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I'M CRITICALLY SICK - KAMBWILI

By Patson Chilemba

I AM critically sick, my BP and diabetes are not stabilising, says Chishimba Kambwili. (To page 2)



Police scared to arrest suspected mine fraudsters because of "symbiotic" Anglo, HH relationship - Nawakwi

By Patson Chilemba
POLICE are scared to move on in on the alleged fraudsters in the purchase of the fraudulently obtained mines by Anglo American because they are Hakainde's symbiotic friends, who bankrolled his campaigns, says FDD leader Edith Nawakwi.

Speaking with *Daily Revelation* Newspaper on information that politically linked forces in the mining industry, said to have strong links with powerful people in the UPND administration have disregarded police callouts over serious allegations of fraudulent practices and illegal transfer of exploration licences, Nawakwi said the police service she has come to know are those who break peoples doors for suspects premises, as opposed to the one that was timid in following up the suspects in the alleged mine fraud, who have spurned call outs after they were sent to them in September 2023.

(To page 2)



FROM left to right: Patriotic Front leaders Chanda Kabwe, Raphael Nakachinda, Emmanuel Mwamba and Joe Malanji who went to offer solidarity to former Mines minister Richard Musukwa who was arrested by DEC yesterday.

Zambia will only benefit for low international fuel prices when Kwacha improves - ERB chair

By Agness Changala
ENERGY Regulation Board (ERB) Chairperson Reynolds Bowa says Zambians will only benefit from reductions in international oil prices once the country's exchange rate stabilises.

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DEC arrests former mines minister Musukwa

(Story on page 2)



Police scared to arrest suspected mine fraudsters because of “symbiotic” Anglo, HH relationship - Nawakwi

(From front page)

Details in the matter are that Anglo American PLC, which is known to have serious connections with State House and is accused of controlling leaders in third world countries, has bought a fraudulently obtained mine from Arc Mineral and Handa Resources Limited, with those implicated being individuals linked to the Zambian government, over fraudulent practices, including the illegal transfer of exploration licences and collaborating or inducing public officers to approve the grant of unlawful transfer

On the nitty-gritties on the alleged fraudulent activities surrounding the licence transfers, investigations have revealed irregularities at the Ministry of Mines dating from 2021 through forged and applications of transfer pretending to be “A CHANGE IN PARTICULARS” and that the recent submission of documents on behalf of Zamsort, Arc Minerals executive chairman Nick Von Schirnding filled in and submitted at the Ministry’s cadaster office on July 27, 2023, Form XV(Regulation 29(1) being an application for consent to transfer mining right, mineral processing

licence, or register transfer shares in or transfer control of, company holding rights or mineral processing licence, with the ministry responding to this application signed by chief registrar of mines, Choolwe Chaduka, who addressed the letter to the bonafide transferor, Zamsort Ltd but the offer letter was instead given to the purporter Schirnding who is neither an officer or representative of the transferor.

But Nawakwi said the police have failed to move in against the suspect because of the mention of Anglo American in the matter.

“They can’t move in because of Anglo American Siamese relationship with Hakainde Hichilema, not State House. The funding from Anglo American, the symbiotic relationship of Anglo American with Hakainde Hichilema and his party through Brenthurst, and Hakainde’s business relationships with Anglo American through Benefit Consulting and through the Insurance companies makes it completely ultravires,”

Nawakwi said. “You can’t say the criminals

are being shielded. No! The police are petrified picking up suspects to interview them. They sent out

September, up to this day, they have not effected interviews on their callouts. This is simply because the parties involved, specifically Anglo American are symbiotically related to Hakainde Hichilema’s businesses, through the insurance companies, Benefit Consulting, you have to check the PACRA records because it’s a long time since

I dealt with these issues, the owners of AFLIFE and Benefit Consulting.”

Nawakwi charged that Brenthurst, “a trust organization of Anglo American” had now become



callouts in

a kitchen cabinet for

President Hichilema, asserting that these are the people who bankrolled his way into State House.

“And then you go to the others, the Valentine Chitalu’s through Arc Minerals are actually his partners. AFLIFE is by all intents and purposes Valentine Chitalu, Munakupya Hantuba and Hakainde Hichilema. So when there is a call out by the police to people who must explain as to how a licence belonging to Zambians has found itself into the hands and ownership of Hakainde’s friends, that’s Valentine Chitalu there you are saying Arc Minerals, isn’t it?” Nawakwi said. “What I am saying is that the police are petrified at realising that their callout was directed to bosom friends of Hakainde Hichilema.”

But she said this was not how she knows police to operate in this country, saying in her case “over a useless case”, they were getting her out of bed in UTH and she had to literally go out of the borders of Zambia to seek medication because the police were camping at UTH saying “bring her over dead or alive.”

She said when she came back from abroad where she had gone for treatment, the police again camped at her residential gate for days until “they got me out of bed”, saying they would arrive at her residence around 05:00 hours in the morning.

“That’s the police I know. You understand? They have been given a complaint, they have to effect an arrest. It’s their job. That’s the police I know. I don’t know a shy police, especially under this retiree Musamba, who thinks that his job is to disperse a funeral, his job is to disperse a peaceful meeting. He thinks that his job is to disperse people jogging,” Nawakwi said. “But when you give him real fraud and criminality as is being suggested in this matter then he’s very shy. And he’s only shy because he knows that the crew of this issue stoops at the feet of Hakainde Hichilema.”

She said there were ex-miners today whose benefits were taken by Benefits consulting, saying people could hear the ranting from director of project implementation at State House

“my daughter Chipu” telling the ex-miners to go anywhere they wanted.

Nawakwi charged that there is a scam in this country which must be stopped, saying the fact a president or minister were one’s friend should not be used as a basis to fraudulently acquire rights from Zambia.

“For me I want to know why the police have grown cold feet because tomorrow I am in court over a phony charge of abducting citizens and the police have been very vicious to get me,” she said.

She further said it pointed to President Hichilema’s failure that he could allow Mines minister Paul Kabuswe to give away 120,000 hectares of land to the “Guptas” under the “so-called name” Unicom, and then turn around and go to the IMF to beg, saying they were just laughing at him.

“He has failed miserably. He has failed. IMF and World Bank don’t just abandon a nation the way they have abandoned Zambia. They have seen through him, they know him and they have read through him that he is sitting and presiding over the most corrupt regime in the history of Zambia,” Nawakwi said.

She said she was disappointed that the young people who should have safeguarded national interests became its biggest betrayers, saying Norman Mbazima, Chitalu and President Hichilema were in the privatization team, and that the most “disgusting thing” was that all the three went to bed with Anglo American who brought this country to its knees by not putting in any investment in the mines and wanted to put ZCCM under receivership.

“My young brothers decided to go to bed with these looters, you know it breaks my heart. I have nothing to say about Mbazima. I have nothing to say about Valentine and Hakainde Hichilema. And I am talking as their former minister during the time of privatization,” said Nawakwi. “They could have become presidents and chairmen and whatever, but they owed this country a service. And now one of them is President he doesn’t want to correct the mistakes that they made. These are the young people who would seat with the minister at the table. You ask Hakainde Hichilema ‘are we getting the correct price for Inter-Continental Livingstone?’ And he looks you in the face and says, ‘yes madam minister. This is the last price I could get from these people.’ The very next day he’s chairman of Southern Sun.”

Daily Revelation made efforts to speak with State House Chief Communication analysts Clayson Hamasaka for his reaction but his line went unanswered. Sources said the ongoing proceedings on the licence transfer have raised concerns about the involvement of government agencies and individuals processing the transfer, with the Competitions and Consumer Protection Commissioner (CCPC) and Zambia Revenue Authority authenticating the transfers to the detriment of the country, wondering how a country could develop when institutions empowered to monitor manipulations and tax evasion bend to suit the needs of foreign entities while flexing muscles on indigenous Zambians mercilessly.

I’m critically sick - Kambwili

(From front page)

Speaking with *Daily Revelation*, Kambwili who was initially observed for hypertension at Roan Hospital in Luanshya after he was released from Milima prisons in Kasama on bail pending appeal, said he has not recovered even after being observed at the hospital.

“Nshilibwino my brother, nshilibwino (I am not well my brother. I am not well),” Kambwili, who was breathing heavily, spoke in a low tone voice. “My BP and diabetes is not stabilising. It is still critically high. Nshilibwino my brother (I am not well).”

But asked if he had gone to the hospital, Kambwili said he was home but the medicine that was administered to him had failed to stabilise the illness, saying he would seek an appointment with his cardiologist in the hopes that his situation will be stabilised.

But Kambwili said he would not want to name the medical specialists as he would not want to jeopardise them in any way given the situation he was in. He said he had two cardiologists who usually attend to him, one based in Zambia and the other in South Africa.

However, Kambwili is prohibited from travelling out of the country as one of the bail conditions demanded that he surrender his passport.

He said some pastors had visited him yesterday at his residence to pray with him and offer him comfort.

Kambwili spent four days in Milima prison after he was convicted for hate speech against the people of Southern Province.

Kasama Magistrate Samson Mumba sentenced Kambwili to five months imprisonment after he was found guilty of practising hate speech

Amend by-election notice, Kalaba asks ECZ

By Agness Changala

CITIZENS First President Harry Kalaba has asked the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to amend the notice it issued on Wednesday and replace it with one that does not disadvantage or disfranchise any political player.

Through a press release, The ECZ notified political parties of the upcoming by elections for Mayembe ward of Shiwangandu district in Muchinga, Kayo ward in Mwansabombwe district of Luapula and Kapamba wards ward in Mpika district of Muchinga Province, slated for January 23, 2024, while nominations for the same will be conducted on December 19, 2023.

The ECZT stated that adoption certificates of candidates sponsored by a political party should bear both the signature and full names of the party president or secretary general among other requirements.

“In view of the above requirements, the commission wishes to advise aspiring candidates who may wish to contest in these by-elections that failure to comply with these requirements shall render the nomination papers invalid,” ECZ stated.

However, Kalaba said the party was concerned with the ECZ’s introduction of the requirement for the adoption certificate of candidates sponsored by political parties, to bear the names and signature of party president or secretary general.

He said it was clear that the inclusion of this requirement by the ECZ is intended to disenfranchise some political opposition political parties.

“We therefore call upon ECZ to do the right thing and level the playing field by amending the notice dated 13th December, 2023 and have the correct notice issued that does not disadvantage

or disfranchise any political player,” Kalaba said.

The opposition leader said his party was concerned that the commission was over exerting itself by introducing rules in the announcement that were not consistent with the manner in which announcements had been made in all other by-elections.

He has since reminded the commission of its mandate of impartially managing elections rather than being an active

player that seeks to predetermine the outcome of the electoral process.

“It is the CF’s view that such actions put the ECZ in direct contestation as an active player in partisan politics,” Kalaba said. “In view of the above, the CF would like to call out the ECZ and remind them of their mandate of impartially managing elections rather than being an active player that seeks to predetermine the outcome of

the electoral process.”

Kalaba said the ECZ must do the right thing and level the playing field by amending the notice.

According to the ECZ notice, the polls will take place on Tuesday January.

The three vacancies arose from the resignations of three PF councilors namely Monica Mbugu of Kayo ward, Hosea Chitemboi of Mayembe and Kellis Kalima of Kapamba ward.

DEC arrests former mines minister Musukwa

By Daily Revelation Reporter

THE Drug Enforcement (DEC) has arrested former Mines minister Richard Musukwa for allegedly being in possession of property suspected of being proceeds of crime.

After more than 6 hours of interrogations at the DEC offices, Musukwa was arrested and later released on bond.

The interrogations relate to his properties that were seized from him some few months ago when

DEC seized Musukwa’s house, flats and vehicles among other items.

Addressing the media at DEC offices yesterday, PF chairperson for information and publicity Emmanuel Mwamba said Musukwa was being interrogated in connection with the seized properties.

The former mines minister has since challenged the seizure of his properties in the Lusaka High Court for being illegal among other reasons.

Editorial

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Why marry if you can't commit to one man, one woman?

By Daily Revelation Editor

THE Magistrates court recently sentenced Baxton Danga, a wife batterer to 14 months in jail after his merciless abuse of his wife.

The abused wife, a 30-year-old woman of Lusaka's Matero Township, says she is happy that her husband who mercilessly beat her has been handed a jail sentence.

She encouraged women who are in abusive marriages to leave before they are killed.

She told the court that in August this year, her husband spent a night out and when he returned home in the morning, she asked him why he slept out again.

She said the husband answered her that, "sinimapeleka yabatate bako. Nimapeleka yanga (I don't take your father's, I take mine)," she told the court.

For those who did not watch the video, it was so agonising to watch every second of it, as the now convict husband unleashed brutality on an innocent woman. It was such a sorry sight that apart from unleashing heavy punches and kicks, including arm-twisting the young lady so much so that she cried her lungs out, the abuser also resorted to using a metal object that was nearby and hit her very hard with it.

The poor defenseless lady could only watch and suffer pain as the abuser unleashed on her. And despite the cries and beatings being heard around the vicinity, some just watched on and took the videos instead of stopping the 'animal.' The only credit is at least a video was taken to document the unfortunate incident, and today the abuser is in jail.

We shudder to imagine the pain and agony the young lady has endured for all these years outside the camera from that man. It surely isn't an easy thing to be in her shoes. Unfortunately, there are many out there who are suffering in silent agony, just in the name of marriage. Life should never be lived in that manner. Marriage is an institution that was established by God to be enjoyed and not to be a shipikisha club as many put it.

In the case of Baxton's conviction, we feel the courts were lenient on him to have given him only 14 months imprisonment. We feel the penalty should have been harsher in order to send a strong warning to the other abusers. We are not sure if he will be able to sufficiently reform within this little time, he might just come out and effect more abuse on the other women he will find, since the wife has indicated that she would not go back to him but find something to do to care for her two children.

The established norm is that when someone marries, they are doing so because they have committed to spending their lifetime with one man in the case of women, and one woman in the case of men. We wonder then why many want to live an adulterous life afterwards. This is the root of many struggles in marriages actually as in the case of that Matero woman whose only sin was to ask the husband why he had spent a night out. Just that question angered him so much and brought the animal out of him to unleash such heavy brutality on a defenceless woman.

We encourage women, including some men who are experiencing such a torturous life to immediately leave. That marriage is not worth fighting for. The route which that Matero woman took of getting the abuser to court is the route those who are in abusive marriages should take.

An abuser will always be an abuser, whether that abuser is your husband or a wife, they are still an abuser. You must leave them before you lose your precious life.

Nakachinda seeks judicial review over DPP's refusal to privately prosecute Sampa, Ng'ona

By Agness Changala

PATRIOTIC Front (PF) secretary general has sought Judicial Review in the Lusaka High Court to challenge the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)'s refusal to grant his lawyers consent to privately prosecute Miles Sampa and Morgan Ng'ona for alleged impersonation and fraud offences.

Nakachinda is seeking an order that the grant of leave should operate as a stay of all acts and further proceedings in pursuance of this matter to which this application relates.

He also wants the court's direction that the hearing of the application for judicial review be expedited.

Nakachinda has also requested for an oral hearing of this application before a judge.

Apart from reliefs sought, the applicant is seeking a declaration that the decision of the DPP dated December 5, 2023 to refuse his lawyers consent to privately prosecute the matter is null and void.

He is also seeking an order to quash the decision of the DPP.

Nakachinda also wants to compel the DPP to re-consider his decision in accordance with the law.

According to an affidavit in support of ex-parte summons for leave to commence Judicial Review, Nakachinda submitted that Sampa while on suspension and without authority on October 24, 2023 held an illegal extra ordinary convention at Mulungushi International Conference Centre and purported that the PF had held a General Conference at the said venue.

He stated that at the said illegal extra ordinary general conference, elections were held and Sampa was purportedly elected as President and Morgan Ng'ona as the secretary general of PF.

Nakachinda stated that after this convention, Sampa and Ng'ona jointly and whilst acting together as president and secretary general respectively submitted purported minutes on a foreign letter head to the Registrar of Societies requesting for the change of names of PF office bearers.

He stated that on October 25, 2023, he wrote a letter



NAKACHINDA

to the Lusaka Commanding Officer, Central Police to report about the fraudulent documents attempted to be filed at the Registrar of Societies by Ng'ona, an agent of Sampa.

Nakachinda stated that Sampa and Ng'ona had on several occasions attempted to lodge documents at the Registrar of Societies with a view to change office bearers.

"That it is against that

background of fraudulent acts done by Miles Sampa and Morgan Ng'ona that on 27th October, 2023, I filed a complaint relating to criminal proceedings in the Subordinate Court of Zambia," he stated.

Nakachinda submitted that since all criminal proceedings in Zambia were prosecuted by the DPP or someone with express consent from the DPP, on November 28, 2023, his lawyers wrote a letter to the DPP seeking permission to conduct private prosecution on the matter involving Sampa.

The PF boss stated that on December 5, 2023 he received a letter from the DPP through his lawyers where the DPP refused to grant consent to prosecute the matter because there was a civil matter before court bordering on the same subject.

Nakachinda said he had been advised by his lawyers that the decision of the DPP to refuse to give permission to conduct private prosecution could be challenged and questioned through Judicial Review.

He stated that the reasons advanced by the DPP were not reasons at all as the law does recognize that criminal matters

and civil matters can run in parallel and at the same time.

Nakachinda submitted that the DPP did not invite him nor his lawyers on record to review the evidence or even engage in a discussion about the matter.

He stated that he had lodged complaints against the Ng'ona and Sampa and the state had not done anything about it.

Nakachinda said the accused persons were behaving in the manner they are as they have backing from the State and the actions of the DPP seem to confirm that position.

He stated that the only place where solace can be sought under the circumstances would be the Courts.

Nakachinda said this state of affairs presents a ripe situation for the Courts to inquire into the decision making process as well as decide whether to quash the decision of the DPP or not.

"That I am advised by my advocates and verily believe the same to be true that granting the applicant herein leave to commence judicial review proceedings will not prejudice the Respondent but the interest of Justice will be served," stated Nakachinda.

Depreciation of Kwacha creating hardships, uncertainties - Tembo

By Isaac Zulu

PATRIOTS for Economic Progress (PeP) leader Sean Tembo says the continued depreciation of the Kwacha against major convertible currencies is creating a lot of uncertainties and hardships in the business environment.

Tembo, in a statement, Tembo observed that the continued depreciation of the local currency against major convertible currencies has significantly increased the prices of goods and services for consumers.

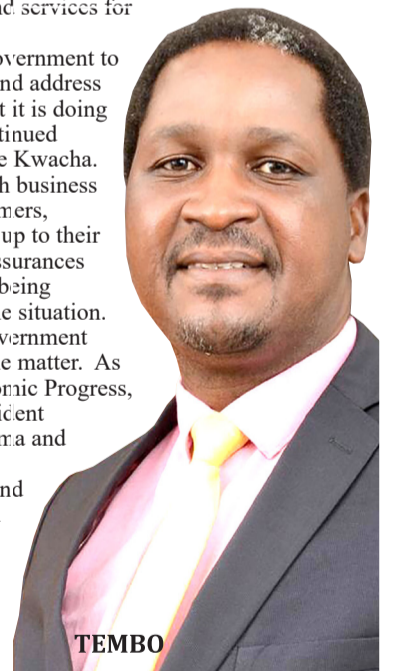
"As Patriots for Economic Progress (PeP), we are concerned that the government has not said anything regarding what they are doing to address the continued depreciation of the Kwacha, which is now trading at K24.7 to the US Dollar. The last time we heard anything on this matter from the government was more than a month ago when the BOZ (Bank of Zambia) Governor said the Central Bank had run out of forex to support the Kwacha," Tembo stated.

"It is worth noting that the continued depreciation of the Kwacha has created a lot of uncertainties and hardships in the business environment and significantly increased

prices of goods and services for consumers."

He urged the government to show leadership and address the nation on what it is doing to resolve the continued depreciation of the Kwacha.

"Therefore, both business houses and consumers, alike, are looking up to their government for assurances that something is being done to address the situation. Unfortunately, government is very quiet on the matter. As Patriots for Economic Progress, we appeal to President Hakaiinde Hichilema and his government to show leadership and address the nation on what he is doing to resolve the continued depreciation of the Kwacha," stated Tembo.



TEMBO

Kapiri GBV centre coordinator in court over theft of furniture worth K43,000

By Isaac Zulu

A 35-YEAR-OLD man is appearing in the Kapiri Mposhi Magistrates' Court for allegedly stealing office equipment worth more than K43,000 from a One Stop Gender Based Violence Centre.

Before Kapiri Mposhi Resident Magistrate Anorild Kasongamulilo was Kelvin Kapembwa, a resident of Kapiri Central Park who is a coordinator at Kapiri Urban Clinic under the GBV One Stop Centre and is alleged to have stolen office equipment worth over K43,750.

Kapembwa stands charged with one count of theft by servant which is contrary to the Laws of Zambia.

The items alleged to have been stolen were a desktop computer, two printers, an air conditioner, a television set, central processing unit (CPU) and a battery back-up.

The accused is said to have committed the alleged offence between January 2018 and August 2023 at Kapiri Mposhi Urban Clinic.

When the matter came before court, Kapembwa denied the charge and a plea of not guilty was, accordingly, recorded.

And two of the accused person's workmates have narrated before court how they noticed that some office equipment, after their inventory, were missing and subsequently reported the matter to relevant

authorities.

A paralegal officer based at Kapiri Mposhi Urban Clinic Gender Based Violence One Stop Centre, Rabson Lombe, told court that they realised that some items in the inventory were missing and opted to report the matter to the police.

The court further heard that at one point Kapembwa was queried about the whereabouts of the said items, but in response he said some of the office equipment had only been taken for temporal use at the residence of one of the district health members of staff.

The matter comes up on December 29, 2023 for continued trial.

FPI condemns harassment of journalists by police, demands action from Govt

By Mubanga Mubanga

FREE Press Initiative (FPI) has demanded immediate action from the government to uphold press freedom and protect journalists' rights.

And FPI has stated that what happened to journalists in Kitwe exposes the urgent need for the government to repeal and replace the Public Order Act, as its continued existence allows for such harassment to persist.

The demand follows the disruption of a press briefing by Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and confiscation of cameras and other gadgets from journalists who were covering the event in Kitwe.

FPI founder and executive director Joan Chirwa has stated that failure to address this issue promptly will

only confirm suspicions of a deliberate attempt to maintain a draconian environment, perpetuating harassment of journalists by the police.

She stated that it is crucial for the Zambia Police to change their culture and recognize journalists as partners in disseminating information.

"By working together, they can ensure the safety of journalists and uphold the principles of a democratic society. This reform is especially important now, with the upcoming 2026 elections on the horizon, as it will prevent further mistreatment of journalists in the name of disrupting illegal assemblies," Chirwa stated. "The FPI demands immediate action from the government to uphold press freedom and protect journalists' rights. Let us hope that positive steps are taken to rectify this situation and create an environment where journalists can carry out their vital work without fear of harassment or intimidation."

She stated that Zambians must remain vigilant, ensuring that their voices are heard in demanding a free press that operates within a framework of respect, freedom and transparency.

Chirwa stated that it is only through such collective efforts that the country can safeguard the fundamental tenets of democracy and preserve the integrity of nation's information ecosystem.

reporters outside the court.

"We have confidence in the justice system. This decision doesn't surprise us. We were just afraid that they might use force against us. But this country won't go anywhere if justice doesn't work," he said.

Another lawyer for the firebrand opposition leader, Bamba Cisse, told journalists that the court's decision would potentially enable Sonko to participate in Senegal's February 2024 presidential election.

A lawyer for the state said the government would appeal. **Credit: Reuters**



CHIRWA

Senegal court orders opposition leader Sonko to be reinstated on electoral list

DAKAR - A SENEGAL court has ordered jailed opposition leader Ousmane Sonko to be reinstated on the electoral register, a ruling that could pave the way for him to run in a February presidential election, Sonko's lawyer Cire Cleodor Ly said on Thursday.

Sonko has faced a flurry of court cases over the past two years for charges including libel and rape, which he denies. The cases against him have triggered deadly violence in the West African nation.

Sonko, 49, was cleared of rape in June, but sentenced to a

two-year jail term after a court found him guilty of an offence described in the penal code as immoral behaviour towards individuals younger than 21.

He was arrested in July for insurrection and was struck off the electoral roll, a decision that potentially ruled him out of the February vote.

Sonko came third in Senegal's 2019 presidential election, and he is seen as a main opposition challenger in the race to succeed President Macky Sall.

The court of first instance in the capital Dakar overturned the decision on Thursday, Ly told



ENOCH Burke arriving at the court of appeal, Dublin, where he is appealing against High Court orders, including an injunction against him attending at his former school on February 16, 2023 © Getty Images / Brian Lawless/PA Images via Getty Images

Teacher to remain in prison over gender pronouns row

A SCHOOLTEACHER in Ireland who argued that referring to a transgender student as 'they' instead of 'he' was against his Christian beliefs will spend the Christmas period in prison, a court has ruled.

Enoch Burke, formerly a history and German teacher at Wilson's Hospital School in Co. Westmeath, was imprisoned for a second time in September. The teacher, who comes from an evangelical Christian background, had repeatedly failed to heed a court order barring him from entering the grounds of the school, from which he was fired last year.

Burke, who has been told by the court that he will be released from custody if he verbally agrees to comply with the order, said at a hearing in Dublin's High Court on Tuesday that doing so would be "giving up" his religious beliefs and an endorsement of "transgenderism."

Presiding over the court, Mr Justice Mark Sanfey said it had become clear that Burke had no intention of complying with the court order, and that there was no justifiable reason to release him until he did so. The next review will be on February 27, Sanfey said, adding that Burke can secure his release at any point before then by saying he will abide by the order.

Last year, Burke was accused by Wilson's Hospital School of gross misconduct after he objected to an email sent by school officials requesting that a transitioning student be referred to by a gender-neutral pronoun. It was claimed by school authorities that Burke had unprofessionally confronted the headmaster about the request.

Despite being suspended with full pay in May 2022 pending an investigation into his alleged misconduct, Burke continued to arrive at the school each day. He was fired the following August, and in May 2023, the Irish High Court found that the school had acted lawfully in its initial suspension of Burke - who it said had been "trespassing" on its grounds.

At a hearing last year, Burke told the court: "I am a teacher and I don't want to go to prison. I want to be in my classroom today, that's where I was this morning when I was arrested."

He added: "I love my school, with its motto Res Non Verba, actions not words, but I am here today because I said I would not call a boy a girl." However, the court has said that Burke is not being persecuted for his religious beliefs, but specifically for refusing to stop trespassing on school property.

Meanwhile, Burke has accused the courts of failing to recognize his constitutional right to religious freedom, and says that these rights were breached when he was asked to refer to a student by they/them pronouns. **Credit: RT**

4 Japanese ministers quit over corruption scandal

FOUR cabinet ministers in Japan quit on Thursday over a fundraising scandal involving the ruling party's most powerful faction.

More than 500m yen (£2.8m; \$3.4m) is alleged to have ended up in slush funds over a five-year period through 2022.

Tokyo prosecutors have also launched a corruption probe, Nikkei reported.

It is the latest blow to Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's increasingly unpopular government, whose approval ratings have plunged.

Public support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has been in power almost continuously since 1955, fell below 30% for the first time since 2012, an NHK survey on Tuesday showed.

Voters have been angered by inflation, as well as Mr Kishida's handling of earlier scandals.

Chief Cabinet Secretary and top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno, often seen as Mr Kishida's right-hand man and the face of his government, was the most prominent of the four ministers. Economy and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, Internal Affairs Minister Junji

Suzuki and Agriculture Minister Ichiro Miyashita also stepped down on Thursday.

Their replacements are expected to be announced by the end of the day.

In addition, five senior vice ministers and a parliamentary vice minister from the same faction, formerly led by the late PM Shinzo Abe, also quit.

The mass resignations now leave the LDP in the unusual situation of having no representatives from its largest and most powerful faction within the cabinet.

Mr Kishida, who took office in October 2021, said on Wednesday that he would deal with the allegations "head-on".

The faction allegedly failed to report hundreds of millions of yen in fundraising income.

Also known as the Seiwa policy group, the faction had set quotas for its members on the sale of tickets for party fundraising events.

When their sales exceeded the quotas, members received the additional funds. In and of itself, this does not violate Japanese law.

However, the allegations in the present case - which were triggered by a criminal

complaint - suggest that the additional revenue was kept off the books and instead went into slush funds.

Mr Matsuno is himself accused of failing to report more than 10m yen in income.

Other major factions within the LDP, including one previously led by Mr Kishida, are also facing allegations of under-reporting fundraising income.

On Wednesday, the Lower House of Japan's Diet rejected a no-confidence motion filed by the opposition against Mr Kishida's cabinet.

The LDP is due to hold leadership elections next September. A general election is due in 2025.

Some observers have said that even if Mr Kishida can continue to hold on to his post, his credibility will be greatly dented by the ongoing scandal.

"Kishida will remain in power for now as there are no obvious other candidates for the next president. But if a strong contender emerges, there may be a move to drop Kishida," Yu Uchiyama, a professor of political science at the University of Tokyo, told Reuters this week. - **Credit: BBC**

Zambia will only benefit from low international fuel prices when Kwacha improves - ERB chair

(From front page)

And Bowa has said the ERB has managed the fuel supply quite well and not experienced serious issues of petroleum supply within the country.

Speaking to *Daily Revelation* in an interview, observed that while the international oil process was moving downwards, the exchange rate was moving in the opposite direction.

"So I think that it is not really reasonable to expect to benefit from reductions in the international price until such time we are able as a country to stabilize our exchange rate. Once we manage that one, ahhh then you can call me and will tell you that the price is going down internationally and we expect to benefit," Bowa said. "For now, because of the movement on the exchange rate, it is difficult to see the benefit in price arising for the Zambians."

He however said the country should be optimistic that it will do well in the coming year.

"But then again we have got

the beautiful year ahead of us and we must be optimistic that we will do well as a country in the coming year. And if we do better, than we have done in the previous year, then surely some benefits should show," he said.

Earlier, reviewing the year in the electricity sector and fuel sector, Bowa said the ERB is happy that towards the end of 2023, the board received the cost of service study report, which determines an independent cost of producing and supplying electricity.

He said having received the report, the ERB was able to project for the next five years what is going to be a reasonable cost of electricity which allows the consumers to purchase electricity and pay for it.

Bowa said this will also allow the electrical utility to continue to survive as a business and continue to invest in the growth and capacity to supply.

"So we dealt with that and in the course of this we approved ZESCO's tariff migration plan for the next five years. So on the electrical side, we are settled

there," Bowa said.

He said the report was commissioned a long time ago but it was released by the consultant in December 2021.

Bowa said in the first half of 2022, the ERB was consulting with the government to make sure that the government understood the implications of the report and would be supportive of the decisions that the board would take.

He said in the middle of June 2022, the government was in alignment and had prepared the green paper and white paper subsequently in which they consulted with the citizens as to what was going to happen.

Bowa said after the process was completed, ERB undertook a review of ZESCO's application for revised tariffs which was to be done in consultation with reference to the report.

"So we completed that process and I believe we had worked out the tariffs somewhere around October, we announced it and it came into effect. So that tariffs now are effective from 2023 to



2027

and

we

should be

on stable ground

for the next five years because everybody knows what the price will be, they can all plan for that. ZESCO also will know how much revenue they are going to receive and they can plan their projects accordingly," he said.

And Bowa said there were some changes that occurred soon after there was change of the government.

He explained that previously, the government used to procure petroleum products on behalf of

the country.

"That was no longer feasible and the new government said no, this is a private sector driven initiative. Additional to that, they took the decision to close the Indeni Petroleum Refinery. That too was a prudent decision because as a country we have operated that refinery for 50 years and 50 years there had been insufficient investment in that asset. It had reached the limit of its useful life and so we closed it down," Bowa said.

"They then took another decision which was that the pipeline from Dar es Salaam would now be used to deliver diesel into the country rather than bring it by road as we had been doing and together with that decision to utilize the pipeline for finished products, comes the inevitable decision that because that pipeline does not have sufficient capacity to deliver all of our requirements as a country, we will need to make investments into that pipeline to expand its capacity over the several years."

Bowa said the ERB's reasonable expectation is that this should be completed within the next few years from 2024.

He explained that at the moment, 80 percent of diesel requirement is arriving by pipeline, then the balance of 20 percent is coming by road and all of petrol comes by road, kerosene and aviation fuel also

comes by road.

"It also means that because the product is being procured by the private sector players, our pricing in the country must be such that it's attractive to these players to enable them to bring the product into Zambia. If you notice, almost all of them are international companies, there is no obligation to bring their fuel to Zambia. They can take it to any of our neighboring countries if our price doesn't make sense to them," said Bowa.

"And so our primary consideration in arriving at a price is to ensure that the price that we put in the market is such as to allow for product to arrive here. If we get it wrong it means we will have fuel shortages and so we should congratulate ourselves as people that this kind of thing hasn't happened in the last two years. Mind you, the private sector supplying has only been doing it for two years from late 2021 until now.

So we have got the price right. The idea is to have a balance where the consumer is not paying too much but it's still profitable for the supplier.

And that's the job of the ERB and so far we appear to have managed it quite well and we have no serious issues of petroleum supply within the

Taskforce to conduct inspection of TAZARA in readiness for concessioning instituted

By Isaac Zulu

A TASK force has been constituted to conduct a comprehensive business and technical inspection of TAZARA in readiness for the concessioning of the railway company.

TAZARA head of public relations Conrad Simuchile has confirmed the development in a statement, adding that the objective is to assess TAZARA's operational and business model, setting the stage for the submission by China Civil and Engineering Construction Corporation of an optimized TAZARA revitalization proposal to the stakeholders of the railway company.

"Following the appointment of China Civil Engineering and Construction Corporation (CCECC) as the negotiator for the prospective engagement of a Chinese operator in the revitalization of TAZARA, CCECC has formed and dispatched a task force to conduct a comprehensive business and technical inspection of the Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA). The inspection is to be carried out from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia, with the aim being to assess TAZARA's operational and business model, setting the stage for the submission by CCECC of an optimised TAZARA revitalization proposal to the shareholders of TAZARA," Simuchile stated. "CCECC's task force team will engage in substantive discussions covering critical aspects, including the operational and management model of TAZARA, the proposal financing plan facilitated by the China Development

Bank, local taxation policies, and related matters. The 11-member team is led by Mr Peng Danyang, the managing director of the Ethiopia Djibouti Railway in East Africa, which operates under a public private partnership model, involving collaboration between the governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti and Railway Operation Limited, a subsidiary of CCECC."

He further stated that this multi stage review process underscores the commitment to a comprehensive assessment and collaboration at various levels of governance before TAZARA is transferred into the hands of a Chinese investor.

"The review deliberations are positioned to enhance and refine the TAZARA revitalization proposal, preparing it for thorough consideration by successive layers of authority that have been established for TAZARA's revitalization agenda. The proposition will undergo scrutiny by the Tanzania Zambia joint technical, followed by evaluation from the Tanzania Zambia steering committee and, ultimately, the refined proposal will be presented to the tripartite working group, which includes ministers from the governments of Tanzania and Zambia, as well as China's Ambassadors to Tanzania and Zambia," stated Simuchile. "This multi stage review process underscores the commitment to a comprehensive assessment and collaboration at various levels of governance before TAZARA is transferred into the hands of a Chinese investor. Emphasising the importance of these negotiations, the tripartite working group has set April 2024 as the target for the completion of the TAZARA revitalization discussions."

Somalia secures \$4.5bn debt relief

WASHINGTON — SOMALIA on Wednesday secured a \$4.5 billion debt relief deal from its international creditors, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank said, which will allow the nation to develop economically and take on new projects.

The deal comes as part of a debt forgiveness program — called the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative — overseen by both organizations. As a result of its participation in the program, Somalia's external debt will fall from 64 percent of GDP in 2018 to less than 6 percent of GDP by the end of 2023, the IMF and World Bank say in a joint news release.

Somalia's national debt currently exceeds \$5 billion, according to official figures.

"Somalia's debt relief process has been nearly a decade of cross governmental efforts spanning three political administrations. This is a testament to our national commitment and prioritization of this crucial and enabling agenda," said Somalia's President, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in a statement.

U.S. Treasury said it intends to cancel 100 percent of Somalia's remaining claims and "urges Somalia's other bilateral creditors to be equally generous and to move expeditiously."

The deal is "a significant milestone in Somalia's path to continued recovery and meaningful reform to promote greater stability and economic opportunities for the Somali people," U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said.

Ali Yasin Sheikh, deputy governor of Somalia's central bank, told The Associated Press Wednesday that debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative comes as a relief for his country, which is eager to secure new funding for public projects.

In addition, he said, now it will be easier for Somalia to attract new

investors.

"Debt forgiveness will lead to a change in the world's perception of the country's economic stability, he said. "Somalia will be able to access global funds and investments from all over the world, as it is open to international financial markets."

He warned, however, that "it is crucial to ensure that measures are put in place to prevent Somalia from slipping back" into high debt again.

Somalia remains one of the world's poorest countries, beset mostly by security challenges stemming from years of unrest.

The Horn of Africa country is trying to achieve political stability

with transitions such as the one that ushered in Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in 2022, despite setbacks including an ongoing insurgency by al-Shabab. The extremist group, which opposes the federal government, still controls large parts

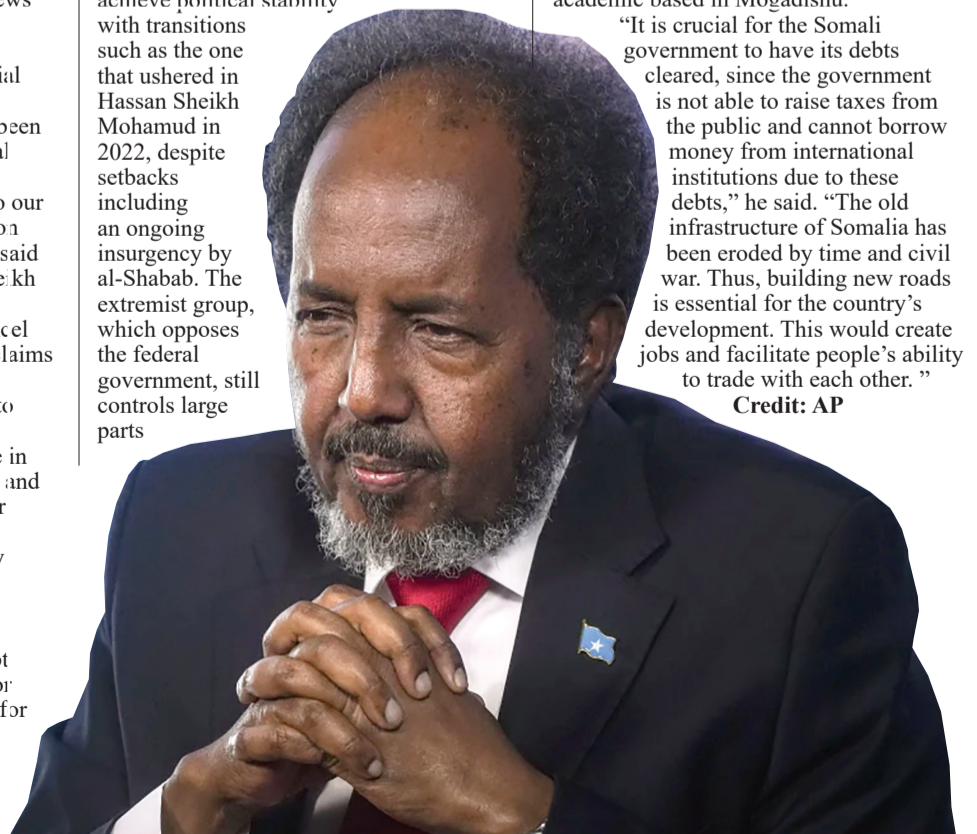
of rural Somalia. Al-Shabab regularly carries out deadly attacks in Mogadishu, the capital, and elsewhere in the country.

Somalia also is vulnerable to climate-related shocks, with some parts of the country nearing famine conditions, according to the World Bank. At the same time, heavy rains in parts of Somalia recently have triggered destructive flooding.

Debt relief will free up revenue, including from meager but expanding domestic sources, to invest in key public infrastructure, said Mohamed Mohamud Adde, an independent political analyst and academic based in Mogadishu.

"It is crucial for the Somali government to have its debts cleared, since the government is not able to raise taxes from the public and cannot borrow money from international institutions due to these debts," he said. "The old infrastructure of Somalia has been eroded by time and civil war. Thus, building new roads is essential for the country's development. This would create jobs and facilitate people's ability to trade with each other."

Credit: AP





EDINAH Nyasuguta Omwenga (L) underwent female genital mutilation (FGM) in a hospital, at the hands of a health worker -- part of a worrying trend keeping the illegal practice alive. Pictures by SIMON MAINA



MEDICALISED FGM -- performed using tools like these -- is defended by practitioners and communities alike as a "safe" way to preserve the custom, despite risks to the victim's physical, psychological and sexual health.



DORIS Kemunto Onsomu spent years administering the cut to schoolgirls, believing it was a significantly safer alternative to the traditional procedure she underwent as an adolescent.



DEMAND for medicalised FGM comes from all quarters, including upper middle-class households, says activist Eshnahs Nyaramba (L).



AS the children received "certificates of achievement", their beaming relatives applauded and ululated.

The dangerous rise of 'medicalised' genital mutilation in Kenya

By Ammu Kannampilly

AS Edinah Nyasuguta Omwenga fought for her life after developing complications during childbirth, she overheard doctors in the Kenyan hospital describe her condition as a textbook example of the damaging -- even deadly -- effects of genital mutilation.

But unlike thousands of girls across East Africa, Omwenga underwent female genital mutilation (FGM) in a hospital, at the hands of a health worker -- part of a worrying trend keeping the illegal practice alive.

"I was seven years old... no one told me it would cause so many problems," Omwenga, now 35, recalled.

When Kenya banned FGM in 2011, few expected that the practice -- traditionally performed in public with pomp and ceremony -- would migrate to backroom clinics and private homes, with nurses and pharmacists doing the procedure underground.

Medicalised FGM -- as it is known -- is defended by practitioners and communities alike as a "safe" way to preserve the custom, despite risks to the victim's physical, psychological and sexual health.

According to a 2021 report by UNICEF, medicalised FGM is growing in Egypt, Sudan, Guinea and Kenya, where it threatens to undo progress made by the East African nation in stamping out the tradition, which involves the partial or total removal of the clitoris.

Kenya estimates that FGM rates fell by more than half "from 38 percent in 1998 to 15 percent in 2022". However, campaigners caution that actual figures are

likely to be higher.

In Kisii county, 300 kilometres (180 miles) west of Nairobi, more than 80 percent of FGM procedures are carried out by health workers, according to government data.

Doris Kemunto Onsomu spent years administering the cut to schoolgirls in the hilly region, believing it was a significantly safer alternative to the traditional procedure she underwent as an adolescent.

"Because I was aware of the risk of infection, I would use a fresh blade every time," she told AFP.

"I thought I was helping the community."

The lucrative gig added 50 percent to her monthly income as a health worker before she stopped the practice.

Demand came from all quarters, including upper middle-class households.

"Traditions defy education. It takes a long time to unlearn certain practices," the 67-year-old said.

Tina -- not her real name -- the daughter of an engineer, was at her grandmother's house in Kisii when a health worker turned up late at night to perform the procedure on the eight-year-old and her cousin.

"It felt like the world was ending, it was very painful," she told AFP, recounting her confinement on the orders of her grandmother, who told her she had to remain in seclusion until the wound was healed.

Now a student at the University of Nairobi, the 20-year-old campaigns against the practice, reflecting a growing push by FGM survivors to eradicate the custom.

As the youngest of five sisters raised in Kisii, Rosemary Osano said she "felt pressure" to go along with tradition when she was cut.

"People feel like we have adopted Western culture in so many ways... so they want to hold on to this (practice) as a way of holding on to their culture," the 31-year-old graduate told AFP. The belief also persists across

the diaspora, with families flouting local laws and travelling to Kenya for the procedure.

In October this year, a London court convicted a British woman for taking a three-year-old girl to a Kenyan clinic to undergo medicalised FGM.

"They say that without this (cut) the girl will be a harlot," she added.

President William Ruto has urged Kenyans to stop practising FGM, but Nyaramba said the authorities needed to take tougher action against perpetrators, including health workers and victims' families.

"If you (throw) a parent... in jail and highlight it, then people will fear it."

But other campaigners caution that a crackdown could drive the practice even further underground.

Instead, organisations have chosen to focus on building awareness and persuading families to opt for alternative rites of passage, combining celebratory coming-of-age rituals with traditional teachings.

At a recent ceremony organised by Kenyan non-profit Manga HEART in Kisii, around 100 girls -- wearing kitenge skirts and aged between seven and 11 years old -- sang songs and recited rhymes, urging their parents to "save me from FGM".

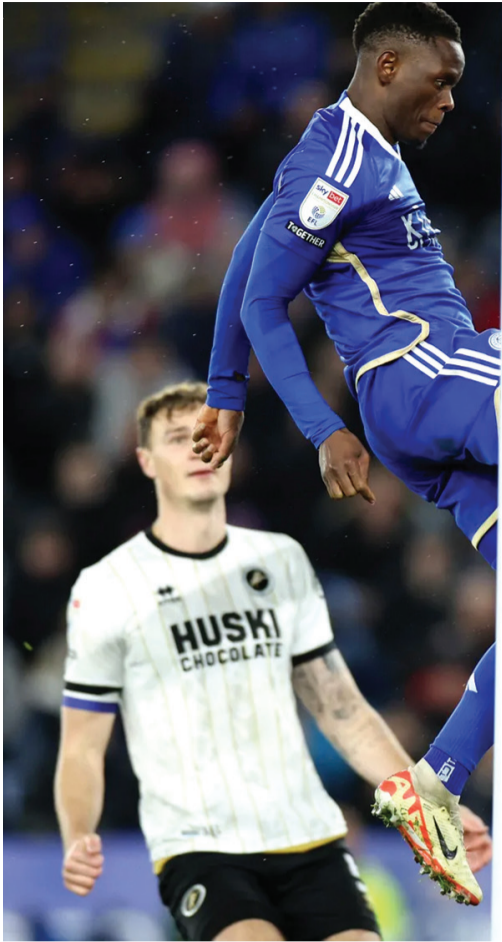
As the children received "certificates of achievement", their beaming relatives applauded and ululated -- the public ceremony reflecting an emerging resolve to end the dangerous practice.

Some of the grandmothers and mothers celebrating that day knew the stakes all too well.

"I lost a lot of blood during FGM... but I couldn't stop it from happening," said Omwenga, the mother-of-three who nearly died during childbirth.

"I am here today because my girl is not going to go through FGM," she said.

"I don't want my daughters to suffer like me." **Credit: AFP**



PATSON Daka score in Wednesday's match against Millwall .

DAKA does his trademark celebratory stunt after scoring.

Rahm to stay away from public events after joining LIV Golf

BILBAO - MASTERS champion Jon Rahm said on Wednesday that he had decided to lay low and would avoid public events until February after agreeing to jump from the PGA Tour to the Saudi-backed LIV Golf in a big-money move that made headlines across the globe.

In his first appearance after signing with the rebel circuit funded by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), the 29-year-old Spaniard was surprised to find TV cameras at an event he was attending in the northern Spanish city of Bilbao.

"I didn't think there would be any cameras and that it would be a bit more intimate," Rahm told a select audience at the Sociedad Bilbaina hall, who appeared to be outnumbered by media professionals.

Rahm was there to receive the 'Dama Bilbaina 2023' prize awarded by the private club founded in 1839 in his native Basque Country, in recognition of his sporting career.

"I am under very strict instructions not to do public events, which I have imposed on myself a little bit for myself, and for the change I have given to the world of golf in the last week," Rahm said, giving a categorical "No!" when asked if he was planning to give an interview.

"There will be nothing until February, I'm not allowed to."

One of golf's most popular and charismatic figures, Rahm became the biggest name to sign on with LIV Golf since Australian Cameron Smith joined after winning the 2022 British Open.

Media reports said the world number three Spaniard will be paid at least \$300 million with some outlets putting the guaranteed figure at closer to \$600 million.

Rahm's departure will be seen as another massive blow to the PGA Tour which has watched many of its stars defect to the breakaway league lured by massive paydays.

He described himself on Wednesday as a "normal person".

"I don't consider that what I do is much different, and that I am more or less important than the rest," Rahm said.

"The only thing is that I'm seen on TV right now and that's it... hopefully a little less so in the future..." - Credit: Reuters

Maresca backs Daka to keep his place in Leicester side

LEICESTER manager Enzo Maresca says Patson Daka is capable of holding off Jamie Vardy and Kelechi Iheanacho when both strikers are fit again after scoring in the 3-2 win over Millwall.

Zambia international Daka netted for the second game running as the Foxes came from behind to secure a victory which sent them back to the top of the Championship table, moving them one point ahead of Ipswich.

It was only Daka's second start of the season after having to wait for his chance with injured Vardy and ill Iheanacho both missing.

Maresca confirmed that Vardy's knee issue will keep him out of Monday's match at Birmingham, now managed by Wayne Rooney, but Iheanacho is set to be available.

The Italian says Daka, who will go to the African Cup of Nations next month, deserves to stay in the team.

"I've been quite clear with them," said Maresca.

"If you're playing, you deserve it. If someone comes in and they're doing well, you need to work.



"Patson is scoring goals and working hard, after three or four months of having to wait. We're going to trust him and give him more chances, no doubt."

Millwall took the lead through Tom Bradshaw, but second-half goals from Jannik Vestergaard, Daka and Ricardo Pereira,

whose shot was deflected off Wilfred Ndidi, settled the game.

Maresca added: "It was a tough game. We expected them in one way. But since the new manager arrived, they have played always in a line of four. Here, they came here with a line of five and two holding

midfielders.

"In the first half, we were in control of the game, but without creating clear chances. At half-time, we adjusted some things.

"Instead of attacking with five, we attacked with six. We brought one more player in the last line. It was much better

second half for sure."

A stoppage-time goal from Millwall substitute Kevin Nisbet proved no more than a consolation.

"We came here with with clear plan, which is all well and good, but the players have to execute it," said Millwall manager Joe Edwards.

"I thought they did it to a tee in the first half. We had our moments. At half-time, we were pleased with our work and knew we'd given ourselves a chance.

"We felt confident we could go and do it again. But we conceded a sloppy goal, and after that we weren't quick enough to things. Not clinical.

"Then we started playing well again in the last 10 minutes. For two minutes at the end, it's game on.

"You're always hoping to win, but a draw would've been a great result. We felt that if we came to Leicester with a high press and went toe to toe with them, we wouldn't get any rewards by losing 4-0.

"But we felt we wanted to show we could offer a threat. It was a frustrated place at half-time, you could feel that. That's what we came to do. The question then is 'how long can we sustain it?'" **BeIN Sport**

Howe says he and Newcastle devastated by early Champions League and Europe exit

EDDIE Howe says both he and his Newcastle team are "devastated" with their early exit from the Champions League and Europe, especially as his side "lost the power" to show their full worth on the biggest stage.

Newcastle thought they were heading into the Champions League last 16 when they lead AC Milan 1-0 on Tuesday night, as Paris Saint-Germain struggled to beat Borussia Dortmund.

However, a surprise Milan comeback saw the Italian side run out 2-1 winners, consigning the Magpies to bottom spot in Group F and an early exit from European football.

Howe says the outcome is especially disappointing given that Newcastle, who have nine first-team players out injured, weren't able to field the likes of Sven Botman, Sandro Tonali, Harvey Barnes and Nick Pope for key games due to their long list of unavailable stars.

"We went into the season knowing the power of the squad and how important that was going to be, especially with the

intensity of the games. Unfortunately we lost that power," he said in his post-match press conference.

"We've gone into Champions League games with very few options in terms of team selections and in-game changes. That's hurt us in a number of games.

"That's not an excuse, it's just reality. Even today, I had to make two changes I didn't want to make. We're devastated with the result."

That injury list could grow as Kieran Trippier was forced off in the second half, with the England international - who is suspended for Saturday's visit of Fulham - replaced by the returning Dan Burn.

"I think he picked up something in the first half," Howe said of Trippier's withdrawal. "I don't quite know what it is at this moment in time. He wanted to carry on but then he signalled that he couldn't."

Howe: PSG penalty not to blame
Speaking to TNT Sports, Howe refused to blame the

controversial penalty handed to PSG last month in their draw with Newcastle at the Parc des Princes.

Newcastle would have put their fate in their own hands had they held on to a 1-0 win at PSG in the penultimate round of matches, but Tino Livramento was contentiously penalised for handball in stoppage time.

Kylian Mbappe scored the spot kick to leave Newcastle with it all to do this week.

"It would be foolish of me to look back at that [PSG penalty] moment now and bringing up old stuff," said Howe. "We had the opportunity tonight to do what we needed to do.

"But it's not through a lack of effort, those players are going through it again and again.

"I couldn't be prouder of what we've given physically and mentally, and we've given everything out on the pitch.

"We will learn from it and we will absorb everything we need to take into our Premier League form." **Credit: Sky Sports**

TURKISH Super Lig referee Halil Umut Meler has spoken out for the first time since he was punched in the face by Ankaragucu president Faruk Koca.

Meler has been released from hospital after three days where he was undergoing treatment for an eye fracture after he was attacked by MKE Ankaragucu president Koca following his team's match against Caykur Rizespor. He was punched in his face and was then kicked all over his body while he lay on the turf at the end of the game. However, the 37-year-old confirmed he is in good health and informed being in touch with UEFA regarding the incident.

Speaking to reporters, Meler said: "There is no problem with my health. They called me from UEFA. There is no situation at the moment, everything is possible. I just want to go home and rest."

Whereas, Ankara hospital's chief physician informed: "He is in good spirits. He will have control wherever he goes [next]. He has no problem except

for a small swelling under his eye. We put on a neck brace for precautionary purposes. The [check] fracture will heal in time, it was a small fracture anyway. There is no more bleeding."

FIFA president Gianni Infantino condemned the incident as "totally unacceptable". In contrast, offender Koca defended himself, suggesting Meler had "thrown himself to the ground." The Turkish Super Lig was postponed indefinitely in the wake of the attack but the federation has revealed that the games will return on December 19 after a brief pause of one week.

The Turkish Football Federation held an emergency meeting, and Mehmet Buykeksi, the organization's chief, deemed the attack 'shameful.' The body has assured fans that Meler will soon return to the field after overcoming the setback and has vowed that all the offenders will be "punished in the strongest terms possible." Credit: goal.com



TOASTER Nsabata



POTTER

Man Utd 'want Graham Potter as Erik ten Hag replacement after Ratcliffe meeting'

MANCHESTER United reportedly want former Chelsea boss Graham Potter to replace Erik ten Hag - after a meeting with Sir Jim Ratcliffe.

After piecing together a run of six wins from eight Premier League games, which landed Ten Hag the Manager of the Month award for November, pressure has been piled back on him and United after an embarrassing 3-0 home defeat against Bournemouth and a 1-0 loss against Bayern Munich - which saw the Red Devils finish bottom in their Champions League group and eliminated from all European competitions.

And with Premier League table toppers Liverpool to come on Sunday, potentially bringing another heavy defeat, incoming investor Ratcliffe may look for a change of personnel in the Old Trafford hot seat when his 25% stake at the club is confirmed.

According to **The Sun**, that man could be former Chelsea and Brighton & Hove Albion boss Graham Potter. It's claimed that the Englishman is favoured by the INEOS boss should Ten Hag lose his job after he recently met Ratcliffe - who is said to remain a huge fan after wanting him at Nice.

Potter has been out of a job since he was sacked following a miserable start at Stamford Bridge after just 31 games and seven months, despite signing a five-year deal in September last year. The 48-year-old was previously in charge at the AMEX for over three years, where he led Brighton from relegation candidates onto the doorstep of Europe. Credit: Daily Star

NSABATA TO FIGHT FOR NO 1 SLOT

By Mubukwanu Kaingu

GOALKEEPER Toaster Nsabata is back to fight for a ticket to Abidjan following his recall by Chipolopolo coach Avram Grant for Zambia's pre-2023 AFCON selection camp that also includes a summon for USA-based defender Aime Mabika.

The Zesco United goalkeeper is amongst 55 foreign and domestic call-ups in Grant's provisional team that enters camp on December 26 in Lusaka for the first phase of preparations before setting up base in Saudi Arabia in early January.

Nsabata's Chipolopolo call-up was in March during Zambia's back-to-back win over Lesotho in the 2023 AFCON Group H qualifiers.

But Nsabata's recall is an open secret following a scene of musical chairs that later ensued between his understudies Francis Mwansa of Green Buffaloes and Power Dynamos' Lawrence Mulenga.

The situation has led to debate as to who will be the first-choice at AFCON that Ivory Coast is hosting from January 13 to February 11.

But things haven't gone smoothly for Nsabata since rejoining Zesco in the off-season where he is still second choice after leaving South African club Sekhukhune United.

It is all fingers crossed to see whether his vast experience will be enough for him to make the cut.

And it is also fingers crossed on defender Mabika's availability who has not honoured any call-up since his naturalization process was successfully processed in March this year.

Mabika was born in Lusaka to parents of DR Congo descent but left Zambia for the USA when he was 8 years old.

The defender of Canadian club Toronto FC has not featured for Zambia since March 2022 during a three-nation friendly tournament in Turkey.

Meanwhile, Grant has called up some prospects that mostly last saw action at the 2023 COSAFA Cup.

Grant has called up Zesco defender Mathews Chabala, Joshua Mutale and Fredrick Mulambia of Power, including the Buffaloes duo of Golden Mashata and John Kosamu who were all part of the 2022 COSAFA Cup-winning team.

They are part of the 28 home-based call-ups as Grant gives a clear indication of the composition of his prospective team for the 2024 CHAN qualifiers.

Grant is expected to cut his team to half at the end of the Lusaka camp for the final phase of preparations in Saudi Arabia from January 1-12.

Ivory Coast is hosting the 2023 AFCON from January 13 to February 11.

Zambia is in Group F alongside DR Congo, Morocco and Tanzania who will be based in the Ivorian port town of San Pedro.

Chipolopolo will kick off its Group F campaign on January 17 against DR Congo.

GOALKEEPERS: Toaster Nsabata (Zesco United), Francis Mwansa (Green Buffaloes), Lawrence Mulenga (Power Dynamos), Charles Kalumba (Red Arrows)

DEFENDERS: Stoppilla Sunzu (Jinan Xingzhou-China), Frankie Musonda (Ayr United-Scotland), Aime Mabika (Toronto FC-Canada), Dominic Chanda (Power Dynamos), Luka Banda (Napsa

Stars), Mathews Chabala (Zesco United), Gift Mphande (Rishon-Lezion-Israel), Killian Kangukuma (Kabwe Warriors), Tandi Mwape (TP Mazembe, DR Congo), Benedict Chepeshi (Red Arrows), Zephaniah Phiri (Prison Leopards), Rodrick Kabwe (Zakho SC-Iraq), Frederick Mwaiche (Trident), Teddy Khumalo (Green Buffaloes), Miguel Chaiwa (BSC Young Boys-Switzerland)

MIDFIELDERS: Mannah Chiwisa (Atalanta-Italy), Jack Chirwa (Forest Rangers), Dominic Kanda (Zanaco), Benson Sakala (Mlada Boleslav-Czech Republic), Kelvin Kapumbu, Kelvin Kampamba, Abraham Siankombo (all Zesco United), Golden Mafwenta (MFK Vyskov-Czech Republic), Andrew Muphande, John Kosamu (both Green Buffaloes), Kings Kangwa (Crvena Zvezda-Serbia), Emmanuel Banda (HNK Rijeka-Croatia), Rally Bwalya (Sekhukhune-RSA), Clatous Chama (Simba SC-Tanzania), Frederick Mulambia, Joshua Mutale (both Power Dynamos), Patson Kwataine (Mufulira Wanderers), Gamphani Lungu (SuperSport United-RSA), Lubambo Musonda (Silkeborg IF-Denmark), Edward Chilufya (Hacken-Sweden), Charles Zulu (Zanaco), Peter Chikola (Cadiz-Spain)

STRIKERS: Lameck Banda (Lecce-Italy), Golden Mashata (Green Buffaloes), Albert Kangwanda (Al Hilal-Sudan), Fashion Sakala (Al Fayha-Saudi Arabia), Patson Daka (Leicester City-England), Evans Kangwa (Quingdao Hainiu-China), Francisco Mwepu (Athletico Sanluqueno CF-Spain), Brian Mwila (Zanaco), Moyela Libamba (Forest Rangers), Andrew Phiri (FC Muza), Enock Sakala, Lazarus Kambole (both Zesco United), Kingstone Mutandwa (Cagliari-Italy), Kennedy Musonda (Young Africans-Tanzania)

