these debilitating challenges, the performance of our students at ZIALE has remained unrivalled. We attribute this solid performance to the resilience of our students, as well as to the first-rate academic staff which is the School of Law’s greatest asset.”

Meanwhile, Phiri stated that UNZA Law School academic staff possessed rich experience drawn from law practice, government, advocacy, as well as regional and international organisations of repute.

He stated that the UNZA School of Law was still, by far, the premier Law School in the country.

“It leads in research output. It leads in the education level and international standing of its teaching complement. It leads in the overall performance of its graduates at ZIALE. It leads in the provision of quality legal education. We also wish to state that despite the challenges faced by the UNZA School of Law, it remains committed to providing first class legal education, and to preparing its students for the legal realities of a globalised world,” stated Phiri.



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By Stuart Lisulo

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe has warned all State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) against resisting reforms that are necessary to deliver profits to their shareholders.

Speaking on the occasion of the 2nd Industrial Development Corporation's (IDC) Annual Group Conference in Livingstone, Saturday, Mwanakatwe bemoaned the slow pace at which some SOEs are embracing reforms that were introduced by government to wean them of the Treasury.

She noted that while a few notable SOEs had been declaring dividends to the IDC in the last

SOEs resistant to reform will not be tolerated, warns Mwanakatwe

financial year, others are still resistant towards improving their work and business culture.

Some of the key reforms government has undertaken are that the boards and chief executive officers of SOEs are now appointed by the IDC as opposed to respective Ministers of Finance in a bid to boost professionalism and change of mindset.

"Even as we are seeing gratifying signs, we are concerned that progress

is slow. There are still too many companies that have not taken the steps in the right direction. We still have CEOs and Boards who believe government must finance them; we still have CEOs who continue to seek the protection of government rather than take the steps to compete with the private sector; we still have Boards where Directors focus on their own remuneration rather than driving the turnaround of the

companies they have been entrusted to lead," Mwanakatwe said at Avani Hotel.

She warned that government will not tolerate SOEs resistant to reform.

"Let me be very categorical. The reforms we have embarked on to reshape State-Owned Enterprises will not fail. We will not tolerate Boards and CEOs that resist reform. If you are not prepared to be the drivers of reforms,

you leave, or we will get rid of you," Mwanakatwe cautioned.

"The days when CEOs stayed in their jobs through political patronage, paying for workshops in Ministries or the travel of Permanent Secretaries and Ministers must end. CEOs must remain in their jobs because they are implementers of reforms; people who deliver profit and dividend to their shareholders. Board members who attend

meetings to get envelopes rather than drive reforms will not survive. Boards are not retirement packages or sources of additional income. We appoint you to Boards to drive reforms, deliver change and ensure the companies are profitable.

She further complained that the Treasury was tired of supporting failing SOEs. "Companies that come to the Treasury with begging bowls will not be tolerated. Treasury is tired of supporting entities that instead of contributing to the Treasury, are instead draining the Treasury. If the IDC as your shareholder cannot intervene, don't come to the Ministry of Finance. If your companies and the IDC cannot find amongst yourselves the solution to your sustainable future, do not come to the Treasury seeking some miracle of sorts," pleaded Mwanakatwe, who also directed that all SOEs observe the raft of austerity measures introduced by government earlier this year, among other directives.

The 2nd IDC Annual Group Conference was held under the theme: "driving reforms from within."

FIC gets membership to Global Financial Intelligence Units

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Heads of Global Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) has approved Zambia's admission as a member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

Four years ago, Zambia's Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) made an application to become a member of the Egmont Group as required by the global Anti-Money Laundering/Countering and the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Standards. According to a statement issued last week, Zambia's confirmation of membership was made at the 25th Plenary of the Egmont Group which was recently held in Sydney, Australia.

And Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe has welcomed the move saying that it was one of strides the country was making towards the fight against financial crimes.

"Admittance to the Egmont

Group is also expected to improve investor confidence in Zambia's financial system and its attendant Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism Regime,"

Ministry spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta quoted Mwanakatwe as saying.

Mwanakatwe further said that Zambia's membership to the Egmont Group becomes an addition to

the positive attributes that international rating agencies look out for in assigning a sovereign credit rating to a country.

The goal of the Egmont Group is to provide a

forum for FIUs around the world to improve support to their respective governments in the fight against money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes.

I've delivered 90% of my promises, says Sampa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa says the Lusaka City Council's tendering committee is evaluating bids in order to pick a long term free wi-fi provider for the city.

And Sampa says 90 percent of the promises he made when he was elected into office have been achieved.

In an interview, Sampa said insisted that he never promised free WI-FI within 100 days of his election but that he said he would begin the process of introducing it. "Most of them are 90 percent achieved and the beauty with modern politics is that in my case I came with a

social contract during the campaigns where I listed things that I was going to do for the people of Lusaka and I signed and I printed and gave people the physical copies. But on the things written on my social contract, almost 90 percent of them are achieved and before we reached the 100 days as I promised, I think we are in the range of 80 days or so, I look forward to achieving 100 percent of all the things [that I promised] within 100 days. For instance, I promised that within 100 days, I will start the process of providing free WI-FI in Lusaka. [I said] 'start', the key word here

is 'start' and look, I think within three weeks in office, we launched free WI-FI at the council. A company came up with a trial," Sampa said.

"And beyond that, the tender committee of the council is evaluating bids to pick a long term WI-FI provider for Lusaka. So for me, the provisions of free WI-FI I have started. My opposers from the opposition who think that politics is about... have stood out to say 'you promised that we will have free WI-FI in Lusaka in 100 days [but] where did they get that from? I promised to start. I promised to start removing heaps of garbage

in Lusaka because there were mountains of garbage when I became mayor but by now, you should show me where there is garbage."

He said among other promises that he had fulfilled was paying council retirees.

"Retirees, we have started the process of paying retirees [and] that has been achieved. I will tell you what's outstanding, what is outstanding is town halls. I am yet to go to a community welfare or community hall and have a meeting with representatives in a particular constituency. We will do that and it's in planning where Chilenje hall or Matero. We will representatives from teachers, health officials in the area. From religious leaders, sports leaders, marketers, youths and businessmen, put them in that hall and as mayor sit and listen to them and tell them my plans for them," he said.

Sampa said he welcomed factual criticism.

"But to have full performance and change Lusaka to make it to start looking green like a garden city, it's a long process. I intend to make it different by the time I get to the end of my term in 2021. Most of them (promises), I would have achieved by then but beyond that, it's a continuous process. I am

happy to be criticized, that is why we asked for votes but the criticism has to be factual and it has to be real. It shouldn't be imaginary and full of malice," he said.

Meanwhile, Sampa said he had written to all the bill board owners in Lusaka to remove all the campaign materials on them since the campaign period is over.

"We wrote the letters as the council to all the bill board owners to remove the campaign materials and also for me as mayor. And I have seen most have removed [them] and there were some outstanding for instance [the one] for honourable [Margaret] Mwanakatwe at Woodlands roundabout and even her she said she has no control but that it should be removed. So we will follow up. There was one big billboard of Miles Sampa at Arcades Round about during the campaigns, I think it stood for a month after the campaign [but] if you drive there now it has been removed. There was even an advert for Central Province Expo. So the council has no capacity to remove each and every campaign material but hopefully with the rains, most of them will be washed out. So I am keen that they be removed because people are no longer in the campaign mood, people want to work," said Sampa.

Mosho threatens bankruptcy proceedings against CK, Nkombo

By Mukosha Funga

Lusaka lawyer Lewis Mosho has threatened to commence bankruptcy proceedings against NDC consultant Chishimba Kambwili and Mazabuka UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo if they fail to pay K5 million within two days.

In May, Mosho's law firm, Lewis Nathan Advocates, wrote to the two parliamentarians demanding K5 million as compensation after the Lusaka High Court threw out the dual's petition to join the impeachment case with costs.

And in a follow-up letter addressed to their lawyers from Malambo and Company, CL Mundia and Company, Keith Mweemba and Advocates and PNP Advocates dated October 26, Lewis Nathan Advocates threatened bankruptcy proceedings.

"On 24th May 2018, the court awarded costs against your clients, Hon Chishimba Kambwili MP and Hon Gary Nkombo MP following dismissal of their application to join the proceedings in this cause. On the aforementioned date, we pegged and demanded our costs at a collective token

of Five Million Kwacha (K5,000,000) but which sum your clients have hitherto failed or neglected to settle. We now demand your clients to settle the said amount within 48 hours from the date hereof failure to which we shall without any further notice institute bankruptcy proceedings against the said Hon Kambwili MP and Hon Nkombo MP, and in which case, upon bankruptcy order, their parliamentary seats shall be lost and declared vacant by the Speaker of the National Assembly without further eligibility for re-election," read the letter.

By Mirriam Chabala

PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza has demanded a public apology from United Party for National Development (UPND) vice-president Geoffrey Mwamba for branding people from Luapula and Eastern Provinces as thieves.

Commenting on GBM's sentiments, where he said most thieves in government hail from Luapula and Eastern Province, Mwanza told News Diggers in an interview that the UPND's sentiment was a recipe for civil unrest.

"The tribal sentiments by Mr Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba are extremely unfortunate and raises cause for worry, looking at the fact that this is a man who is a Vice-President of a leading opposition party and has served in government as a Cabinet minister a member of parliament. So we expect that such tribal talks where

GBM must apologise for saying govt thieves are from Luapula, East – PF

you categorise a certain tribe and certain groupings in a stereotypical manner that Mr Mwamba has done to the people of Eastern Province and those from Luapula, should not be coming from him. To categorise Easterners and Bembas as thieves because of the perception that he has over individuals, is not only an insult to the groups of people but it is also a serious injury to this nation. This kind of reckless talk has got the ability to raise tribal discomfort and civil war," Mwanza said.

"It's this reckless talk that resulted into the genocide in Rwanda, where someone would go on radio and categorise a group of people as cockroaches. So for anyone to go to the media and categorise groups of people as thieves, such sentiments are the ones that are a cause of tribal divisions and tribal wars in other countries. So we demand that Mr GBM must apologise to all Easterners and to the people of Luapula because he can't call us Easterners and our tribal cousins

collectively as thieves."

Mwanza charged that GBM's remarks were testimony that he was coming from an abusive and violent party.

"But also, this just shows you the quality of leaders that UPND has. This is someone's running mate, a person who if, God forbid, Hichilema was to win election, this is the man who will have to be the Vice-President. A man who insults in front of cameras on live television. This is a man who justifies the beating of wives as normal and Mr Hichilema still hangs on to

this man. So if Mr Hichilema is still keeping Mr GBM, it means he endorses his behaviour. We challenge Mr Hichilema to censure GBM, we challenge him to remove GBM as Vice-President of the UPND. If he doesn't it simply means that he also agrees with these tribal insults. Because if HH doesn't agree with GBM, he must ask GBM to make a public apology," Mwanza said.

"When GBM was on Prime TV, insulting in front of cameras, Mr Hichilema did

nothing about it. When News Diggers did an editorial to condemn GBM's insults, Mr Hichilema was quiet when UPND cadres were insulting News Diggers for simply raising the issue that GBM was wrong to be insulting in public. So it's clear that HH agrees with GBM's insults. But us in the PF, we are not surprised because UPND is anchored on tribalism, and anyone who has joined UPND, the only way to remain in UPND is if you tore the tribal line. Once you refuse to do that then you become an enemy of UPND. But again I want to be clear, it's not the Tonga's, it is the leaders in UPND that believe in tribal politics, that's why now GBM because he is number two in UPND, he has also started thinking in tribal lines, that's why today he can insult the entire Luapula and Eastern Provinces."

Mwanza further said he could only imagine how UPND members would have reacted if it were Southerners who had been called thieves. "If it was an Easterner or a person from Luapula saying that 'Southerners and Westerners are thieves', the UPND could have been up in arms, they could have even raised this issue in Parliament and asked for a point of order. Their propaganda social media platforms would have been buzzing the whole day and night about this to condemn and to vilify anybody who said those sentiments. But they are quiet because it suits them. And this is the quality of leadership in UPND, it is a tribal leadership... I was one of the strategists that made Mr Hichilema to become President, the only qualification he had is that he was Tonga and he had money. So if Mr Hichilema does not censure GBM and tender an apology on behalf of his party, it means that he supports insults from GBM," said Mwanza.

ZRA still owes mines \$600 million in VAT refunds

By Stuart Lisulo

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) still owes mining companies an outstanding US \$600 million in unpaid VAT refunds, according to the Chamber of Mines.

Responding to a press query, Zambia Chamber of Mines president Nathan Chishimba disclosed that the country's large-scale mining companies are collectively owed an outstanding US \$600 million in unpaid VAT refunds.

He explained that from the total US \$600 million, the industry is still owed US \$400 million under the old VAT Rule 18 tax regime, a situation which he added continued to affect the working capital of mining companies.

VAT Rule 18 drew its legality from section 15 of the VAT Act, which stated that goods and services "described in the Second Schedule shall be zero-rated."

Under the law, all exporters, including mining companies, are indirectly exempt from paying VAT by being "zero-rated", meaning that although they have to register as suppliers of goods and services on which VAT is to be charged when they sell their goods, they charge VAT at a rate of zero per cent.

This means that in terms of VAT, they owe the ZRA nothing since they have collected no output VAT, but could claim back all the "input VAT" for each month.

"From the records we have as a Chamber, the industry is owed approximately US \$400 million in refunds under the old Rule 18 regime, and approximately US \$200 million post-the Rule 18 regime. This is obviously a

matter of concern for our members, because as long as the debt persists, their operations will continue to be impacted by this significant pinch on their daily working capital through the withholding of these funds," Chishimba stated.

"This cannot be good for the long-term health of the industry, and we implore the government and the ZRA to expeditiously resolve this matter."

But when asked if the Chamber could confirm whether the ZRA has started to make payments against the outstanding amounts due, he said mining companies have not reported any significant reductions so far.

Last week, ZRA Corporate Communications Manager Topsy Sikalinda told News Diggers! in a statement that the Authority had refunded back over 80 per cent of the K7 billion to the mines paid between January and October this year.

"That is a very interesting statement because none of our members have reported any significant reduction, if at all, in the amounts they are owed. We are confident about the numbers because as late as last week we met as an industry and these numbers came up," replied Chishimba, who is also Barrick Lumwana executive director.

"It has not been very easy to engage with the ZRA since the (2019) budget was announced, but this is clearly

an issue that is not helping the industry in its current difficulties."

Meanwhile, in a separate development, the ZRA stated that it has received "overwhelming responses" from members of the general public on the modalities of implementing the Sales Tax as contained in next year's budget.

According to a statement issued by ZRA Acting Commissioner-General Bridget Muyenga, the Sales Tax policy was actually an idea proposed by the ZRA in a bid to migrate from Value Added Tax (VAT) to Sales Tax due to weaknesses and complications

in its administration.

"The Authority is in full support of Sales Tax and the idea was originated by the Authority to migrate from VAT to Sales Tax, which will definitely be lower than VAT and benefit the ordinary Zambian citizens by paying a lower tax than the current VAT," stated Muyenga.

"The Authority believes that Sales Tax will create a steady cash flow for both the business community and government unlike is with the case of VAT refunds where business entities have to wait for a refund in order to consistently operate."

According to Muyenga,

the Sales Tax will also help broaden the tax base and increase revenue contributions by all sectors and individuals in the entire value chain.

But stakeholders have roundly rejected the government's proposal as businesses fear its feasibility being introduced on April 1 next year.

KPMG, the globally-renowned audit, tax and advisory services firm, earlier this month warned that government's insistence to introduce the controversial Sales Tax next April will create uncertainty in the Zambian economy, which would be "very injurious" to business.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (centre) walks on the Kafue Bridge after checking on the Kafue Weed in Kafue on Saturday, October 27, 2018 - Picture by Salim Henry

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambia National Union of Teachers (ZNUT) general secretary Newman Bubala says recurring exam leakages have the potential to propel undeserving students who may attain qualifications they did not work hard for.

And Bubala ZNUT fears that the suspension of exams will largely affect the school calendar and stretch pupils.

Last week, General Education Minister David Mabumba suspended the grade seven, nine and 12 examination papers, pending a full investigation into leaked papers that were splashed all over social media ahead of the exam date last Tuesday.

In an interview, Bubala expressed concern that continued exam leakages would undermine genuine, deserving students from advancing with their studies at the expense of those pupils

Exam leakages will mess up 2019 academic calendar, stretch pupils, ZNUT fears

that end up benefiting from the malpractice.

“The key players in the education system [who] are the Ministry of Education, the labour movement, the Examination Council of Zambia, and the community at large need to rise to the occasion and serve the education system. What has happened is not that there is anything new, but it’s at the levels it has gone, it has now reached at a level where things (question papers) are

now thrown on social media and even with answers. An exam is a national exam meaning that a child in Shangombo, Mwinilunga, in Sinazeze, Kashikishi or where ever are writing the same exam at the same time. Now, when you reach a point where somebody can get answers in advance in a country where we believe that space is by performance, we are going to have a situation where somebody is really ready for the exam

but doesn’t make it because the one who has qualified is the one who had leakages and doesn’t even know what an exam is all about,” Bubala said.

He pointed out that this exam suspension period needed to be used to identify the sources of the leakages and to seal all the loopholes, adding that as long as the Examination Council of Zambia (ECZ) did not seal the loopholes for examination leakages, the

trend would continue.

“The closing of this period of suspension period, this is a point where the Examination Council, ourselves and everyone should think about how to correct this situation? How do we avoid these leakages? And where is the source of those leakages so that by the time this suspension is lifted, all the loopholes, all the openings, which are happening to make somebody access this should be closed,” Bubala

advised.

“Therefore, between now and the time of re-sitting, and definitely exams will come back, but they should come with all sealed processes. Now our worry is that what is the problem? Is there something we are not doing right? Even in Namibia, there are no leakages [but] what is wrong with us? Is there something we are not doing right with our system?

I believe it’s the owners of the exam who are supposed to tell us, the Examination Council of Zambia. Their role is to prepare the exam, to secure the exams up to the point of delivery. They have put measures in place from the point of printing to the strong room where they have kept them under lock and key with different keys kept by different people. And then from the point where they are about to be delivered, there are policemen protecting those papers up to the school where again they are going to a strong rooms. [On] the day of writing, there keys under three different people open and take them.”

And Bubala said the suspension of exams would largely affect the school calendar.

“These exams will be re-written [but] the only point, which is there is that, the calendar for next year might be affected, but there must be an adjustment process between now and January. So, in this waiting time, you see there is no need of setting another exam, which again will be leaked. So, let them seal all the loopholes. Secondly, all the children who wanted to write will have to wait and in their waiting time, the calendar will be affected and the children will be over-stretched,” said Bubala, who further called for stiffer punishment for offenders.

Katanga ducks bullet after arresting clergy

By Joseph Mwenda

Copperbelt Province Police Commissioner Charity Katanga says police arrested pastors and CTPD officials who gathered to discuss the national budget because they digressed from the topic and started talking about politics, which incensed other discussants.

And Katanga says she does not perform her duties in order to get noticed and promoted by President Edgar Lungu, but rather follows the Public Order Act in managing public gatherings.

Meanwhile, Katanga says the arrested clergy and CTPD officials have all paid admission of guilt fees because they were remorseful and did not want to have the matter taken to court.

A fortnight ago, Police in disrupted a pastors’ meeting at Ndola Central Baptist Church organised by Centre for Trade Policy and Development to reflect on the proposed 2019 national budget.

But Commissioner Katanga said police arrested eight of the conveners for unlawful assembly in church, a move that caused public outrage and condemnation against Katanga.

News Diggers went further to publish an editorial opinion to the effect that there was desperation among Provincial Police Commissioners to get noticed by the Head of State and be promoted, hence their brutal policing.

But Katanga, who called News Diggers! to explain the circumstances behind the arrested of pastors and CTPD officials, also complained about the opinion, saying she does not apply the law in order to get promoted but to

serve the country.

Commissioner Katanga said she was concerned that the public was condemning her actions when in fact, the complaint came from within the participants of the meeting.

“The agenda for that meeting was the budget, policy and the other things, but what was discussed there was not part of that. They started bordering on other issues, and themselves, including the clergy who were aggrieved reported the matter to police. The complaint came from themselves the participants. They said ‘there is this that is happening here and we are not comfortable with what is being discussed here’, that is how you saw those police officers. Mind you the Public Order Act says even when there is a notice for lawful assembly, at some point that meeting can become unlawful when something going on there can cause the breach of peace,” Katanga said.

“The premises were paid for and it was not in the church itself, but it was a church hall where people gather. And you may wish to know that the Public Order Act sir can be very weird, but it gives us power even over church meetings. When they have events like overnight and crusades or those kinds of gatherings, they have to notify the police. That was not the case, they did not notify the police, but even then, it was not something that the police worried about. It’s only when the complaint came from one of them that we moved in as police, and you may wish to know that when stopping such a gathering you can’t send one officer because there can be resistance, that

is why a battalion was sent.” Katanga refused to name the people who complained to police, and when asked to explain what “other things” were being discussed away from the meeting’s agenda, the Commissioner said she could not go into such details neither.

“Just like you don’t disclose the ones who give you information for protection, I will not disclose to you the names, and I am not going to go into the nitty-gritties of what they started discussing. But they complained and the police arrested eight out of the 53, the others ran away. When they were released on bond, these people even went to plead to the minister over what they did, and they were told to go and see the commissioner. I wasn’t even around but they had

to wait until I returned,” she explained.

“After these people pleaded, we reduced the charge from unlawful assembly to conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace. They were given an option that if they wanted we could go ahead to take the matter to court for unlawful assembly, but if they are feeling guilty over what happened, we could reduce it to ‘conduct’ which is payable. They have all paid admission of guilt; I have eight deposit slips here, because they didn’t want the matter to go to court. That is what happened, but people have taken this out of proportion because they have other agendas.”

She complained against the News Diggers opinion.

“The way the News Diggers article came out seemed

to suggest that I am being unfair in the application of the law because I am looking for a certain position, which is not the case. We do not work like that. But we don’t have a platform like you to explain these things, so you have to be fair when you write about us,” complained Katanga.

“It is not always that where there is an illegal gathering then we have to be balllocking these people, there are many cases when we have only talked to people like Honourable Chishimba Kambwili and Honourable Harry Kalaba that ‘this is what the law says, so next time don’t do that’. In this case, I think it’s important for people to know what transpired because they don’t have the information that we have.”



First Lady Esther Lungu prays with the First Lady of Burundi Denise Nkurunziza at the Church on the Rock in Bujumbura, Burundi on Sunday, October 28, 2018—Picture by THOMAS NSAMA

Government has continued to tell the same lie over and over again, hoping that maybe along the way it would probably graduate into being the truth. Well, that only works when there is no evidence to the contrary, but the criminality around the digital migration scandal is too documented to attract any believability from members of the public.

When we published an editorial comment explaining how the Chinese took over the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, those who get paid to defend government lies countered our opinion with a cheap argument that the records at PACRA were unchanged and as such, ZNBC remained an autonomous institution. In essence, they want citizens to stay calm and believe that their public institution is as viable as ever, as long as it maintains its business name.

Look here PF spin-doctors. We never alleged that ZNBC will change its name to TopStar; we never said that ZNBC will now start broadcasting in Chinese (even though that is a very eminent possibility), our point has always been that the Chinese are calling the shots at the national broadcaster and they have ring-fenced the cash flow. We said TopStar is in charge of ZNBC's commercial operations and no one will control its income until the loan which was obtained from StarTimes is paid in full. So where is the misinformation here? Is this not what the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is confirming?

"The Competition and Consumer Protection

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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StarTimes, ZNBC lie has caught up with its inventors

(CCPC) has granted a conditional authorization to the proposed merger between Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) and Hantex International Corporation Limited (Hantex) which is controlled by StarTimes International Holdings Limited (Star times International). This follows an application for the merger of the two entities, to the Competition by Top Star on 20th June 2018," CCPC board chairperson Kelvin Bwalya Fube said in a statement.

"In granting of the condition authorization of the merger, the Board of Commissions noted that the Zambian Government has obtained a loan towards the implementation of the Digital Migration, which

loan has to be repaid."

This is exactly as we reported. But you see, when this statement was issued, no one panicked more than those in government and the ZNBC board in particular. They knew that this announcement was going to confirm what we had been writing about. So they hurriedly released an unsolicited explanation in a statement, which only made the confusion worse.

"ZNBC is hundred percent owned by the citizens and cannot be sold or taken over without the approval of Parliament. The relationship between ZNBC and StartTimes is in relations to the formation of the joint venture company called TopStar. The two companies have retained their full

operational and ownership autonomy and the statement from CCPC must therefore be taken in the context of ZNBC and StarTimes coming together to create TopStar Communication Company Limited," said ZNBC board chairperson Mulenga Kapwepwe.

Come on madam Kapwepwe, you are not answering the right questions here. The Zambian people are demanding very simple answers. Where did ZNBC get the US\$273 million for digital migration? Answer; they acquired a loan from StarTimes of China. Who is controlling the cash flow at ZNBC? It is the joint venture company called TopStar. How much stake does ZNBC have in that company? The answer is 40 per cent while

the Chinese (StarTimes) have 60 per cent. For how long will the Chinese remain in charge of the national broadcaster's cash flow? Until the whole loan amount is repaid.

We wonder why it is so difficult for those in government to admit simple facts as stipulated above. If there is any lie in the answers we have given, let someone in this government stand up and point to the misinformation. These are facts which are well documented in the agreements that ZNBC has signed, denying any of this is only but foolish.

From where we stand, the rest of the confusion that the government people are trying to create doesn't make sense at all. Our point has been that TopStar is in charge of ZNBC now as far as it's

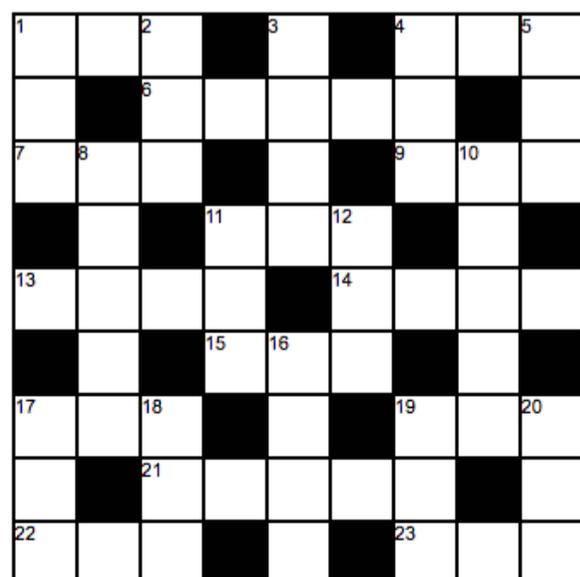
commercial operations are concerned, and that cannot be disputed. That is why we are saying that on this particular scandal, no lie told 10 times or a hundred times will ever graduate to become the truth.

If anything, it is also not in dispute that StarTimes was single sourced by State House. So the Zambian people must demand that government publishes the breakdown of expenditure for this digital migration deal. We are very sure that a huge chunk of money from this loan went into private pockets, and these are people who are defending the 'sale' of ZNBC with such a passion. They ate, and they continue to eat from the deal, that is why they are not getting tired telling the same lies over and over even when they get exposed.

Our readers may have forgotten what these shameless spin-doctors said in January this year when the Auditor General revealed that government had acquired a loan through StarTimes without a repayment plan. Both ZNBC and then Minister of Information Honourable Kampamba Mulenga said the loan had not even been actualized and there was no interest that the national broadcaster had defaulted in payment.

But these lies are now catching up with the originators. What they denied as false is being confirmed by State regulatory institutions which are finding it difficult to join the parade of shameless falsifiers. These guys will continue to deny what is written in black and white, but only a fool will be duped. They have put ZNBC on lease.

Crossword puzzle 218



"Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants."
- Epictetus

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shake, as a tail 4. ___-Man game 6. Word with cut or class 7. Root vegetable 9. Rower's need 11. Consumed 13. Potato 14. Disease cause 15. .com alternative 17. Lower limb 19. Possess 21. Traffic light color 22. Fly catcher 23. Stern's opposite | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One of the 5 W's 2. Chewing treat 3. Small argument 4. Professional 5. Automobile 8. An orchard fruit 10. Bow and ___ 11. Much ___ About Nothing 12. Easter find 16. After-bath garment 17. Rule 18. Shoot the breeze 19. Globe 20. Immediately |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 217



Reader's feedback

'We need more chiefs to speak out like Senior Chief Ishindi'

Dear Editor,
 "Thanks to Senior Chief Ishindi for his statement. We need more chiefs to speak out so that the governance in Zambia is improved; chiefs have nothing to fear, the new amended Constitution bars the President from sacking chiefs who criticize his policies. For Zambia to go forward, chiefs should emulate the progressive ideas of Senior Chief Mukuni of the Toka Leya people." - Chivunda Samusungwa

Kalaba we can believe again. Let us support those that have Zambia at heart; our route to transformation and positive change is through them." - Matthan Museesa

"Well-spoken, your majesty, not those chiefs who are only interested in brown envelopes and supporting wrong things blindly. Shame on you." - Eunice Lumonga

"The Senior Chief is VERY right to speak on behalf of the people in that fashion, though he was diplomatic and did not precisely hit the nail on its heard because the people are really yearning for a government and governance structure that will uphold the rule of law and bring sanity to society. Unlike under the PF where criminal elements and individuals wilfully abrogate the law and create confusion by defying law and order with impunity and shield themselves against being arrested and prosecuted by hiding under the PF party as cadres." - Alex Kalukangu

"The people of N/Western are 'thirsty for change.' Correct! This is rightly said. We can no longer be swayed by empty praises and propaganda. We salute you, your royal highness for coming out soberly on the position of us, your people. Through Harry

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.



HPCZ's closure of 5 C/Belt health facilities welcome

Editor,

"The move to bring sanity in this industry is welcome, but do you need to shut down the affected facilities, why not just supervise corrective measures, while members of the public continue receiving the services." - Metson Miyoba

"Credit where it's due, these guys are working and doing a commendable job. To even close big hospitals like Fairview and have schools close their faculties as they did requires a firm and clean mind. Respect." - David Phiri

"Thumbs up to HPCZ for the good works." - Collins Wanjavwa Mukololo

"These people baffle me. Who supply those institutions with expired drugs, or are there not government fraternities? And if it's YES who is to blame?? Don't behave like a concerned board when it's your duty to provide them necessary requirements." - Urwyler Kalota

"Someone just blew the whistle that some expired medicines were purchased and supplied by some individuals; those hospitals might be innocent." - Bernard Musonda

"It's not a question of who supplies expired drugs. It's rather keeping drugs beyond their expiry dates and dispensing of such to the clients. When drugs expire, even at Medical Stores they must be destroyed." - George Mtonga

Antonio: luxury jet for Zambians, not Lungu

Editor,

"Antonio, firstly, stop your lies and propaganda. Secondly, if this jet was bought for us, who told you we want it? We want better healthcare, medicines in hospitals so our people stop dying unnecessarily; desks in rural schools so our children don't sit on the floor. Not jet. Your new arrogance can make me forget my Christian values and say things I shouldn't." - Mukosha Mulenga

"Antonio Mwanza! Each time he speaks, he sounds like as if he's not in Zambia. Be assured, ba Mwanza that, these justifications you are giving today, will come to haunt you very soon." - Messi Barca

"When did ZAF register at

Pacra, and when did it become a commercial entity? When did the public mandate it to buy luxury planes that fend off missiles? And he believes he is intelligent." - Victor Chansa

"Okay, if there are for Zambians, then we don't need them, please!! Channel the money to education sector, agriculture sector and health sector." - Morris Pumulo

"Whether it's ZAF buying the jets for the people of Zambia or it's Edgar. Please tell them we, the people of Zambia, would prefer first to have medicine in hospitals and free education like George Weah has done; then cheap farming inputs and fuel before a jet." - Bashii Meghan

Synagogue gunman kills 11 in America's

worst anti-Semitic attack

A gunman faces 29 charges of violent crimes after opening fire during a baby-naming ceremony at a Pittsburgh synagogue on Saturday, killing 11 people and injuring six in the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in recent US history.

The shooter -- identified as a 46-year-old Robert Bowers -- reportedly yelled "All Jews must die" as he burst into the Tree of Life synagogue, where congregants gathered

for Sabbath services.

Taken into custody after a shootout with police, the suspect was transferred to a hospital.

US prosecutors subsequently charged him with 29 counts of federal crimes, including 11 counts of using a firearm to commit

murder and 11 counts of obstructing the exercise of religion resulting in death.

"The crimes of violence are based upon the federal civil rights laws prohibiting hate crimes," a statement said. Authorities have said Bowers' charges could carry the death penalty.

President Donald Trump denounced "a wicked act of mass murder," while his daughter Ivanka, a convert to Judaism, declared: "America is stronger than the acts of a depraved bigot and anti-Semite."

"This evil anti-Semitic attack is an assault on all of

us," Trump told supporters at an election rally in Illinois where he drew loud cheers as he vowed to fully enforce the death penalty for such crimes.

"We must stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters to defeat anti-Semitism and vanquish the forces of hate."

Trump said he would soon travel to Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, where hundreds held a candlelit vigil late Saturday.

The president ordered all flags at the White House and at public grounds, military posts and naval stations to be flown at half-staff through October 31 as a mark of "solemn respect" for the victims.

Stephen Weiss, a 60-year-old member of the congregation, described hearing dozens of shots coming from the synagogue's front lobby.

"We had services going on in the chapel when we heard a loud noise," he told the Tribune-Review newspaper. "I recognized it as gunshots." Authorities said Bowers was armed with an assault rifle and at least three handguns when he opened fire shortly before 10:00 am (1400 GMT) -- leaving a scene described as "horrific" by Wendell Hissrich, Pittsburgh's public safety director.

"One of the worst that I've seen. I've been on plane crashes," said Hissrich, who confirmed that 11 people were killed, and six injured. No children were among the casualties.

"It's sickening. Outside of just the evil factor of it, who wakes up on a Saturday morning to do that?" said Pittsburgh chef Nathan, 42, who came to pay his respects but refused to give his second name.

"Hate Has No Home Here," read a placard in a simple memorial, next to a heart-shaped US flag -- the same slogan repeated in Hebrew and Arabic, with candles and bouquets of pink roses and carnations. **AFP**

Brazil's presidential candidates made their final push for voters Saturday, with pitches that echoed the gulf between them: leftist Fernando Haddad held a "peace rally" in the favelas, while far-right frontrunner Jair Bolsonaro took to Twitter.

A day before a runoff that will decide who leads Latin America's biggest country for the next four years, Brazilians are deeply divided -- though the clear favorite is Bolsonaro, an ex-army captain nicknamed the "Tropical Trump," whose aggressive social media campaign has tapped into widespread anti-establishment rage.

Two final polls published Saturday gave Bolsonaro a lead of between eight and 10 percentage points, with around 55 percent of the vote.

Haddad has made up ground -- he trailed by as much as 18 points two weeks ago -- but it would take a truly dramatic surge for him to win at this point.

Haddad is standing in for ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a popular but controversial politician who was barred from running while serving a 12-year jail term for corruption.

The Workers' Party candidate insisted in an emotionally charged rally that he can still pull off a comeback.

"This thing is going to turn around," Haddad, 55, told a crush of thousands of white-clad supporters in the largest shantytown in Sao Paulo, a city he formerly served as mayor.

"Brazil still remembers," he added -- a pointed reference to Bolsonaro's outspoken nostalgia for the military regime that ruled Brazil with an iron fist from 1964 to 1985.

Amid the sea of frenzied supporters, Emerson Santana, 44, told AFP: "We're going to win."

"Democracy is going to win, not authoritarianism. We don't want another dictatorship."

Haddad is promising voters

Brazil candidates make final campaign pitches

a return to the golden years under Lula, who slashed poverty while presiding over

an economic boom from 2003 to 2010.

But that was before the

economy went bust and the Workers' Party, along with most political parties, got

bogged down in the slime of several massive corruption scandals. **AFP**



Ireland votes to lift blasphemy ban

Ireland has voted to lift a rarely enforced constitutional ban on blasphemy in the latest secular reform for the once staunchly Catholic country, referendum results showed on Saturday. The ban was overturned with 65 percent of voters in favour, following recent votes to allow abortion and same-sex marriage.

"It has always been my view that there is no room for a provision such as this in our constitution. Ireland is rightly proud of our reputation as a modern, liberal society," Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan said.

The referendum coincided with a presidential election which saw incumbent Michael D. Higgins win a landslide second term -- securing a 56-percent vote share in a race of six candidates.

The 1937 blasphemy provision makes "matter that is grossly abusive or insulting in relation to

matters held sacred by any religion" punishable by up to 25,000 euros (\$28,500).

In practice the legislation is largely obsolete and there have been no successful prosecutions since the Irish state was established.

But it was heavily criticised in 2015 when police were forced to investigate British TV personality Stephen Fry for branding God "stupid" during an interview.

Politicians had long made it known that they intended to remove the provision and there have been claims the law gives support to more oppressive regimes on the global stage.

"The constitutional provision and Irish law on blasphemy gives comfort to countries where they have extremely draconian laws which are used to harass, to intimidate, to imprison, to subject people to violence," Amnesty Ireland director Colm O'Gorman told AFP in an

interview in the run-up to the referendum.

When the results were announced on Saturday night only a handful of spectators were there to witness it -- a stark contrast to May's referendum, which saw vibrant celebrations when the majority backed a campaign to end a ban on abortion.

Many saw that poll, which enjoyed a 64 per cent turnout, as an indication of the Catholic Church's waning grip on Irish life.

Friday's vote saw a turnout of just 44 per cent. The re-election of Higgins, a 77-year-old former parliamentary politician, academic and poet, was presented as a foregone conclusion for much of the campaign.

Higgins told a crowd gathered at Dublin Castle for the announcement: "I will be a president for all the people -- for those who voted for me and those who did not". **AFP**



A caravan of thousands of migrants from Central America, en route to the United States, makes its way to San Pedro Tapanatepec from Arriaga, Mexico October 27, 2018. REUTERS

Chinese privately developed rocket fails to reach orbit

A privately developed Chinese carrier rocket failed to reach orbit after lifting off from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on Saturday, in a blow to the country's nascent attempts by private companies to rival Elon Musk's SpaceX.

The three-stage rocket, Zhuque-1, was developed by Beijing-based Landpace. The company said in a microblog post after nominal first and second stages that the spacecraft failed to reach orbit as a result of an issue with the third stage.

"Before Zhuque carrier rocket was launched, its mission was already completed," the company said in the post on Saturday, without giving further details.

Landpace was founded in 2015 and soon aimed to be the first Chinese private company to deliver a satellite into orbit. The company said it was the first private licensed company in China to launch carrier rockets. **REUTERS**

Former South Africa finance minister says blackmailed after sex video leaked

South Africa's former finance minister Malusi Gigaba said on Sunday a private sex video was leaked after his phone was hacked and he had faced blackmail threats over it when he headed the Treasury.

Gigaba, now Home Affairs minister, was thrust into the finance post in March last year after former President Jacob Zuma sacked Pravin Gordhan, a move that unnerved investors and roiled markets at the time. "My wife and I have learned, with regret and sadness, that a video containing material of a sexual nature, meant for our eyes only, which was stolen when my communication got illegally intercepted/ my phone got hacked, in 2016/17, is circulating among certain political figures," Gigaba said on Twitter.

"This video has been at the center of a number of blackmail and extortion attempts, dating back to the period immediately following my appointment as Minister of Finance, on 31 March 2017, all of

Georgians on Sunday started voting to elect a figurehead president in a poll seen as a crucial test for the increasingly unpopular ruling party.

The hotly contested race has pitted ex-French ambassador and Georgia's former foreign minister Salome Zurbishvili, supported by the ruling Georgian Dream party, against opposition leader Grigol Vashadze, also a former foreign minister. The two have an almost equal chance of being elected, according to opinion polls conducted in the run-up to the vote.

which I have steadfastly refused to entertain," he said on his official Twitter account.

Vuyo Mkhize, a public relations consultant working for Gigaba, confirmed the authenticity

of the tweets.

Gigaba did not disclose the nature of the blackmail demands but he said law enforcement and intelligence agencies were investigating the matter.

Police officials at the

national commissioner's office and the elite Hawks investigative unit could not immediately be reached for comment.

"I take this opportunity to publicly apologize, in advance, to the rest of my

family - especially my kids, my mom and my in-laws - and the South African public for the pain and embarrassment the likely wider distribution of this private material will cause," Gigaba said. **REUTERS**

Polls open in Georgia presidential election

Vashadze -- backed by exiled ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili's United National Movement and 10 other opposition groups -- has been boosted by growing popular discontent over the government's failure to tackle poverty.

He has promised to mount

a campaign demanding snap parliamentary polls, if elected.

Both candidates have campaigned on similar promises to bring Georgia closer to full membership of the European Union and NATO.

The vote is Georgia's last

direct leadership poll as the Black Sea nation transitions to a parliamentary form of governance following a controversial constitutional reform.

The inauguration of a new president will pave the way for the new constitution to enter into force, making

the head of state a largely ceremonial figure.

Georgia's next president will be elected in 2024 by a 300-member electoral college.

The constitutional change was adopted in September 2017, a move protested by all opposition parties, which denounced it as favouring the ruling party. Georgia's outgoing President, Giorgi Margvelashvili, refused to run for a second term, saying he is not interested in assuming the reduced role.

Over 3.5 million people are eligible to vote in the election, which will be monitored by international observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Polls opened at 0400 GMT and will close at 1600 GMT, with results expected to start coming in overnight. **AFP**

Two UN peacekeepers killed in Mali attacks

Two United Nations peacekeepers have been killed and "several others" wounded in two attacks in northern and central Mali, the UN mission in the west African country has said. MINUSMA said troops "repelled a complex attack" on Saturday at their base in Ber, 60km east of Timbuktu, launched from

several trucks armed with "rocket launchers, machine guns and other explosives".

A second attack in Konna, in the central Mopti region, involved a UN vehicle running over an improvised explosive device, wounding four Togolese peacekeepers.

"According to an initial toll, two

peacekeepers were killed and several others were wounded," the UN mission said in a statement.

Burkina Faso army has confirmed that two of its peacekeepers were killed in the Ber attack, with five others were injured.

AL JAZEERA

Jason Derulo sings from balcony after arena gig gets cancelled

Jason Derulo sang to fans from a balcony instead of inside an

arena after his concert in Prague was cancelled over safety concerns.

The show was stopped at the Tipsport Arena with just hours to go so

the 29-year-old did the impromptu gig instead. Even though he

rescheduled for another date he didn't want his fans to go away empty handed.

He wrote on Instagram: "The love and fellowship we shared last night will be forever tattooed on my heart."

In a video he posted you see Jason being told by his tour manager that the show can't go on because of safety concerns.

He then looks worried about the fans saying: "I mean they been outside since seven this morning, all day long bro."

"I'm going outside. Give me a megaphone or something," he adds. They go one better and

give him a microphone on a balcony at the arena where he sings hits like Talk Dirty and Swalla.

That made fans very happy...

He's not the first artist to adopt the "show must go on" attitude.

Earlier this month Becky Hill sang on the street outside the Manchester Academy after she was forced to cancel a sold-out show due to a burst water pipe.

Speaking on Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James she said: "It was so nice, my band suggested it on our WhatsApp group."

BBC



Anthony Joshua has become the first man to appear on the cover of British GQ alongside his son, three-year-old Joseph Joshua.

In celebration of the magazine's 30th anniversary, the December issue explores the definition of masculinity by taking a close look at the many facets of Joshua's life as a man, boxer and father. The cover of the magazine features Joshua sitting on a bike with his son "JJ" sat in front of him.

On the cover of the special subscribers' edition, Joshua

Anthony Joshua becomes first man to be photographed with his son on cover of British GQ

and JJ are sat in a loving embrace, displaying the tender side of their father-son relationship.

The boxer discusses what it's like to raise his son in

the interview, saying that it "takes a family to raise a man."

Born in Watford in 1989, Joshua began boxing at the age of 18 at the Finchley

ABC amateur boxing gym in Barnet, North London.

Now the title holder of three of the four major world boxing championships, the heavyweight champion

reveals in the GQ interview that he doesn't want JJ to follow in his footsteps by entering the ring.

Many people have been expressing their admiration

for Joshua and JJ's joint cover, with a picture of the magazine on the boxer's Instagram page garnering more than 250,000 likes in four hours. **YAHOO**



Jim Carrey accepts the Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy presented by Jaguar Land Rover onstage at the 2018 British Academy Britannia Awards presented by Jaguar Land Rover and American Airlines at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on October 26, 2018 in Beverly Hills, California. (Photo by Kevin Winter/Getty Images for BAFTA LA)



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, visit Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington, New Zealand, October 28, 2018. **REUTERS/Phil Noble**



ZAMCOM graduation ceremony in pictures

Graduates of Zambia Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM) celebrate the 5th graduation ceremony at ZAMCOM grounds on October 26, 2018 - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala



Nomakanjani dance troupe perform during the ZAMCOM 5th graduation ceremony

The Leicester City owner's helicopter has crashed in a car park outside the club's ground as it left the stadium following a Premier League match.

Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha was in the helicopter when it came down at about 20:30 BST on Saturday, a source close to the family has told the BBC.

One witness said he saw Leicester player Kasper Schmeichel run out of the stadium towards the scene of the crash.

It is not known how many other people were on board the helicopter.

Leicester had drawn 1-1 against West Ham United at the King Power Stadium, with the match finishing about one hour before the helicopter took off from the pitch.

Witnesses said they saw it just clear the stadium before it spiralled out of control, with some describing seeing a fireball as it crashed.

The club said it was assisting police and emergency services and would issue a more detailed statement in due course.

Under Mr Srivaddhanaprabha's ownership, Leicester City won the Premier League in 2016, having started the season as 5,000/1 outsiders. Freelance photographer Ryan Brown, who was covering the game, saw the helicopter clear the King

Leicester City owner 'on board crashed helicopter'

Power Stadium before it crashed.

He told BBC Radio Leicester: "The engine stopped and I turned round and it made a bit of a whirring noise, like a grinding noise.

"The helicopter just went silent, I turned round and it was just spinning, out of control. And then there was a big bang and then [a] big fireball."

Sky Sports News reporter Rob Dorsett said the helicopter took off from the pitch, as it does after every game.

He said that after a few seconds it appeared to lose control and crashed into the car park just a few hundred metres away.

'I have seen staff in tears' - Reaction to Leicester helicopter crash.

Leo Bruka told 5 Live that he saw two police officers whose car was near the crash scene.

"One of them was looking for something and the other one, he ran straight away to the helicopter and he was trying to break the

window," he said.

"Then there is an explosion and they pulled back because the fire was too hot."

A Leicester season ticker holder, who did not wish to be named, said he saw goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel run out from

the stadium followed by "loads of security guards and stewards".

"I was stood outside the ground but it crashed on

the other side," he said.

Another witness said it appeared "the tail propeller wasn't working, putting it into a spin". **BBC**



Cristiano Ronaldo shoots and scores a second goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Empoli and Juventus as Italian champions Juventus surged seven points clear in Serie A following a battling 2-1 victory at Empoli on October 27, 2018 at the Carlo Castellani Stadium in Empoli.

Former England manager Glenn Hoddle 'seriously ill'

Former England manager Glenn Hoddle has been hospitalised after being taken ill on his 61st birthday on Saturday.

Hoddle fell ill shortly after he began his

punditry duties on BT Sport.

"The condition is

serious but Glenn is currently receiving specialist treatment and

responding well," said a spokesperson for the former Tottenham and

Chelsea midfielder.

Earlier in the day, BT presenter Jake Humphrey said Hoddle was "taken seriously ill at the BT Sport studio this morning".

He added on social media: "Everyone of us is right with you Glenn, sending love and strength."

The England national team tweeted: "Worrying news. Get well soon, @GlennHoddle - we're all behind you."

Tottenham, the club where Hoddle starred as a supremely talented midfielder, winning two FA Cups and a UEFA Cup, and went on to manage, tweeted their support.

"Everybody at the Club sends their best wishes to @GlennHoddle for a full and speedy recovery

after he was taken ill this morning."

Argentinian great Ossie Ardiles -- who played alongside Hoddle

in the 1981 FA Cup replay triumph over Manchester City -- said his thoughts were with his former team-mate.

"Get well soon! Our thoughts and prayers with him and his family."

Chelsea -- who Hoddle also managed and took to the 1994 FA Cup final -- tweeted a message of solidarity.

"Our thoughts are with former Blues boss Glenn Hoddle who has been taken seriously ill on his 61st birthday. We're right with you Glenn."

Former England great Gary Lineker -- who along with Hoddle was a pivotal player in England's 1986 World Cup finals campaign where they reached the quarter-finals -- chipped in with his own message.

AFP



Bayern Munich's Spanish midfielder Thiago Alcantara (C) celebrates scoring the 2-1 with his teammates during the German first division Bundesliga football match FSV Mainz 05 vs FC Bayern Munich in Mainz, western Germany, on October 27, 2018. Photo credit - AFP

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Netball Association of Zambia (NAZ) has bemoaned the low turnout of netball teams during the open Independence tournament that was hosted at David Kaunda grounds in Chipata, Eastern province. NAZ President Getrude Mukumi said only five regular teams, three madalas and five men's teams showed up for the tournament when each category had more than seven teams in Lusaka alone. Speaking on the sidelines of the tournament, Mukumi attributed the low turnout to the location that she said did not favour other provinces. "We expected to have a good turnout looking at the number of netball teams we have registered in the league. But I think the venue for the tournament did not favour teams from other provinces. We however chose Eastern province so that we could show other sister bodies that we have not neglected them," Mukumi explained. She further said that spreading tournaments to other parts of the country would give the

NAZ bemoans low turnout for Independence tournament

association the chance to scout for potential national team players especially tall ones to level up with demands of the game. "We had a height

disadvantage during the African Netball tournament in August while other countries were all sorted. We realised that we could find taller ladies

in other provinces since concentration had always been in Lusaka province. Also, other sister bodies affiliated to NAZ need to be engaged every now

and then," said Mukumi. Green Eagles were champions of the tournament in both the Regular and Men's category while Lusaka City Council

finished second in the regular category. Nkwazi was second in the Men's category and ZESCO were champions in the Madalas category.

By Joseph Mwenda
 Red Arrows goalkeeper coach Kalililo Kakonje has urged super division clubs to intensify their goal scoring training techniques next season in order to level up with goalkeeping capabilities that have been exhibited in the 2017 season. The former national team goalie noted that the country was steadily producing a number of exceptional goalkeepers but was lacking on effortless scorers at both national team and club level.

Kakonje challenges strikers to match up with goal keeping skill

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kakonje who played for TP Mazembe from 2010 to 2012 highlighted the purpose that the balance of good goalkeepers and capable strikers would serve for the national team and clubs. "Just like any other sports

that is played as a team, footballers also depend on each other. Strikers for example know that their defenders are more capable of defending than scoring and vice versa. This applies to goalkeepers too. If your goalkeeper is making great saves every now and then

and his strikers are making the least expected misses, then there is a problem. There should be a balance so that the keeper stays in high spirit," Kakonje advised. "Super league clubs have very good goalkeepers but always struggle to score goals. This has an effect on

the national team because the squad is made up from the same clubs whose players struggle to score. It would be very helpful to determine why we struggle to score goals. Imagine having six chances as a striker and only utilising one," wondered Kakonje.

ZAAA to host Confederation of Amateur Athletics competition

By Alex Chilumbwe
 The Zambia Amateur Athletics Association (ZAAA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Confederation of African

Athletics (CAA) to host the first African Athletics Development Competition at the Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC) next month. ZAAA President Elias

Mpondela said Zambia had been chosen by the International Amateur Athletics Association (IAAF) to represent the African region. Addressing the media

in Lusaka on Saturday, Mpondela said Zambia had been chosen because of its strategic location of having eight neighbouring countries. "Zambia now stands a

great chance of becoming an athletics powerhouse with such opportunities and its strategic position. It is now up to us to attract more of such events by means of being prepared

to host at any given time," Mpondela said. And CAA Director General Lamine Faty said this was a first step to engaging Zambia more, and hoped that it would be moved to a bigger stage. Faty also said that CAA would soon hold two championships in Zambia. He said Zambia was chosen because it was one of the most equipped countries in Southern Africa. And Ministry of Sports Permanent Secretary Joe Kapembwa reaffirmed government's commitment to developing athletics in the country. "The Ministry is in full support of the move by the IAAF through CAA to host the two championships in the country. As government we are always looking for ways of selling the country to the world through sports like athletics that attract a lot of international faces," said Kapembwa. Kapembwa said this through National Sports Council of Zambia Acting General Secretary Raphael Mulenga.

Nchanga, Swallows, National Assembly and KAYSA relegated

By Alex Chilumbwe
 The Super League came to a close on Saturday with four teams dropping to division one. National Assembly, Kabwe Youth Soccer Academy (KAYSA), Nchanga Rangers and New Monze Swallows will all play in Division one next season after finishing bottom of the league. The weekends results were as follows: Forest Rangers 3-1 National Assembly Buildcon 0-1 Power Dynamos Nakambala Leopards 1-0 New Monze Swallows Nchanga Rangers 0-2 Lumwana Radiants Red Arrows 0-2 Napsa Stars Nchanga Rangers coach Hector Chilombo attributed the poor performance of his side to lack of self-confidence in players and the internal affairs the club had gone through. "We have skilled and experienced players but they lacked self-confidence after a few bad results. We also had internal problems that did not allow

us to perform accordingly," said Chilombo. KAYSA coach Chewe Mulenga was sad that his side had been demoted but took comfort in their exceptional talent that ZESCO United coach George Lwandamina praised. "They are young players with so much talent but lacked experience in the super league. They could hold bigger clubs to goalless draws and even win some important games. Lwandamina spoke well of them too and that's top coach in the league," said Mulenga. Meanwhile, New Monze Swallows communications manager Tim Zulu relived all the financial situation the club had faced and its consequences on the players. "If there is one team that solely relied on passion for football is Swallows. There is simply no time when all was well for the boys but the executive did all they could to fulfill its fixtures. They are strong guys with little motivation.

Most of our problems have been publicized way too often so they are known," said Zulu. The parliamentarians, National Assembly, were the most promising among the four demoted teams but could not keep up with pressure that Lumwana Radiants and NAPSAs Stars forced upon them. The outfit joined the relegated teams after losing 3-1 to Forest Rangers at Levy Mwanawasa stadium on Saturday. Assembly's coach George Kapembwa noted that his side had all the chances to emancipate themselves from the consecutive losses they recorded but evidently failed. "Look at how NAPSAs navigated their way up the table yet they too had faced scares of being relegated. My boys could have done the same but failed. The case was the same with Lumwana so we too could have done better than this," said Kapembwa.

IMPOTENCE WORRYING



*...Kakonje challenges strikers
to match up with goalie skills*

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Jacobs grabs IBF middleweight title with spit decision win

Daniel Jacobs claimed the vacant IBF middleweight title as he traded in his sparring gloves for the real thing on Saturday to take a split-decision victory over Sergiy Derevyanchenko.

The two former training partners have sparred over 300 rounds together early in their careers but Saturday's clash at Madison Square Garden was the real thing.

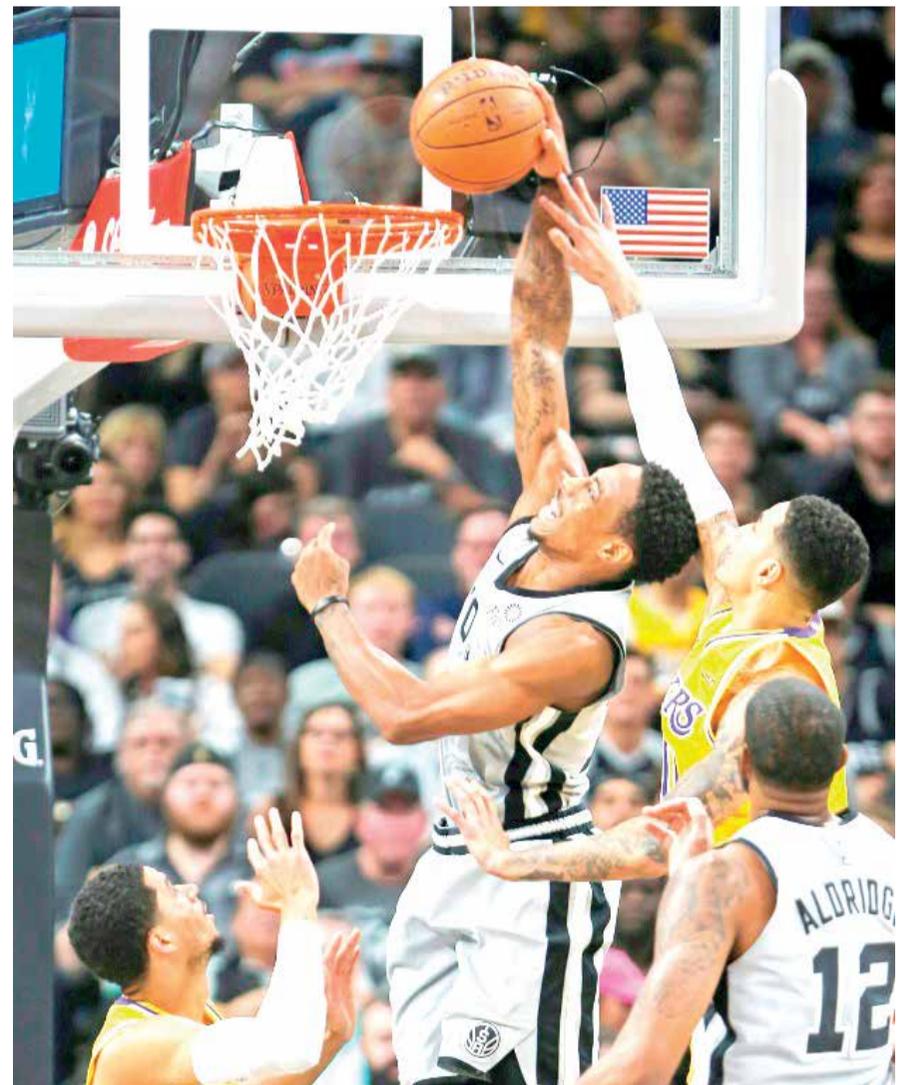
Jacobs earned a hard fought split decision victory with two judges scoring it 115-112

and the other having Derevyanchenko the winner at 114-113.

"I felt like I dug deep," said Jacobs. "I felt like I used my range and tried to use my boxing ability on the outside as much as I can because those are my best attributes."

Jacobs is hoping this win lands him a shot at middleweight kingpin Canelo Alvarez.

Jacobs said he has been having trouble getting good fights but now that he has the IBF belt he has more clout. *AFP*



*DeMar DeRozan of the San Antonio Spurs dunks in front of Los Angeles Lakers
Kyle Kuzma. AFP*

