



Dictators Hate Critics - Musa

But citizens have patriotic duty to question govt *Story page 2*

Lungu's corrupt language makes it embarrassing to have him as President - Sishuwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Political commentator Sishuwa Sishuwa says it is divisive and demeaning for President Edgar Lungu to

liken Bembas to thieves. Sishuwa has also condemned President Lungu for likening the numerical superiority of the Chinese to cockroaches.

In a statement, Monday, Sishuwa urged President Lungu to apologise for his "ill-advised, irresponsible and poorly chosen remarks".

"It is unacceptable to stereotype any group of people as thieves or cockroaches-like, and most disappointing when such cruel and prideful prejudices come from the President," he said. *To page 7*

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PF will lay Zambia's foundation as a developed country by 2064 - Mwila

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
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achievers" 100 years after Independence in 2064 as a result of all its achievements. *To page 5*

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Foote takes USAID to Lower Zambezi for wildlife protection

By Mirriam Chabala

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched the refurbishment of the Mukamba Gate Complex at the Lower Zambezi National Park to help protect the country's forests and wildlife.

And US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote says if Zambia's forests and wildlife were lost, then the country could lose a critical driver of economic growth for its local communities.

In a statement issued by the US Embassy in Lusaka, activities such as wildlife tourism and beekeeping were only possible through conservation.

"The US government, in partnership with the Zambian government's Department of National Parks and Wildlife, officially launched the refurbished Mukamba Gate Complex at the northern entrance to Lower Zambezi National Park. The complex benefited from support of the U.S.

Agency for International Development's (USAID) Community Forests Program. The launch event also included the graduation of 22 Community Scouts, who in collaboration with the local Community Resource Boards, will serve as frontline advocates for forest and wildlife conservation. And US Ambassador to Zambia Mr Daniel Foote notes that 'If we lose Zambia's forests and wildlife, we lose a critical driver of economic growth for our local communities. Activities such as wildlife tourism and beekeeping are only possible through conservation,'" the statement read.

The USAID Community Forests Program, implemented by BioCarbon Partners Ltd is a five-year, \$14 million programme aimed at reducing greenhouse-gas emissions through the protection of Zambia's extensive forests. "To date, the programme has put over one million



hectares of forest under sustainable management. Zambia's forests play an important role in mitigating climate change by locking up carbon dioxide drawn from the ambient air. That locked

carbon can then be sold as a 'carbon credit' or 'carbon offset' to companies and governments from countries around the world to help offset the carbon dioxide they emit through manufacturing,

transportation, and electricity generation. The revenue from the sale of these offsets returns to the communities that protect the forests," read the statement.

"Carbon offsets, therefore,

provide a means for communities to play a role in the global economy by mitigating the effects of climate change while reducing their own poverty, and improving their lives. To help protect our forests and wildlife,

USAID's Community Forests Program invested in the refurbishment of the Mukamba Gate Complex. As a result, the complex now includes an improved security checkpoint, an office building, and Wildlife Police Officer housing. This important entry point into Lower Zambezi National Park is now better-equipped to support both park management and forest protection."

Police can't intimidate me - HK

By Tenson Mkhala

Democratic Party presidential candidate Harry Kalaba says he will not be scared by anybody, including police officers who are fond of constantly trailing him.

And Kalaba, who is also Bahati PF Member of Parliament, says Christians have the duty to pray for leaders in the country.

Speaking to journalists in Chifunauli District in Luapula Province, Sunday, shortly after Samfya police officers trailed his motorcade, Kalaba vowed not to be intimidated or fear anyone because he remains unmoved by such manoeuvres.

Intelligence officers and local police, who were in a white Minibus registration number ALH 7250, started trailing Kalaba's motorcade, which was coming from Kasaba Parish where he attended a Church service, to Lubwe Mission.

The police later stopped at Nshungu Primary School, but hastily sped off when Kalaba tried to approach them.

The former foreign affairs minister, wondered why police officers were trailing him, saying he was was not in the area to break the law. "They were trailing me so I stopped so that we

know each other and there you saw, I was flagging them down and they have sped off! How do you start hunting what you can't kill? We are not here to break the law, but to do what is right. All we want is to ensure that this country remains free

to everybody because it is not good if people are not free. Zambia is for everybody, and if it is me, I am not in the business of getting scared of anybody," Kalaba said.

And Kalaba said Christians had the duty to pray for leaders in the

country.

He said this at Kasaba Parish where he joined the local people in prayer.

"We are here to pray with you, and we want to remind you that, as Christians, you have a duty to pray for us leaders. Pray for leaders so that we

do what is right for the people," appealed Kalaba. Kalaba later interacted with the Xavarian Movement and contributed K1,000 towards the purchase of uniform material.

Earlier, Kalaba attended Church Service at Lubwe Parish.

Dictators hate critics, but patriotism demands that citizens speak out - Musa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former Attorney General Musa Mwenye State Counsel says oppressive and dictatorial regimes always despise citizens who criticise them, but says it is the patriotic duty of those who are governed to speak out in defence of their Constitutional rights.

In his festive statement shared on Facebook, Musa who also served as Solicitor General under late Michael Sata's Patriotic Front, urged citizens to show love to their families this Christmas, and encouraged critics to show loyalty and patriotism to the country by speaking out against wrongs in society.

"December is a month in which we ought to focus on love. Love for our families but also love and patriotism for our country. The word 'patriotism' is often misunderstood and sometimes

deliberately misrepresented. Criticism of Governments or ruling parties and comments adverse of governments are routinely classified as unpatriotic. By definition, patriotism is a devoted love, support and defense for one's country. Patriotism is therefore loyalty to the country and not loyalty to any one person or group of persons," Mwenye said. He went on to list countries that had oppressive regimes and never tolerated critical voices.

"Africa has seen several dictatorial and corrupt regimes. At different times in the history of this continent, patriotism has demanded that those Governments which are corrupt and dictatorial be criticised and condemned by citizens for abusing the countries we love. The Central African Republic had Emperor Bokassa, Zaire

(now the Democratic Republic of Congo) had Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga while Uganda had Idi Amin Dada Oumee. Just to the south of our own Beloved Zambia we had Ian Smith in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) who declared Independence from his Kith and Kin in England under Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI). In South Africa we had the racist Apartheid government," he recalled.

"All the governments cited above were vile, oppressive and dictatorial. In some cases they were also corrupt, incompetent and uncouth. In those countries, it was everyone's patriotic duty to speak out against these regimes and to condemn their senseless acts of oppression and misrule. It was also the highest form of patriotism not

only to condemn the needless corruption of some of these regimes (whose scale could only be correctly described as a primitive accumulation of wealth), but also to take a stand against oppression and corruption."

He stressed that patriotism is never supposed to mean loyalty to an individual.

"Patriotism demands us to be loyal to the country and not to an individual or a political formation. If acts of economic sabotage are committed by those within our groupings or political formations, we must speak in defence of the country. A Merry Christmas and prosperous 2019 to all friends, family and Patriotic Zambians. May Zambia continue to experience peace, tranquility and prosperity in 2019 and beyond," stated Mwenye.

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By Mirriam Chabala

Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela has blamed the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) for lack of clarity on the construction cost of the new Michael Chilufya Sata toll plaza in Ndola.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Sunday interview programme, Chitotela said the public would not have been questioning the amount spent on the construction of the toll plaza had EIZ been as proactive as the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ).

He argued that the EIZ had not come out to breakdown the cost of each of the components that had been installed at the new toll gate.

"A lot of people have said that: 'you can build a toll plaza at US\$500,000' and I have

Chitotela blames EIZ for lack of clarity on Sata toll gate cost

challenged them, even in Parliament I did challenge them that, if you can, come with the specific Bills of Quantity (BoQ), specific designs like Michael Chilufya Sata, and then you build a toll plaza at US \$500,000. Just mention one country in the region and that toll plaza, I have even told RDA that I am ready to step down that we have betrayed the Zambian people. That US\$500,000 can't even buy software for you to propel a toll plaza like Michael Chilufya Sata.

We did a survey, we checked regionally and internationally; a toll plaza on the dual carriage way in America is costing US\$12 million and that's a fact, you can google. In Zimbabwe, a toll plaza like the one we built in Chongwe at US\$1.7 million in Zimbabwe, they've built it at US\$2 million. So, I wanted to do a cost-comparison analysis. You are talking about the Michael Chilufya Sata, which spans on the dual carriage way," Chitotela explained.

"I want Zambians to challenge me, and that's why I challenged my colleagues in Parliament from UPND that, we built Michael Chilufya Sata at around 38 K39 million, while Manyumbi Toll Plaza, which is a span on one road built by someone, who was a UPND candidate in Nangoma constituency (Nzovu Transport) at a cost of K48 million. It is this government that came to terminate after he could not finish on time. And

the cost justification for Michael Chilufya Sata...Zambians have been demanding for a BoQ! You can go to RDA, and what I did on Thursday in Parliament, I even laid on the table the BoQ so that members of parliament can go through and Zambians can have access and interrogate... I think that's why even His Excellency, the President (Edgar Lungu), has complained against the 'Laissez-faire' attitude by the Engineering Institution

of Zambia. They are the professionals, if they could be as proactive as the Economics Association of Zambia is, to come to the Zambian people and explain, then none of these questions could have arisen?" Chitotela also regretted that people could be comparing the cost of the newly-constructed former president Rupiah Banda's retirement house, the lavish Makeni mansion, to a toll plaza, which he insisted was made up of sophisticated equipment.

"I saw comparisons where Zambians were comparing a residence to a toll plaza, which has sophisticated equipment. I want to speak to this that when you check the civil works at that toll plaza, it cost us about US \$1.9 million. Tolling systems and booth equipment cost us about US \$161,700. If you check power supply and related installation, US \$270,537. Signal lighting for the traffic control, its about US \$59,000. Design fee, it cost us US \$95,000. Surveillance system, US \$193,000. The preliminary works and generals, US \$319,000. Value Added Tax... because without VAT, that toll plaza was costing us less than US \$4 million, it was about US \$3.7 million. So, I must explain that if the Engineering Institution of Zambia were as proactive as the Economics Association of Zambia... these are the colleagues whom RDA contracted to do the design. I have been speaking to EIZ in private, but now I need to tell the Zambian people that I have been speaking to them, but they are not being as proactive as we expect them to be," Chitotela complained.

Meanwhile, he disclosed that government had realised toll fees in excess of K797 million from various toll plazas countrywide from January to November this year.

"From the time we started road tolling in Zambia, we've raised in excess of K2.6 billion. From January to November this year, we've raised in excess of K797 million. If you check, today, I think Zambians are able to tell that we are having perfect roads," argued Chitotela.

"If there is one thing PF has been credited for, it's infrastructure development. President Lungu's development agenda on infrastructure is second to none, and that's why even our opponents are not criticizing that President Lungu has not delivered in terms of infrastructure development; the only thing they are going with now is that there is corruption and tribalism so that they can cause paralysis in the operation of government because they know that if we let this team of men and women under the leadership of President Lungu, they will have no message in 2021."



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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says Zambians will awaken to the political reality that the PF was a "generation of achievers" 100 years after Independence in 2064 as a result of all its achievements.

In the weekly newsletter to News Diggers! where he outlined the PF's achievements since forming government in 2011, Mwila prophesied that by the stroke of midnight on October 24, 2064, Zambia will wake up to a truth that the PF was a "generation of achievers."

Mwila explained that the PF government's visionary

PF will lay Zambia's foundation as a developed country by 2064 - Mwila

approach to wealth-planning for Zambia through the implementation of the party manifesto, as well as the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP), is designed to support the attainment of the goals of Vision 2030.

"At the stroke of midnight on 24th October, 2064, Zambia will, indeed, awaken to one

undeniable truth and reality: that ours was a generation of achievers, a generation of men and women who, propelled by the energy of patriotism, changed this country forever," Mwila added.

He stated that the PF's visionary approach will lay the foundation for turning Zambia into a developed country by 2064.

"The Patriotic Front government's visionary approach to wealth-planning for Zambia, through the implementation of the PF Manifesto, as well as the 7NDP, is designed to support the attainment of the goals of Vision 2030, which will in-turn, lay the foundation for turning Zambia into a developed country by 2064. The PF, led by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, is laying the foundation, not just for the next generation, but also for subsequent generations to come by taking significant steps towards the cross-generational accumulation, conservation, utilisation and transfer of the wealth of Zambians yet to be born," Mwila stated.

He also highlighted some achievements that the PF government had made in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors, with critical transactions. "In order to achieve agricultural diversification in terms of crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry products - as espoused in the 7NDP - the PF government under President Edgar Lungu is implementing the following programmes. The Crop, Forestry, Fisheries and Livestock Product Diversification Programme: There are numerous strategic interventions currently being implemented by

the PF government under this Programme, some of which are espoused in the following paragraphs. For example, in April, 2018, the PF government acquired the ZamPalm Oil Palm Tree Plantation in Kanchibiya District in Muchinga Province, from Zambeef Products Plc at a cash consideration of US \$16 million. ZamPalm Oil Tree Plantation is owned by the Zambian government through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). The IDC acquired 90 per cent shares in the operation from Zambeef Products Plc," Mwila narrated. He stated that there was a huge market gap of oil products, which Zambia could leverage from the ZamPalm oil. "Currently, only Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) produce their own palm oil crude - the rest of the countries, including Zambia, import from Malaysia and Indonesia. There is, therefore, a huge market gap, which Zambia can leverage through ZamPalm, especially given the fact that the estate can produce up to 100 tonnes of crude palm oil in a month from its primary processing plant. And once at full capacity, the plant could feed refineries such as the Global Industries in Ndola with a steady flow of raw materials for processing into ready-for-use edible oil all year round," he explained.

Mwila also recalled the US \$55.4 million Cashew Nut Project in Western Province, which he said had already started yielding positive results, among others.

"Furthermore, the PF government under President Edgar Lungu, launched the US \$55.4 million Cashew Nut Project in 2015 in Western Province with the aim of diversifying the economy and creating employment. For instance, by 30th November, 2017, this US \$55.4 million project in Western Province had directly benefited 15,000 farmers in Western Province. At full capacity, the project will benefit a total of 60,000 targeted beneficiaries in the 10 participating districts in Western Province," stated Mwila.

"The PF government has also successfully revived the Kawambwa Tea Estate, which is currently fully operational. At present, the PF government has invested over K30 million into the Estate, and this has led to the creation of 500 direct local jobs. In order to further accelerate economic diversification, as well as create employment in rural areas, the PF government is also seeking prospective investors with the capacity to commercialize the production of salt in Mpika District and other viable projects within the district and other areas countrywide."

Ndola women plead not guilty to abduction, indecent assault

By Daniel Chansa

Five Ndola women have pleaded not guilty to a charge of abduction and indecent assault on a female.

Fact before court are that on December 1, 2018, Precious Kapambwe 25, Bridget chisha 21, Magrette Mwansa 25, Catherine Banda 29 and Maureen Mutale 29, while acting together abducted the named victim and caused her actual bodily harm, buy inserting a beer bottle into her private parts.

It is alleged that on the material day, in Ndola's New Mushili township, the victim was having drinks at Start Point Bar at Masala main market with Harrison Mwanza, the husband to Kapambwe.

Whilst at the drinking place, Kapambwe showed up in the company of her other four friends.

It is alleged that upon seeing his wife, Kapambwe's husband run away leaving the victim alone.

Kapambwe then picked the victim by force and took her to home where she was allegedly forced to undress.

And in the video which has since gone viral on social media, the women were seen holding the victim's hands and legs while another was seen placing a bottle of castle beer in the victim's private parts.

When the matter came up for plea Monday afternoon after a new charge of abduction was added, the five pleaded not guilty.

Ndola Principal resident magistrate, Obbestor Musukwa adjourned the matter to December 26 for commencement of trial while the five were remanded in custody.

PAC hears how recalled diplomats leave foreign missions in debts

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) yesterday learnt how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been struggling with lack of funds to repatriate recalled diplomats from various missions abroad.

And the Committee further learnt how missions abroad have been subjected to settling debts and bank loans obtained by recalled diplomats. This came to light when Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Ronald Simwinga and Zambia's High Commissioner to Namibia Stella Libongani, Zambia's Ambassador to Zimbabwe Emmanuel Chenda, Zambia's Charge d' Affairs to Geneva Margaret Kayemba, and other Ministry staff appeared before PAC to respond to audit queries cited in the Auditor General's report for the financial year ended December 31, 2017.

The audit report had earlier highlighted the Ministry's failure to repatriate recalled diplomats from Ankara, Tokyo, New Delhi, Rome and New York.

Simwinga in response said his

Ministry had requested for funding amounting to K40 million from the Ministry of Finance to transport all the recalled diplomats, but only K10 million was released.

"I wish to submit to the Committee that a request for funding amounting to K40,000,000 to transport all the recalled diplomats was made to the Ministry of Finance, and that an initial funding amounting to K10 million was released for the activity. The Ministry has since disbursed funding to the missions abroad," Simwinga responded.

Simwinga also told the Committee that the estimated cost for each diplomat to be repatriated was about K90,000.

In another query, High Commissioner Libongani's mission in Namibia was cited for outstanding bills not cleared by re-called diplomats totalling K102,700.

"During the year under review, three diplomats were recalled from foreign service namely; Deputy High Commissioner, First Secretary for Political/Administration and Third Secretary-Personal Secretary.

During the same period, the High Commissioner resigned from the Foreign Service. An examination of accounting and other records revealed that the diplomats left outstanding bills, unretired imprest and unrecovered salary advances totaling K102,700," cited the Audit Report.

In justifying that, Simwinga stated that the bill recoveries for the deputy High Commissioner were paid through a casualty notification form.

The audit report further cited that the former First Secretary for Political/Administration left an unsettled car loan and overdraft facility at Nedbank Namibia amounting to US\$5,094.97.

"The former First Secretary for Political/Administration left an unsettled car loan and overdraft facility at Nedbank Namibia of US\$5,094.97 (N\$71,239.55) and the officer did not declare the outstanding bills and loan to the Ministry, contrary to minute No.MFA/STA/2804 DATED 23rd March, 2016. In this regard, the Bank lodged in a complaint to the High Commissioner on the failure to repay the loan putting the name of the High Commissioner into disrepute," the

audit report revealed.

Further, the former deputy High Commissioner left an outstanding salary advance and a debt to a travel agency for air tickets bought on credit amounting to K217,367.

And the audit report cited a former Third Secretary-Personal Secretary for an outstanding advance of K107,214 (US \$7,669.13) when she was recalled from the foreign service. For the bill accrued by the third secretary, Simwinga explained that recoveries had already been effected through payroll as the culprit was still serving.

In another query, the High Commission in Windhoek Namibia was also cited for approving payments amounting to K596,126 above the threshold permissible of the head of mission.

"The Public Procurement Act No.12 of 2008 provides that the Head of Mission shall approve procurements up to a maximum of K10,000. Contrary to the provisions of the Act, the High Commissioner approved 22 payments in amounts totalling K596,23 (N\$625,668.96) for the

procurement of various goods and services, which were above her threshold," cited the audit report.

In response to the above query, Simwinga said the High Commissioner had been cautioned to strictly adhere to the provisions of the law and other regularities.

Ambassador Chenda at the mission in Harare was also cited for approving 30 payments totalling K511,728 above his maximum threshold of K10,000.

Meanwhile, the Auditor General's report cited the mission in Brussels for its outstanding debt by recalled staff, which amounted to K62,517 and K32,857, which was accrued through medical insurance and damages to the residence as well as special advance.

It was also discovered that another recalled second secretary at the same mission at the time of her return owed a local bank amounts totalling K546,000, while another one owed K26,020.72

But as usual, Simwinga gave a uniform response, saying the recoveries were done through the Casualty Notification Form upon payment of gratuity.



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THINKING...

By Mirriam Chabala

The Forum for Democratic Process (FODEP) has observed that the ongoing debates, following the Constitutional Court's ruling in President Edgar Lungu's eligibility case, have potential to spur instability in Zambia. In an interview, FODEP executive director Chifwembe Mweenge blamed this misunderstanding on the 2016 amended Republican Constitution, which he said was done in a hurry and has a lot of lacunas. Mweenge explained that if any civil unrest was to arise due to differences in opinions regarding President Lungu's eligibility, poorer Zambians would suffer the consequences. "The ConCourt ruling on

Lungu eligibility debates can spur instability - FODEP

the President's eligibility has left the country talking and divided. There are those who are saying it was the right move and those who are saying it wasn't. But again, one thing for sure is that, we are a nation of laws and we need to respect our own laws. So, it's important for our leaders, both in the opposition and in government to ensure that, as they agitate or put forward their opinions regarding the ConCourt ruling on the eligibility of the President, they should do so within the

confines of the law," Mweenge said.

"We really are believers of freedom of expression and government needs to facilitate for that right. We need to express our opinions in terms of how we feel. We feel that it's not in any one's interest to fuel civil strife because at the end of the day, we know that the people who normally get affected when there are any confusions, it's women and children and the poor. Those who have got money fly out and go to other places. So,

yes, we ascribe to freedom of expression and we feel that the government ought to facilitate for that because we believe that the more people talk, the more they are able to air out their opinions, the better."

He observed that the reason for the ongoing confusion in the country was the 2016 amended Constitution.

"The current Constitution has brought us this confusion! All of us will have to agree that we are where we are because we did ourselves this favour.

With that acceptance, we need to ensure that going forward, the Constitution-making process is given ample time. That is why in many cases, these processes are opened up to the people. Much as we agree that the referendum failed, I think that the method of adopting constitutions in Zambia have always left the very beneficiaries of that Constitution at the back," Mweenge said.

"The politicians get the centre stage and when they do that, they are normally protecting

their own interests. If they see that perhaps they didn't have enough time to read through and understand some of the things, then they come back and find someone to put the blame on. We have had the issue of the grade 12 certificate, which also did a lot of damage to many politicians who didn't have [the] qualification, some of them even going to an extent of forging certificates. This, to us, demonstrates that first of all, the people who are in front of couching the document and also ratifying it via Parliament, do not take seriously the issue of constitution-making."

He pointed to the need for Zambia to relook the lacunas in the Constitution, warning that leaving the status quo would only mean shelving a problem that would eventually turn the country upside down.

"In moving forward, we need to be very pragmatic. We need to ensure that the entire process is opened up. We feel that nothing basically should be an exclusive right for the legislature in as far as constitutional-making is concerned because this very important document has the capacity to turn this country upside down. You saw this on the issue of the 14 days, and now this issue of President Lungu," said Mweenge.

"All these issues, if you put them together, they are telling us that we need to ensure that the constitutional-making process is not exclusive to the politicians. It should not be given alone to the politicians, it must be opened up. Yes, we understand the financial issues, but when we look at times when we started to amend the Constitution, we have been at this process for more than five times. Every time we are making a constitution because we feel there is something wrong. Even as we are talking about lacunas, it's important that this process is not rushed."

Lungu's corrupt language makes it embarrassing to have him as President - Sishuwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Political commentator Sishuwa Sishuwa says it is divisive and demeaning for President Edgar Lungu to liken Bembas to thieves. Sishuwa has also condemned President Lungu for likening the numerical superiority of the Chinese to cockroaches. In a statement, Monday, Sishuwa urged President Lungu to apologise for his "ill-advised, irresponsible and poorly chosen remarks".

"It is unacceptable to stereotype any group of people as thieves or cockroaches-like and most disappointing when such cruel and prideful prejudices come from the President. The President's comments are not excusable. Neither do they need any clarification or sugar-coating. They are simply crude, gross, demeaning and most irresponsible. I am extremely disappointed, though not surprised, that the President missed a chance to apologise when he was leaving for Japan since he likes holding press conferences at the airport. I hope he apologises, when he returns from Tokyo. If he had a more competent and effective political advisor than Kaiser Zulu, the President would have by now proffered a 'humble' apology inspired by 'genuine' remorse and regret," Sishuwa stated.

He urged President Lungu to draw lessons from Levy Mwanawasa on the political consequences of disparaging any ethnic group.

"The deliberate efforts of

this administration to stir up ethnic resentment will have a long term consequences. I recall that in March 2003, then President Levy Mwanawasa described MMD figures, mainly from Luapula and Northern provinces, who did not support his anti-corruption campaign as 'stinking and dirty'. This seemingly innocuous remark was seized by then opposition PF leader Michael Sata and presented as a criticism of all Bemba-speaking people in general. Sata's ethnically-laced campaign helped him to mobilise Bemba-speaking voters and establish the PF in Luapula and Northern provinces. By the time Levy tried to make amends, it was too late as most voters from those Bemba-speaking rural communities, outraged at the fact that a man who rode on their support in 2001 to win the presidency could indirectly disparage them like that, had already migrated to the PF. I urge Lungu to learn from history before it punishes him," he further stated.

Sishuwa further advised President Lungu to moderate his language and choice of words when speaking in public.

"President Lungu will do well to work on the tone of his sometimes divisive and even corrupt language. Yes, he has every right to make whatever points he wishes to put across, but he should do so in a manner that engenders respect for the office he holds. He will also do well, in future, to stick to the written script when making public statements, especially in

instances where a written speech exists. Most of the irresponsible and embarrassing comments that Lungu has uttered as President have come from off-the-cuff statements. When you listen to the speech he gave at the EAZ dinner, you will note that both his assertion that 6 out of 10 thieves are Bembas and that the Chinese are as numerous as cockroaches were off-the-cuff remarks that were not part of the written speech. Such carelessness takes way from his more substantive message, where one has been said. There are not many people who will remember what else Lungu

said at that EAZ dinner, but few will ever forget his crude utterances against the Bembas and the Chinese. I am also disturbed and extremely disappointed that a section of the audience even clapped and ululated for the President when he was uttering those offensive comments. What sycophancy! He deserved to be rebuked, even only by way of loud silence", Sishuwa further stated.

"As a citizen, there are times when I genuinely feel terribly embarrassed to have Edgar Lungu as my President. I generally consider him as a nightmare for Zambia, a disaster for the rule of law, democracy

and good governance, and arguably the most divisive leader that Zambia has ever produced, though his predecessor, Michael Sata, is not far behind on that front. The good thing for Lungu is that unlike Sata, he is still alive and has enough time to change, for the better. If he does not change, I could see future historians debating which was the most dire legacy of Lungu's rule: economic collapse, or ethnic conflict, or tolerance for corruption, or the betrayal of Zambia to foreign commercial interests, especially Chinese, or the destruction of state institutions," stated Sishuwa.



Residents of Chief Moyo at the World Vision hospital construction celebrations in Pemba

Last week, President Edgar Lungu stunned the whole country when he made reference to the Chinese people, saying they were many and as resilient as cockroaches, which can survive any tough environment. He said just like stubborn cockroaches that hide anywhere they find space, like in the fridge or stove, Chinese are all over Zambia and it is impossible to stop their influx.

“This cry about Chinese won’t help us. Chinese population is about 1.3 billion. So, invariably, you will find Chinese all over and when you say, ‘eliminate Chinese from Zambia,’ you are wasting your time. You say ‘let’s chase Chinese from Zambia,’ how? Because in Europe they are there, in America they are there, in Australia they are there. Allow them to conduct business so that we work together and prosper our country. Let’s not be xenophobic, it will not help us,” that’s what President Lungu said initially.

But in his humble Presidential wisdom, he did not think that he had succeeded to deliver his point, so he went on to unleash the most unthinkable analogy in describing the Chinese people.

“Someone told me that Chinese are like cockroaches. The Chinese, like cockroaches, are resilient and able to survive in extreme temperatures. Cockroaches are resilient, they survive in fridges, they survive in stoves, they survive extreme temperatures, very cold rooms, you’ll find a cockroach, very hot temperatures, you’ll find a cockroach. So, this man was saying the Chinese are like cockroaches, they survive

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Lungu doesn’t love the Chinese, he just likes their money...

everywhere. We can’t eliminate them, let’s just work with them.”

Someone has to remind President Lungu that what comes out of his mouth effectively becomes government position, and consequently turns into policy. It seems this man forgets that he is Head of State, he thinks he still has the liberty to crack ‘tavern jokes’ like he used to do back in the days in Chawama compound.

Mr Lungu, Sir, this is not a casino. You are a President and presiding over the affairs of 16 million citizens, some of whom don’t even know you and don’t care whatever alcoholic addictions you may have. But it is your duty to represent them diligently and diplomatically to the outside world.

It is hard enough to imagine that someone had the audacity of going to

President Lungu, a sitting Head of State, to make such a degrading and inhuman reference to the Chinese people. But it is even worse to learn that, instead of taking offence and reprimanding whoever coined that stupid analogy, our President felt this was such an accurate definition of Chinese people that deserved to be repeated from a Presidential podium at an economics forum.

To be very honest, we actually don’t believe that anyone told this to President Lungu, he thought about this reference himself and used it because that is what he thinks about the Chinese people. In our view, President Lungu doesn’t naturally like the Chinese, but he simply loves their money. If these Chinese did not have as many dollars to stash into his private pockets, our President

would have worse references to describe citizens of the Asian country who are in Zambia to do business.

We saw that when parliamentarians challenged Vice-President Inonge Wina to explain this statement, the old lady struggled to defend this stereotype remark from her boss, and all she could say was “you cannot call human beings cockroaches.” Now, imagine if it was a member of the opposition who had made such a reference to the Chinese people. That person would have been in police cells today for uttering words culpable of inciting xenophobic attacks on foreigners. But police have closed their ears because President Lungu was simply doing ‘chimbuya’ with the Chinese, we are told.

We have to make it clear that our position has not changed, we don’t like what

the Chinese are doing to Zambia. It is our opinion that a majority of Chinese who are in the country to do business have exacerbated corruption in government. Using their financial influence, they have taken over control of institutions that are responsible for running tender processes and awarding contracts; and on the other hand, they have taken over small businesses from Zambians. Some of them have no regard for the labour laws of this land and they treat local workers as they please, knowing very well that no one can touch them as long as influential Cabinet ministers are on their pay roll.

It is disheartening to hear a President fail to address such critical issues and simply saying: ‘tolerate these Chinese like you have tolerated the cockroaches in your houses, because

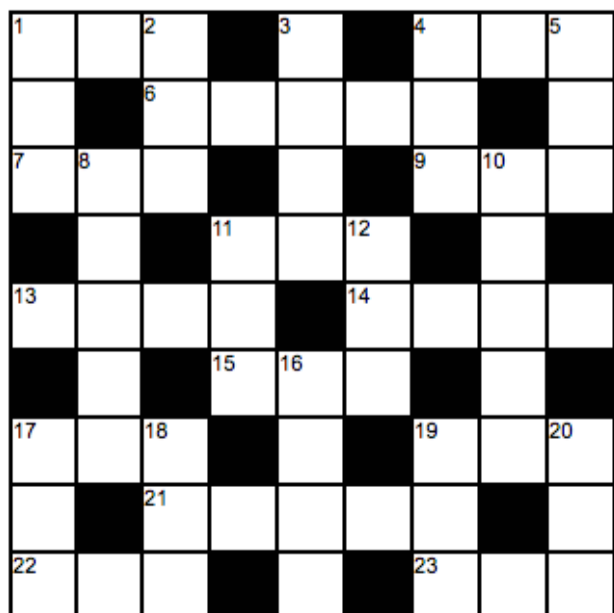
they behave the same way.’ Chinese are not cockroaches, Mr Lungu, they are human beings with ears; they are capable of listening when someone stamps authority and tells them to stop what they are doing wrong. That is how they have curbed corruption in China, because they know that their government means business, when it says ‘stop it’.

But our President is weak on corruption. His entire Cabinet is very corruptible. That is what strengthens the relationship that this government has with the Chinese people. It is all about their money. It doesn’t matter whether Chinese behave like cockroaches; to them, as long as they take money to State House, they will let them exploit the country’s resources (like cockroaches) under the cover of night while Zambians are asleep.

It is the same thing that can be said about President Lungu’s relationship with the Bemba-speaking people. Our President was able to speak with confidence that out of every 10 Bembas six are thieves, because that is what he thinks about the people from the North. Just like he doesn’t need the Chinese for anything else, President Lungu doesn’t need anything from the Bembas, apart from their votes. He thinks they are thieves, but he is tolerating them because they are the majority tribe and he needs them to stay in power.

For a man who has no clear or traceable origins in Zambia, this was not only a miscalculated stereotype statement, but also a political gaffe that may backfire on him.

Crossword puzzle 254



“Literature offers the thrill of minds of great clarity wrestling with the endless problems and delights of being human. To engage with them is to engage with oneself, and the lasting rewards are not confined to specific career paths.”
- Jonathan Stroud

- | Across | Down |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Not in operation | 1. Big galoot |
| 4. Prohibit | 2. Long way |
| 6. Get out of bed | 3. Encircle |
| 7. An evergreen tree | 4. Benjamin (abbr.) |
| 9. Immediately | 5. Not used before |
| 11. ___ roll, appetizer | 8. Insinuate |
| 13. Not shut | 10. Church instrument |
| 14. Hence | 11. Conclusion; finish |
| 15. Beaver’s house | 12. Precious stone |
| 17. Affirmative vote | 16. Aardvark meal |
| 19. Before dos | 17. Part of a circle |
| 21. Carved poll | 18. Greek H |
| 22. Central Intelligence Agency | 19. Baseball ref |
| 23. Round baked dessert | 20. Run a deficit |

Solutions to puzzle 253



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.

Miles' explanation to appoint Adrian Banda as acting mayor

Editor,
"And this is the man who at one time had presidential aspirations? Awe sure!"
- Ronald Chikwanda

"Foolish exculpatory statement! Who

granted you the permission? Why does PF seem to be so scattered and confused? Rubbish! That's why you are leaving come 2021!" - Christian Musenga

"Miles always oversteps his boundaries!" - Salbrine Mukwayi

"He has to follow the law. These are not personal positions." - Kamona Mubita

"The need to operate within the legal framework can't be excused for precedence. I encourage public office holders to read and consult widely, not just drinking coffee and Facebooking! The scandal has also highlighted the challenges facing local government. The Mayor is a political head of a political structure within the local authorities. He/she has the people's mandate through a popular vote across seven constituencies in the case of Lusaka." - Chileshe Chanda

"It just takes a phone call to the deputy mayor whether he/she would be attending classes. Communication matters." - Rogers Kapila

"If the way Sampa was elected to office is anything to go by, the people of Lusaka do not need to look to someone with experience, but whoever stands on the PF ticket. So, Sampa showed ignorance here and needs to admit it." - Mike Phiri

"The problem is lack of protocol in PF; there is absence of wisdom among political cadres in PF. I think we need to open a tuition centre so that those in authority can distinguish a cadre and an intellectual because as it is now, there is too much 'mob type' of thinking in PF; total confusion!" - Mateo Nyanga



ND OPINION: You can't reform a cheating husband by torturing his lover

Editor,

"This piece is on point! Those with ears let them hear, and those with eyes let them see..." - Given Chikeu

"Well said in your opinion! However, I wonder how 'pressure to get married by a certain age limit' by girls come into play in this instance." - Kelyson Mang'ola

"Well said, News Diggers! Hope the gang shall be put behind bars soon." - Gershom Chilukusha

"Editor, you are on point. I am sure lessons have been

learnt." - Francis Wilfred Phiri

"If the Minister of Gender suggests castration of men caught in the act of raping women, what punishment will she suggest for women like this or those forcing themselves with young men? I need your serious answer, please. Reasoning with someone is better than introducing Sharia law." - Honourable Paundi Kasempa MP

"The law is very biased towards male victims of gender based violence, that's why women are confident they can get away even with murder!" - Bel Son

Lungu on Chinese being like cockroaches who can 'survive everywhere'

Dear Editor,

"Each time he opens his mouth, he blunders, please mdala, stick to what you do best: flying, taxing Zambians and cutting deals, which only benefit you with your so-called cockroaches!" - Chombe Mike

"So, in Mr President, you want us to forget about what you said and let Chinese come grab land to innocent Zambians?" - Francis Bwalya

"Unfortunately, this unintentional demeaning statement MAY NOT be taken lightly in few days to come." - Sylvester Chisanga

"The Chinese will engulf our nation if we don't give them limits. They will spread all over Zambia & take over everything!" - Chanda Pochoko

"I totally agree with the President here unless someone is insane. The President has data." - Gladwel Sham

"Only those who don't understand idioms see blunder in President's statement." - Robert Mwanza

Saudi Arabia on Monday slammed as "interference" US Senate resolutions over its war in Yemen and critic Jamal Khashoggi's murder, warning that the move could have repercussions on its strategic ties with Washington.

The Republican-controlled Senate voted on Thursday to end American military support for a Riyadh-led war in Yemen, and separately held Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman responsible for Khashoggi's killing.

The largely symbolic vote dealt a fresh warning to President Donald Trump, who has staunchly backed the Saudi regime in the face of intense global outrage that analysts say has left the kingdom diplomatically weakened.

"The kingdom condemns the latest position of the US Senate that was based on unsubstantiated

Saudi Arabia slams US Senate vote as 'interference'

allegations and rejects the blatant interference in its internal affairs," the foreign ministry said in a statement released by the official Saudi Press Agency. On the Yemen measure, which more broadly attacks the president's prerogative to launch military action, 49 Democrats or their allies voted in favour, along with seven Republicans, while another three Republicans abstained.

The Senate also approved a resolution condemning Khashoggi's murder and calling Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, "responsible" for it.

The Saudi ministry warned that the kingdom would not tolerate any "disrespect" of its rulers.

"This position by the US Senate sends the wrong



messages to all those who want to cause a rift in Saudi-US relationship," the ministry said.

"The kingdom hopes that it is not drawn into domestic political debates in the US to avoid any...

significant negative impact on this important strategic relationship." - 'Vulnerable to pressure' -

A day after the Senate vote, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo again defended US ties with Saudi Arabia on national security grounds, saying the kingdom was a bulwark against common foe Iran.

The Senate resolution acknowledged the US-Saudi ties were "important" but called on Riyadh to "moderate its increasingly erratic foreign policy". AFP

Protesting Ethiopian soldiers given jail terms

A military court in Ethiopia has sentenced 66 soldiers to between five and 14 years in prison for marching on the residence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in October.

The government said the soldiers were asking for a pay rise but Mr Abiy later insisted they had wanted to kill him.

"These sentences delivered today will serve as lessons," prosecutor Cap Hailemariam Mamo told reporters.

The defendants' lawyer said he would lodge appeals for a few suspects.

One defendant was sentenced to 14 years in prison, while 65 others were given jail terms ranging from five to 13 years, for "violation of military ethics", Col Meshesha Areda, head of the military tribunals directorate, said quoted by Reuters news agency.

The 66 were among 200 soldiers in fatigues and red berets who marched to the prime minister's office in the capital, Addis Ababa.

At the time, Mr Abiy defused the situation by

ordering them to do press-ups and joining in but he later told parliament that he was very unhappy with the situation.

"The march of some members of the army to

the National Palace [the prime minister's office] was not only unlawful but very dangerous, because the intention was to abort the ongoing reforms," Mr Abiy told MPs during a question-

and-answer session.

"Meanwhile, after the situation was brought under control, some forces were heard saying: 'He escaped before we could kill him,'" he added. BBC



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres at a news conference in Sweden

UN calls for 'credible' probe into Khashoggi's murder

UN chief Antonio Guterres called Sunday for a "credible" probe into journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder in Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul. "It is absolutely essential to have a credible investigation and to have the punishment of those that were guilty," Guterres said at a conference in Doha.

The UN chief said he had no information on the case except what had been reported in the media.

Khashoggi, a Saudi contributor to the Washington

Post, was killed on October 2 shortly after entering the kingdom's consulate in what Riyadh called a "rogue" operation.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly rejected Turkish demands to extradite suspects connected to the murder of the journalist, a critic of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Turkey's foreign minister said on Sunday that Saudi Arabia has not yet shared information on a "local collaborator" in his country.

Mevlut Cavusoglu said at the

conference that Riyadh has neither disclosed the name nor the facial composite of a suspect in Turkey.

"Why don't you share it with Turkey?" he asked.

"We know that (Khashoggi's) body was cut in pieces and his body was taken out of the consulate building, but we don't know where the body is. "This is the main question, we need to find out."

On Saturday, Cavusoglu said that his country would "not give up" on establishing the truth about the murder.

Earlier this month, the minister said Turkey was in talks over a possible United Nations investigation into the killing which has provoked global outrage.

According to Turkey, a 15-member Saudi team was sent to Istanbul to kill Khashoggi, a palace insider turned critic of the regime. Riyadh has since detained 21 people over the murder.

Despite speculation that the powerful crown prince ordered the hit, the kingdom has strongly denied he was involved.

The murder has damaged Riyadh's international reputation, and Western countries including the United States, France and Canada have placed sanctions on nearly 20 Saudi nationals. AFP



Chieftainess Mushili Mufwaya of the Kabende speaking people in Pwerve village, Samfya district speaks to Bahati Member of Parliament Harry Kalaba when he paid a courtesy call on her on December 14, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Alex Chilumbwe
ZESCO United coach George Lwandamina says the familiarity of players from TP Mazembe and his side could be the reason why his side struggled to snatch victory in Congo DR.

On Sunday, the Ndola-based outfit suffered a 1-0 loss at the hands of the Congolese side and five times African champions TP Mazembe in the first leg tie of the CAF Champions League second round fixture played in Lubumbashi.

"We are familiar rivals because we are big clubs in our respective countries. We are both league champions. We also have a good number of Zambian players in that squad maybe it is the reason our encounters are always filled with intense action," he said.

And Lwandamina noted the need to tighten his defence and sharpen the attack in the return fixture which will be played on 23 December at Levy Mwanawasa stadium.

Lwandamina blames familiarity for ZESCO's loss to TP Mazembe

"They played really well and with discipline. They defended quite well but I still need to fine-tune the defence and attack more

fiercely. Otherwise we also created chances like them but could not just score," he said.

"If we win the home game

with better aggregate, it would be better as we would proceed to the next stage in the competition. It won't happen easily so we

have to work harder," said Lwandamina.

The winner from both legs will proceed to the next group stage of the CAF

Champions League while the loser will be relegated to the CAF Confederations Cup pre-group stage that kicks off in January, 2019.

Buffaloes coach keeps faith after SFaxien humiliation

By Alex Chilumbwe
Green Buffaloes coach Biltone Musonda says although his team has a huge task to overturn the 4-1 loss to SFaxien, not all hope is lost as his side can still pull a surprise.

Musonda believes his side could have done better in Tunisia and not let the score line stretch to a humiliating three-goal gap, adding that the challenge that lied ahead in the return fixture had been made harder.

"We have a bigger and higher mountain to climb and we really should not have let the

scoreline stretch that much especially that we equalised in the first half. We could have done better but I do not think we should be ruled out yet because anything can happen on the pitch and we can pull up a surprise," he told Goal Diggers!

Asked if he felt that his side needed more investment in player scouting before the start of the Confederations Cup, Musonda's response settled between yes and no.

"Of course a more firm boosting to the team would have been better but I also have great confidence in

this squad. This is an army side that operates under commands and it is very strict on who joins the team at what time. The current squad should just outdo themselves because they

have been chosen for this responsibility. To answer you in few words, I will say yes and no," summed Musonda.

The combatants will get back to action in the return

fixture as they will host CS SFaxien on 22 December and hopefully score three goals and not concede if they are to proceed to the next stage of the CAF Confederations Cup.

'I'm not thinking thank God it's Bayern' - Liverpool didn't get lucky draw, insists Klopp



Brighton and Hove Albion striker Glenn Murray (17) battles for a header with Chelsea Defender Marcos Alonso during the English championship Premier League football match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Chelsea on December 16, 2018 at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton and Hove, England - AFP



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp is wary of the threat posed by the Reds' Champions League last-16 opponents Bayern Munich and is refusing to underestimate Niko Kovac's men.

The two sides have had contrasting starts to the season, with Liverpool exceeding expectations by

sitting top, while Bayern are nine points adrift of Bundesliga pacesetters Borussia Dortmund.

Liverpool have picked up where they left off last season and look set to push Manchester City all the way in the Premier League title race. But Bayern have been wildly erratic and seen new coach Kovac come under significant pressure at times, reportedly coming close to losing his job in November.

Former Liverpool players Steve McManaman and Luis Garcia spoke of their confidence in the immediate aftermath of the draw, certain the Reds will have too much for Bayern, but Klopp was less brazen.

"At the end, it's a football game on the highest level and we have to play it," Klopp told Liverpool's official website.

"We knew it before, it's not that anybody thought 'thank God it's Liverpool', so we don't think 'thank God it's Bayern'.

"It's a tough one, but that's how it should be. It's the last 16 of the Champions League so there are only tough teams in and I'm really excited about it." *Goal.com*

Chipolopolo has no defenders, notes Sven

By Alex Chilumbwe
Sven Vandenbroeck says Chipolopolo lack solid defenders because the best defensive players in the FAZ/MTN league are foreigners.

And Vandenbroeck said Zambian defenders prefer offensive play, neglecting their defensive duties.

"We have a number of good defenders that I watched in the local super league. If you follow it

closely, you will agree with me that the better ones were not Zambians but foreigners. If one does not do their research well, he may be comforted at their sight but disappointed when he's told that they are foreigners or international players playing in the Zambian super league," he said.

"Sometimes the defenders kept pushing with worrying eagerness because you are not sure they

will restore energy and recover in defense because they had pushed in a little too much. I do not think that that should be the case. You cannot neglect your duty or position because you are too eager to attack," said Vandenbroeck.

A week ago, the Belgian born held an interactive session with members of the press at Court Yard in Kitwe on the sidelines of the Mopani Copper Mine Under-20

COSAFSA Championship where he answered a number of questions.

Topics discussed ranged from his stay with the national team, failure to qualify for 2019 AfCON to what he thought needed to be done to improve the dwindling performance of the Chipolopolo. Blending of local and foreign-based players and defending tactics were also among the topics that were discussed.

Liverpool will take on fellow five-time winners Bayern Munich in the last 16 of the Champions League, while Jose Mourinho's struggling Manchester United face French giants Paris Saint-Germain.

Holders Real Madrid were paired with Ajax in Monday's draw in Nyon as the Spaniards attempt to lift the trophy for the fifth time in six seasons, while Lionel Messi and Barcelona will play Lyon.

Both Liverpool and Bayern have a rich tradition in the competition, with Jurgen Klopp returning to his homeland to face the side that beat his Borussia

Liverpool draw Bayern as United face PSG in Champions League last 16

Dortmund team in the 2013 final.

Liverpool, defeated finalists last season, are the current form side of the two and sit top of the Premier League while Bayern have been far short of their own high standards in the Bundesliga this term.

"That's the team of the hour, the league leaders in England, they are playing

really good football, very physical, really stepping it up. We are looking forward to it," Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said of the tie with Liverpool. "A tough cookie, but that's something to look forward to as a player."

Klopp said: "It will be a tough one, an interesting one, and I am looking forward to it." - Ronaldo awaits -

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City take on German side Schalke 04 while Atletico Madrid, runners-up in 2014 and 2016, come up against Cristiano Ronaldo and Italian heavyweights Juventus.

"A very difficult match, with few goals," Juve vice-president Pavel Nedved predicted.

"No doubt Cristiano is the man of the Champions League, he has always shown that, with goals and victories. Our team is very strong and we can be calm and confident."

Bundesliga leaders Dortmund will meet Tottenham Hotspur for the second season in a row, having faced each other in last year's group stage, while Roma meet two-time former champions Porto.

"We've already met them (Tottenham) twice. A strong opponent, the chances are at 50-50. The team has top players. We are also strong, it will be interesting," Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke told Sky.

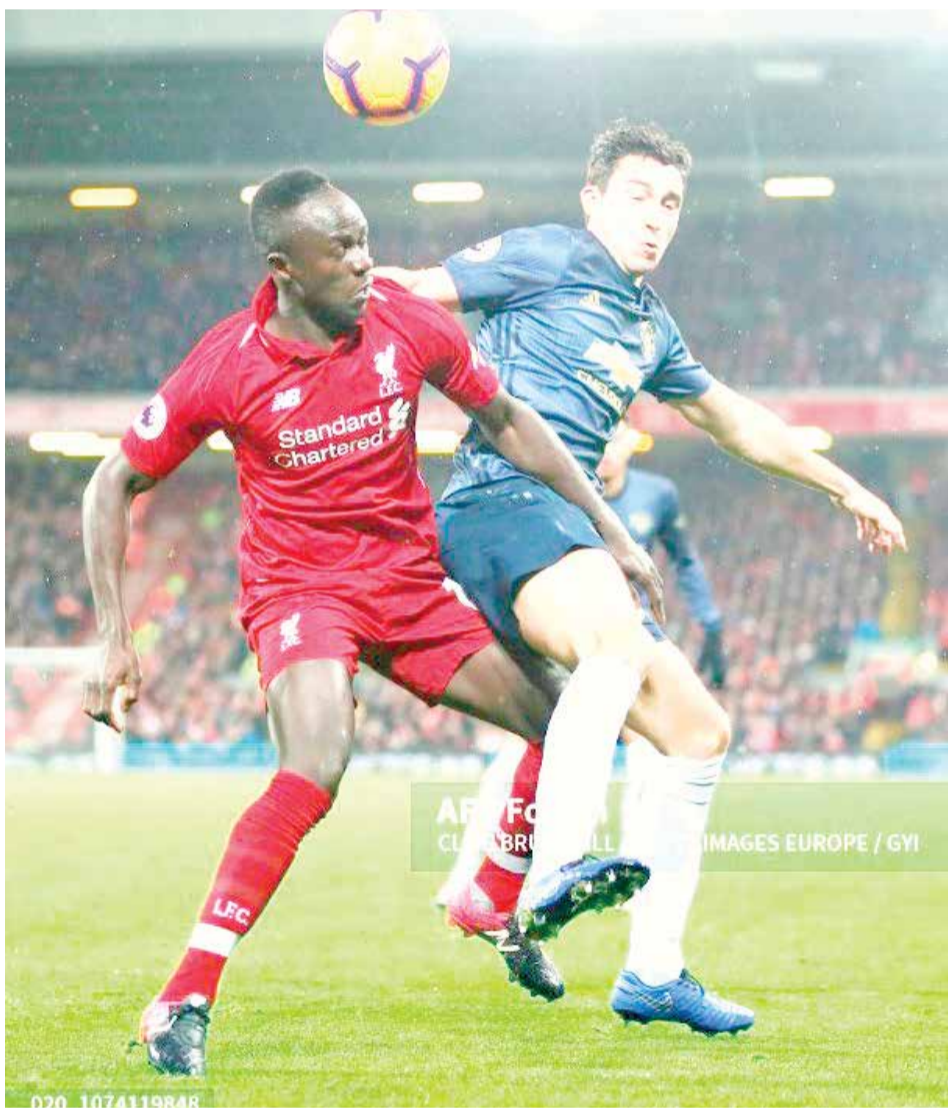
United, at a low ebb after Sunday's 3-1 defeat to Liverpool, meet PSG for the

first time and a formidable task awaits against a side featuring Neymar and Kylian Mbappe -- the world's two most expensive players.

"It's always difficult to play Manchester United," said PSG boss Thomas Tuchel.

"They have lots of experience in this competition, they've won it numerous times. It's always difficult to play at Old Trafford, it's always a big challenge.

"It's the same thing against Mourinho. He has lots of experience in this competition and you must have respect," he added. *AFP*



Sadio Mane of battle for possession with Manchester United's Matteo Darmian during the Premier League Match between Liverpool and Manchester United. Liverpool won 3-1 at Anfield - AFP

'I'm not done with you yet' - Ibra confirms LA Galaxy stay



Zlatan Ibrahimovic has confirmed that he is staying in the MLS with LA Galaxy.

There was a great deal of speculation surrounding the star striker's future, with strong links to former club AC Milan until they ruled out a deal last week.

However, it seems the mercurial forward is set for another season in Los Angeles following his typically dramatic announcement via a social media post.

Ibrahimovic scored 22 goals and notched seven assists in 27 league games for LA Galaxy as he continued to defy the ageing process after joining on a free transfer from Manchester United and scoring his 500th career goal in acrobatic fashion against Toronto. The striker ended up winning the MLS Goal of the Year award and beat Wayne Rooney to best newcomer. *Goal.com*

By Alex Chilumbwe
Another high profile resignation has hit Football House, this time Club Licensing manager, Erick Mwanza throwing in the towel barely a month after Technical Director Moses Sichone left the association.

Mwanza's resignation has raised eyebrows, amidst speculations that his move is linked to a diplomatic

posting. The list of resignations at FAZ has swelled, but the association insists that it parts ways with its

employees on "mutual grounds". Among the top management officials that have left the association are

former General Secretary Ponga Liwewe, Technical Director Moses Sichone and Registrar Elton Thawe. Mwanza is former FAZ

spokesperson and had a stint at CAF in the media department during the Kalusha Bwalya era. He is also said to have

been instrumental in the structuring of the transitional league which takes shape next season in January 2019.

ERIC QUILTS FAZ