



## Zambian Professor elected as member on child rights

By Staff Reporter  
The state parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child have

elected Zambia's Professor Cephas Lumina and eight other human rights experts to serve as members of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for the period 2025 to 2029. (To page 4)

# HH USING MUNA, VALENTINE TO SUE

# ME - NAWAKWI

## ... But I'm ready for him

By Patson Chilemba  
Opposition FDD leader Edith Nawakwi has expressed excitement that President Hakainde Hichilema's business associates, Muna Hantuba and Valentine Chitalu, will provide her the opportunity to put the President on trial. (To page 4)

## Copper price hits record \$11,000 a tonne

... Hedge Fund manager expects price to quadruple

By Mubanga Mubanga  
Hedge Fund manager Pierre Andurand expects the price of copper to almost quadruple to US\$40,000 a tonne in the next few years as soaring demand causes global stockpiles of the red metal to run low, according to the Financial Times. (To page 5)



## Nothing wrong with me holding shares - Solochi

... too many armchair critics in Zambia is the problem

By Mubanga Mubanga  
Zambia National Service (ZNS) Commander Lieutenant General Maliti Solochi has insisted on holding shares in eight state registered companies, saying people should not just be armchair critics. (To page 2)

## Every right thinking member of society must condemn JJ's suspected abduction - Sunday

By Staff Reporter  
The suspected abduction of Petauke-Central member of parliament Emmanuel Banda must be condemned by every right thinking member of society, says his fellow Kanchibiya lawmaker Sunday Chanda. (To page 2)



# Every right thinking member of society must condemn JJ's suspected abduction - Sunday

(From front page)

In a press statement to *Daily Revelation*, Chanda noted that circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Banda have demonstrated how people have degenerated to a point where they could not disagree with another person, without being violently disagreeable.

"In these trying times, our hearts are troubled with the news of the disappearance of one of our esteemed lawmakers— my comrade and brother Hon. Emmanuel Jay Banda. The disappearance or suspected abduction of Hon. Banda is not just an attack on an individual alone, but an affront to the very principles upon which our society and nation have been crafted and built, among these

are: justice for all, Ubuntu ("I am because you are"), freedom of expression and movement, peace, security and tranquility," Chanda said.

He argued that there was no excuse whatsoever, the disappearance of Banda was a reprehensible and unconscionable evil act that should be condemned by all well-meaning and right-thinking members of society.

"As Brother Minister Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) said: "You're not to be so BLIND with PATRIOTISM that you can't face REALITY. WRONG is WRONG, no matter who DOES it or SAYS it." The disappearance of Hon. Jay Banda if it is what it is, is a wrong and should be condemned by all," Chanda stated. "Fellow citizens,

regardless of one's tribe or one's political persuasions—an injury to one is truly an injury to all, and in a society that values equality and freedom, and cherishes our Christian faith and other progressive religions; we cannot keep quiet or stand idly by in the face of such a ghastly evil act. Both individually and collectively, let us 'dream of a world (and country) where the TRUTH is what shapes people's POLITICS, rather than POLITICS shaping what people think is TRUE.'"

He offered is solidarity to the family, loves ones and comrades of Banda.

"Your pain is my pain and our pain as a nation, and your fight is my fight and our fight as a nation - the fight for a truly united nation in which we are ALL ONE, STRONG AND FREE!" he stated. "To the rest of the country, I call upon each one of you to put aside divisive politics and come together as a community



Sunday Chanda

of abantu, united by our shared values, to demand the safe, unconditional and immediate return of a dear husband, father, brother, friend, comrade, lawmaker and fellow citizen — Hon. Emmanuel Jay Banda."

He argued that the competent authorities charged with ensuring the peace and security of the nation and its citizens were

equally called upon to spare no effort and time to ensure the swift and safe return of Banda.

"In solidarity, together with millions of fellow citizens, I also deeply implore all those directly or indirectly responsible to release our comrade unharmed; as well as to embrace the path of "learning to disagree

without being violently disagreeable" in the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. A injury to one is an Injury to all. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will overcome," stated Chanda. "Let us spare no effort in our quest to build a nation that's truly One Zambia, One Nation, One People! Let love lead the way!"

## Nothing wrong with me holding shares - Solochi



Lt Gen Maliti Solochi ZNS commander

Speaking in an interview with the *Daily Revelation* on Sunday, Lt Gen Solochi said people should not just be armchair critics because he was not the first commander to hold shares on behalf of ZNS in any firm as his predecessors did the same.

"No, I have no comment. You ask the same (former presidential spokesperson and Lusaka lawyer) Dickson Jere why he was truncating the document. So I have no comment," Lt Gen Solochi said. "You mean there can be someone as callous as

to rob from an institution like that even if you are so dull, you have no integrity? You have no integrity, you have no purpose in life, you can go and start robbing the government like that? The government has given you good conditions of service then instead of

you adding value to the Zambian economy, you start behaving like that? We can't, there is no one who can behave like that."

But asked to comment on the argument that only the Minister of Finance was entitled to hold shares on behalf of the government in all state owned institutions, Lt Gen Solochi said the way he was handling matters was how ZNS had historically handled them.

"Ask the history. How did they organise these things? And were they not consulting others? Even PACRA they guided like that and no one is holding shares. The shares are the results of the position. So we have a mine on the Copperbelt, Zanase Mine. Why are they not talking even about Zanase mine?" he asked. "We has Zanase Mine which has been there for ages on end [not being questioned?] When they were registering the company, the one who was the first shareholder was General Funjika and the late General Musonda. It kept on shifting, shifting,

shifting, until now I am also a shareholder of the Zanase Mine, and my deputy. We hold things by virtue of the position. Once a position elapses then you are no longer a shareholder? It is because of the position, without the position you are not there."

Lt Gen Solochi said the problem with Zambians was that they wanted to be armchair critics without offering solutions.

"We need to offer solutions to a situation. And then you say no, what you should do is this. You see your friends have come up with something and they are doing that with all honesty and fairness. So how do you start accusing them when they are doing all things in all fairness and honesty," Lt Gen Solochi said.

And commenting on arguments from some stakeholders that ZNS's coming on board with a security company would disadvantage the private sector, Lt Gen Solochi said to the contrary ZNS would provide the much needed

competition. He said Eagles Security Alert was coming in as a private player and not as a government institution.

"So it is not the government you see? It is incorporated by ZNS, just as they incorporated Zanase [Mine]. Just like we came on show with milling plants, have we disadvantaged millers? Are they not milling?" he asked. "Anyone who has maize is milling. So it is also to encourage people to provide quality services and also to encourage people to pay workers. You know some people having those security companies, workers are not being paid. The workers go six months without being paid. But meanwhile the gentleman who is in charge is being paid. The one who is running the company ... the people who are receiving the service are paying for the services promptly, but now them to pay the workers they are failing.. and also some companies send people who are drunk. So we are saying the old and young must mix, and we are saying let us compete. This is a free market, it is a liberal market."

# Benefiting from high copper prices

By Daily Revelation Editor

**H**edge Fund manager Pierre Andurand expects the price of copper to almost quadruple to US\$40,000 a tonne in the next few years as soaring demand causes global stockpiles of the red metal to run low, according to the Financial Times.

The international media institution stated that Andurand's conviction on the copper market had helped his \$1.3billion commodities discretionary enhanced fund rebound from 55 percent loss last year that came as his bullish oil wagers backfired badly, stating that the fund was 83 percent up this year, with the gains coming from

a broad range of commodities.

Copper, a critical metal at the heart of the energy transition has risen almost 20 percent this year, touching a record \$11,000 a tonne this week.

Global news on the performance of metals is awash with the good news on the performance of copper, Zambia's main export and foreign exchange earner.

The future projections for the red metal are even more promising on account of the role it shall play in the electrification of the world, including electric vehicles, solar panels, wind farms, but also military usage and data centres.

The Zambian government has targeted to push up the production of

the metal to three millions tonnes per year from around 700,000 metric tonnes, and in doing the same have offered some incentives which many have interpreted as tax holidays to benefit especially friends of those in the government. The government argues that the aim is to attract the much needed investment into the country as there was no investment of note in this critical industry during the 10-year reign of the PF administration.

But arguments persist still that given the demand for the red metal on the global market and the constrained supply,

some tax holidays that have been put in place are unnecessary as investors will still come given the lavish prices the metal is enjoying.

We agree that the government, while rightly seeking investment into the mining sector, should also be looking out to cash in on this windfall period when the prices are very high. There is no sense for instance to keep mineral royalties at three percent for instance as even the six percent they were reduced from was already too low.

We are of the considered view

that this is the time the government should actually be increasing public ownership in the mine rather than reducing. Kansanshi rings a bell here.

Not too long ago, the government gave back Konkola Copper Mines to Vedanta while giving majority ownership of 51 percent in Mopani to IRH. However, local brains are still enmass in this country who can be entrusted to run the mines profitable to ensure that the capital flight being experienced every day from this country is actually secured within national borders and thus aiding this ever weakening Kwacha which is causing untold misery in this country.

Apart from attracting investment into the country, we

wonder what other plans the government has to make gainful benefit from these very high copper prices.

We don't want to start regretting in future about the period we are in thinking we could have done something. Yes, investment is important, but what is the benefit of the same if you do not control the means of production and whatever is being made from the investment goes out through capital flight? Because even those who will be employed are not guaranteed a future, either themselves or their children, as once the lifespans of these copper assets has expired, the investors will go out having made a lot of money while leaving behind holes and unemployment in their wake.

**EDITORIAL**

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# We are petitioning HH to operationalise

## ATI - OYV

By Mubanga Mubanga  
**W**e have waited for more than three decades for the Access to Information ATI to become law, this is why we are petitioning the president Hakainde Hichilema to Operationalise it, Operation Young Vote

(OYV) executive director Guess Nyirenda has said. Speaking in an interview with *Daily Revelation*, regarding the move by his organisation and other civil society organisations who started a petition for President Hichilema and information minister Cornelius

Mweetwa to operationalize the ATI Law, Nyirenda said they have waited for more than two-three decades for the law to become operational, the more reason why they started the petition. "And if we are not careful we may wait for another decade and more. Just to wait for those legal modalities, so the idea is that we are paying to whatever is obtaining, we have our eyes and ears to

the ground. And the idea is to ensure that we expedite their operationalization of the Access to Information," Nyirenda said. "It is not that we don't believe in the government, politicians are the same. They will send this today, tomorrow they will change. So actually it is just to help them to ensure that they do what is right in real time. Because they may wish to do what is right after ten years, but we want it now. Absolutely

that is the idea why we have petitioned... why we are petitioning government, we are collecting signatures from across the country to be able to petition His Excellency the president and the Minister of information and media to ensure that the IS is developed and it is issued so that the ATI can begin to be you know operationalised." Nyirenda said the

political will was appreciated but it was not enough. "So for me and the rest of us, especially yourselves from the media you must take it that when it is law now, without it being operational it has good or as bad as not being law. Because it is not working, so we want a Law that is working," said Nyirenda.

# HH using Muna, Valentine to sue me – Nawakwi

(From front page)

Hantuba and Chitalu have demanded K7 million from Nawakwi and asked her to retract her recent remarks to the media in which she said the duo was involved in state capture and questioned their involvement in the acquisition of Mopani and Konkola Copper Mines by foreign investors.

Contacted for comment on Sunday, Nawakwi said she had not seen the demand letter from Hantuba and Chitalu but was happy they were taking that course, adding that she does not speak on matters without being armed with information.

“I know Hakainde wants to shut this ugly debate on the looting of national resources. They have agreed as a group that the only way to stop Zambians on the illegal sale [of the mines] is to go to court and use subjudice,” Nawakwi said. “Subjudice or no subjudice, the debate will rage on. Valentine and Munakupya want to put Hakainde on trial before he leaves office.”

Nawakwi charged that Chitalu was aware that he was in a meeting which gave away KCM to Vedanta, insisting that the whole thing was in black and white. She said she

had information that after the first meeting deliberated and agreed on the sale of KCM, the lawyers at ZCCM-IH were surprised that another meeting outside the initial one had been held in which Chitalu was present.

“The lawyers wrote to (Solicitor General) Marshal Muchende that what they were being asked to sign was different and did not take Zambia’s interests on board. But Muchende told them to go ahead and sign,” Nawakwi said. “He said that Zambia’s interests were represented by Valentine Chitalu. The question is what was the role of Valentine Chitalu?” Is he a government representative? How has that become defamatory? So if we ask questions, what is defamatory in that? These are simple questions demanding honest answers from Hakainde.”

Nawakwi also argued that Hantuba was a board member of Jubilee Metals which had a contract with Mopani Copper Mine.

“He is a business partner of Hakainde and Hakainde is a chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), which is a holding company for ZCCM-IH. So his friend is doing business



Edith Nawakwi

with a company from which the President is supposed to be chairman,” Nawakwi said. “The optics are not good. You are giving each other business. And we have another situation where Hakainde appoints Paul Kabuswe as mines minister and the same gives Aflife a

contract of US \$40 million to manage environmental matters in the mines.”

Nawakwi wondered what Aflife had done after being contracted, saying it was important for Zambians to keep an eye on the same.

“You want to sue me for defamation? Okay bring

Hakainde to court before he leaves office. I am ready,” she said.

Nawakwi said she was surprised to hear about the demand letter through a third party, wondering how she would receive fair hearing when the same was coming from Malambo and

Co who also happens to be the chairman of the Judicial Service Commission.

“Aba abaiche nabakasabanya ichalo (These young men have messed up the country). They want to put Hakainde on trial? Excellent! Well done Munakupya and Valentine! They need to explain the genesis of their companies. Have they declared any interest anywhere?” Nawakwi asked. “ZCCM-IH is a public company. We shall subpoena them. I am excited that they want to bring this. I hope you can give me a copy of the same letter. Maybe they want to serve me through you. I am excited Hakainde has decided to take this to court through Munakupya.”

In a demand letter from Malambo & Co dated May 23, 2024, Hantuba and Chitalu have demanded a retraction of what they claim was a defamatory statement by Nawakwi. The duo argue that Nawakwi’s remarks against them were false, demeaning, injurious to their characters, malicious, injured their reputations and subjected them to public contempt, ridicule and odium.

(Continues on page 5)

# Zambian Professor elected as member on child rights

(From front page)

Prof Lumina was elected in a keenly contested election with seventeen candidates (including ten from Africa) vying for the nine available seats, with him obtaining 134 votes from the 188 States that voted, securing joint second place with the candidates from Belgium and Kenya.

The eight other human rights experts elected were: Zainebou Taleb Moussa (Mauritania, 142 votes), Benoit van Keirsbilck (Belgium, 134 votes), Timothy Ekesa (Kenya, 134 votes), Rinchen Chopel (Bhutan, 131 votes), Benyam Mezmur (Ethiopia, 121 votes), Sopi Kiladze (Georgia, 120 votes), Mariana Ianachevici (Republic of Moldova, 113 votes) and Julian Scerri Ferrante (Malta, 112 votes). Of the African candidates, five (including Professor Lumina) were endorsed by the African Union.

Professor Lumina was endorsed both by the Southern African Development Community (in 2022) and the African Union (solely in February 2023 and with four others in February



2024).

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is a body of eighteen independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its States parties.

It also monitors the implementation of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on involvement of children in armed conflict and on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and receives and considers complaints from individual children alleging specific violations of their rights under the

Convention and the first two Optional Protocols.

In addition to its monitoring work, the Committee publishes its interpretation of the provisions of the Conventions and Optional Protocols, known as general comments. Although nominated by the States of which they are nations, members of the Committee serve in their individual capacity and are not remunerated.

They must be persons of ‘high moral character and recognized competence in human rights.’ Professor Lumina was a member of

the Committee from 2017 to 2021. During that time, he initiated the establishment of the Committee’s working groups on the rules of procedure (of which he was Joint Coordinator) and children’s rights and the environment (as first coordinator) and served as the focal person on issues of climate change and corruption.

Prof Lumina also represented the Committee at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) in Bonn/Cologne, Germany, the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Belgrade, Serbia (2019), and the High-Level Expert Consultation on the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drugs jointly organized by UNDP, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

In 2022, he developed a Guidance Note for UNICEF on reporting on the budgetary obligation under the Convention. Professor Lumina holds a Bachelor of Laws (with

merit) from the University of Zambia, a Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, United Kingdom; Doctor of Philosophy in International Human Rights Law from Griffith University, Australia; and a Postgraduate Diploma in the International Protection of Human Rights from Abo Akademi University, Finland.

He is a former Full Research Professor of

Constitutional and Human Rights Law at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa; an Extra-Ordinary Professor of Human Rights, University of Pretoria; and a Visiting Professor at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden. He is currently a Visiting Full Professor of Constitutional and Human Rights Law at the University of Lusaka.



# HH using Muna, Valentine to sue me — Nawakwi

(From page 4)

Hantuba and Chitalu stated that they were not involved in state capture, corrupt practices and were not drawing government salaries or holding government assets as purported. They further stated that they were not agents of the companies Nawakwi purported, including Rothschild and they had not stolen from

anyone, including from the government.

“This, therefore, is to demand from you as we do now that you render a public apology and retraction on the same through mediums that you used to maliciously slander our clients in a text acceptable to us and that you propose how you intend to ameliorate our clients’ position in

view of your defamatory contents in your various articles stated herein before which value we peg at Seven Million Kwacha (K7,000,000.00),” the letter stated in part. “Should we not hear from you within the next three (3) days, we shall be constrained to issue court process immediately without further recourse to you. Kindly acknowledge

safe receipt on copy hereof.”

The duo’s lawyers argued that Nawakwi featured on One Love Radio programme on March 28, 2024 where she questioned the role of Hantuba and Chitalu on “the board.”

“What is Valentine Chitalu doing in State House? Every time there is a transaction on mines

Valentine Chitalu ... Is he a State House Presidential Advisor? How much does he get paid from my pay check, how much? He [President Hichilema] has surrounded himself with friends. Munakupya Hantuba is like phone and simcard with Hichilema, they started from when they were young,” the letter stated in part.

“Munakupya Hantuba started from Anglo American, Zamanglo he was transferred to Aflife ... So Aflife Saturnia regina Pension Fund, Benefit Consulting, those companies owned by Hakainde managed by Hantuba. So when I see him as Board Chairman for some assets on the Copperbelt ‘heh bakabwela kuwina weh’.”

The letter also addressed the article quoting Nawakwi in the Daily Revelation.

“You were quoted by a *Daily Revelation*

Newspaper issue no.83 dated Friday, April 12-14, 2024 which was also posted online with a headline: God will judge Hakainde harshly when he retires from earth – Nawakwi, wherein you stated as follows: Speaking with Daily Revelation, Nawakwi said the deep state corruption President Hichilema had allowed to prevail in this country had now become nauseating,” the letter stated in part.

The letter stated that Nawakwi told the newspaper that the state capture by Valentine Chitalu had gone beyond what Zambians could tolerate.

“You know what happened about the sale of Mopani, ZCCM-IH advertised for local lawyers to come forward as ZCCM agents. So they did and there was a pre-selection. But just when they had shortlisted to go for announcement they

were asked to stop because of the other bidders who had been included,” the letter quoted Nawakwi as saying. “The ones who were included was Rothschild, and their representative is Valentine Chitalu, the business partner of Hakainde Hichilema. And Hakainde has the audacity to go around telling people that there is no local capacity because his representative is a representative of Rothschild.”

The letter stated that Nawakwi had continued to make the same remarks before different media and online outlets, including on Emmanuel Mwamba’s Conversation podcast.

“It is our understanding that the said radio station, newspaper, virtual rally and podcast enjoy immense and widespread coverage in Zambia and beyond not only by reason of the radio broadcast and circulation they transmit, but also because of the internet platforms through which their signal and broadcast can be monitored from anywhere in the world that one can find internet,” the letter further read in part.

## Copper price hits record \$11,000 a tonne

(From front page)

The international media institution stated that Andurand’s conviction on the copper market had helped his \$1.3billion commodities discretionary enhanced fund rebound from 55 percent loss last year that came as his bullish oil wagers backfired badly, stating that the fund was 83 percent up this year, with the gains coming from a broad range of commodities.

Copper, a critical metal at the heart of the energy transition has risen almost 20 percent this year,

touching a record \$11,000 a tonne this week.

“But Andurand, one of the world’s best known commodity traders, thinks the rally has much farther to run, as supply struggles to keep up with demand,” the media institution stated.

Andurand told the Financial Times that the market was moving towards a doubling of demand growth for the red metal due to the electrification of the world, including electric vehicles, solar panels, wind farms, but also military usage and data centres.

“I think we could end up to \$40,000 per tonne over the next four years or so,” Financial Times quotes Andurand as saying.

“Andurand, a former Goldman Sachs trader who co-founded BlueGold Capital before launching Andurand Capital, believes that digging deeper and faster in the current mines will not be enough to keep up with growing demand for copper. The industry estimates it typically takes 15 years to develop a new mine.

Financial Times stated

that Andurand also told them that he had been chastened by a prediction that oil prices would rise to \$140 a barrel, which failed to pay off despite conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

“I think oil traders have learned to be quite cautious about getting excited about potential supply disruptions that did not happen. You remember that pain,” said Andurand to Financial Times.

Brent crude trades at \$81.50 a barrel, well below a peak of nearly \$98 in September

## Loadshedding will force companies to put factories under care and maintenance - Dodia

### Dodia

By Mubanga Mubanga

The extended load shedding of 12 hours by Zesco may cause some manufacturers to put their factory under care and maintenance, Economist Yusuf Dodia has said.

Speaking in an interview with Daily Revelation, on the cry by Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) that they are losing about 50 percent of production time due to 12-hours extended load shedding, Dodia said if the situation persisted, manufacturing will become unsustainable in the country.

“So when you reduce productive capacity by 50 percent, manufacturers will start to say look, we are not making enough money to even pay the salaries of our workers. We are not making enough money to pay the rentals which we have been renting this place. They either have to lay off workers or

change the location to look for cheaper factory floor space. And for some manufactures they just feel it is not worth continuing to manufacture and they put their factories in care and maintenance, meaning shut down the factory, and they find it easier to just import the same product and sell it in Zambia,” Dodia said. “So if we can take an example of a company which is making washing powder, if they can not make enough to allow them to make a profit they will shut down that plant, and then import the washing powder from another country. So what that means is that they fire a lot of people so that they reduce labour. But what they are doing is bringing finished products from South Africa, from Zimbabwe, from Kenya, from Tanzania.”

Dodia said the manufacturers would simply wait out the load shedding period while avoiding unnecessary costs by going into trading.

“And that undermines the economy from being a



Economist Yusuf Dodia

self-sufficient economy in some sectors to an economy dependant on other countries to supply to our nation,” he said.

On the possible solution to the country’s load shedding, Dodia suggested that Zesco must improve on the communication with its

customers.

“The first thing is that Zesco needs to quickly develop a communication program with the public, with their customers. Through social media, through electronic media, meaning television and even through the telephone system, through text messages and telling their customers in groups, in clusters, about the usage of electricity. I will give you an example, I live in the Munali area, so if Zesco allocated for us in Munali a certain amount of power, and we are using sixty seventy percent of that power Zesco will then send messages on social media that residents of Munali are reaching critical usage of the allocated electricity to your area,” said Dodia. “If you continue in this way we shall be forced to loadshed you, and if we as residents don’t do anything like this, we don’t switch off our stoves, we don’t switch off our solar geysers, we don’t switch off our heaters then we will get that loadshedding,” said Dodia.

# Ghana signs MoU to restructure \$5.4 billion debt

Ghana has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with its bilateral creditors, including China and France, to restructure \$5.4 billion of debt. This agreement is a crucial step towards securing \$360 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under Ghana's \$3 billion bailout

program, expected next month.

The MoU provides a framework for restructuring loans from official creditors, following an agreement by the Paris Club in January.

Ghana defaulted on most of its \$30 billion external debt during the pandemic. Since then,

inflation has dropped from 54.1% in December 2022 to 25% in April 2024, with GDP growth reaching 2.9% in 2023.

The IMF has declared Ghana's debt unsustainable, aiming to reduce the public debt-to-GDP ratio from 88.1% in 2022 to 55% by 2028. Terms with official creditors are crucial for bondholders, who seek equitable treatment under the G20 Common Framework for debt restructuring.

Ghana completed a domestic debt restructuring in October, saving 61 billion Ghanaian cedis (\$17.5 billion). The government continues to work towards meeting IMF requirements for its debt restructuring program.

AFRICANEWS



Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta speaks during the G-24 news conference at the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings, in Washington, on April 19, 2018.

## South Africa vote: How ANC lost its way with infighting and scandal

For years, the African National Congress rose above politics in South Africa.

It was a movement dedicated to freeing Black people from the oppression of white minority rule and to the lofty principle of democracy, equality and a better life for all South Africans.

It was widely revered as a force for good under Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison for his opposition to the apartheid system of racial segregation.

But 30 years after the ANC transformed from a liberation organization to a political party in government, it faces growing dissatisfaction from South Africans who feel it has failed to live up to its promises.

"I won't take part in voting because honestly speaking whether I vote or not, I feel like the same party will still win," said Mzwandile Nkosi, a former ANC supporter.

Former South African President Jacob Zuma returned to politics late last year with a new party and renewed his fierce criticism of the ANC and current President Cyril Ramaphosa, who replaced him as both party leader and president.

Zuma once led South Africa's ruling African National Congress party but was forced out as its

leader in 2017 and resigned as president in 2018 under a cloud of corruption allegations.

"The ruling party has failed to satisfy our needs... The reason why we joined the MK party is because we want to fix it. The ANC has failed," said Nokuthula Hlomuka, a supporter of Zuma's new party, uMkhonto weSizwe.

But Zuma was disqualified on Monday from running for a Parliament seat because of a previous criminal conviction.

The decision by the country's highest court is certain to raise political tensions ahead of election day on May 29.

Next week's election could be South Africa's most important in 30 years, with the beleaguered ANC facing the biggest challenge to its long rule since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule in 1994.

The ANC is struggling to hold onto its parliamentary majority, and the election might force it into a national coalition government.

That would be the country's biggest political shift since apartheid was dismantled with the first all-race elections.

South Africa has had credible, peaceful elections since it became a democracy in 1994.

AFRICANEWS

## No country can survive conflict with Russia alone – Zelensky

Ukraine's leader urges the world to unite against Moscow



FILE PHOTO: Vladimir Zelensky inspecting the construction of fortifications at an undisclosed location.

Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky has urged the global community to work together against Russia, stressing that no nation can single-handedly survive a war with Moscow.

In an interview with Central Asian media outlets on Saturday, Zelensky said the goal should be to ensure that President Vladimir Putin "thinks about his survival and his security," and that "the Russians think about how they can avoid losing the independence of their country – without threatening them – simply by showing how united the

world is, how strong it is."

Such unity is needed because "no one can survive a full-scale war with the Russians on its own," the Ukrainian leader stated, as quoted by the Kazakh online magazine Vlast.

"We were alone, we were on our own" when Russia launched its military operation against Ukraine in February 2022, Zelensky claimed. "But then we agreed with our partners on some sort of sanctions, some sort of weapons and other things," he said, referring to the support provided by the West since

the start of the conflict.

Even Beijing "must protect Ukraine because we were attacked," as "China says that territorial integrity must be respected," the politician argued.

Beijing has maintained a policy of neutrality on the Ukraine conflict, while consistently calling for a political settlement that would respect the interests of all sides. The Chinese authorities have blamed the hostilities on NATO's eastward expansion, rebuffed Western calls to impose sanctions on Russia, and opted to boost trade with its neighbor.

Zelensky was also asked if he was concerned about Russian President Vladimir Putin's statement earlier this week that in Moscow's view the Ukrainian leader's legitimacy has "expired."

Zelensky's five-year term as Ukrainian President ended on Monday after he refused to stage a new election, citing martial law imposed due to the conflict.

"They don't concern me much at all," he replied.

"These statements by the illegitimate president of Russia regarding the legitimacy of the president of Ukraine are, frankly speaking, boring and uninteresting."

Putin won a fifth term in office in March, claiming 87.28% of the vote amid a record turnout of over 77%.

Zelensky argued that anybody who knows how to read laws can swiftly confirm that his continued stay in power is legal. "The Ukrainians know their Constitution, they know the law," he added.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin said last month that attempts by the US and its allies to isolate Russia have failed, and pledged to "expand pragmatic, equal, mutually beneficial, partnership relations with friendly countries in Eurasia, Africa and Latin America."

RT





Triumphant Man United celebrate 2nd trophy in 2 years after beating city rivals Man City 1-2 at Wembley Stadium

### Where has this Manchester United team been all season?

That's the question you have to ask after seeing such a magnificent performance from Erik ten Hag's side to win Saturday's FA Cup final. For large parts of this campaign, the kind of resilience, desire, discipline and work-rate that United showed to beat Manchester City at Wembley has been missing.

I saw a team out there with every player on the same page, all battling and fighting for each other, not just showing great ability but showing the desire to win every tackle. As I said to Ten Hag when he spoke to us on the pitch after the game, that has not always been the case when I've watched United this season. If they had played like that every week, they would not have finished eighth in the Premier League.

Ten Hag puts his side's poor performances down to injuries, but every team has had plenty of those this season. I know United have been hit particularly hard at the back, where they have used 15 different centre-half partnerships in 52 games in 2023-24, but there is more to it than that. Even when a team is missing injured players they still have to go out and give everything but there have

# 'Where has this Man Utd team been all season?'

been many occasions when there has not been the right body language or attitude from United's players, which is why they have sometimes been criticised for a lack of effort. Not on Saturday, though. They were almost perfect, even when the going got tough in the second half. They stuck together and got through it because they did the dirty work as well as the pretty stuff really well. I said before the game that this was a big chance for United to give their fans something back at the end of a poor season, and they certainly did that. They were the better team, they thoroughly deserved to win, and the

result was no fluke. Ten Hag played a blinder with his gameplan and his players executed it perfectly. United were right at it from the off. They did not allow City to play their normal game, gave nothing away, closed them down and forced them into errors. Then, when they could, they hit them on the break and the way they switched play when they did that, particularly in the first half, was superb. We do not know if Ten Hag will still be Manchester United manager next season but, whoever is in charge, the important thing is the players need to produce that kind of effort and unity week in, week out. They cannot just save it for the biggest occasions. You could feel Ten Hag's frustration about repeatedly being asked about his future and whether this would be

his final game. It was a constant in the build-up, particularly this week and even just before kick-off. On the morning of the biggest game of the season for him and his team, he was being constantly asked about his future, or rather the speculation that his future had been decided and someone else was getting his job. That might well turn out to be the case. But, as I said before the final, from a human point of view, it is disrespectful of the club's owners to treat someone this way and who, at the very least, is giving his all in his job and now won two trophies in two seasons. It is not as if he has not given everything to try to turn things around. **Allan Shearer on BBCSport**

# 'Leclerc prepares to fulfil childhood dream'



Charles Leclerc has been on pole position three times for his home race in Monaco

Charles Leclerc said after taking pole position for the Monaco Grand Prix that he had dreamt of winning his home race "since being a kid". The dream is close to becoming reality - they say that taking pole is 90% of the way to winning the race at Monaco, where overtaking is almost impossible. But Leclerc knows

better than anyone that is not necessarily the case - his and Ferrari's job now is to make sure they do not snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in the manner they did the last two times he has qualified at the front of the grid. This is Leclerc's third Monaco pole in four races there. Both previous times something has gone wrong. Will it be third time lucky, he was asked after

qualifying on Saturday? "I hope so" he said. "I hope you're right. The best thing I can do for now is focus on all the process in order to be as ready as possible for tomorrow. "I really hope it is the right one. We have been very competitive around here... forever and I never had the end result I have dreamt of since being a kid. "I hope tomorrow is the day but in the meantime I

have to focus on everything that will put us in the best situation to achieve that." Leclerc has been in magnificent form all weekend, looking more at home around the streets than anyone else, a fact demonstrated by the fact that his margin over McLaren's Oscar Piastri in second was bigger than that between Piastri and Max Verstappen's Red Bull in an unfamiliar sixth place. Ferrari find themselves in the same grid positions as in Singapore last year - when Carlos Sainz was on pole and Leclerc third, that time with George Russell's Mercedes between them.

# Shaheen Afridi rejects Pakistan vice-captaincy offer

Shaheen Afridi was offered the vice-captaincy of the Pakistan T20 side ahead of the World Cup squad announcement, but rejected the chance to take up the position. ESPNcricinfo has learned that the PCB selection committee raised the prospect of officially naming Shaheen as Babar Azam's deputy for the 2024 T20 World Cup, but were told that the fast bowler did not want the role. In the end, the World Cup squad, which was named hours before the ICC deadline to submit the final squad, did not officially have a vice-captain. Though Shaheen had

opted to put the matter of being stripped of the T20 captaincy after one series behind him, a sense of injustice continues to linger. The player has never felt the reasons for his dismissal were ever adequately explained to him, and having been unceremoniously dumped from one leadership position, he was understood to not be keen to jump into another. The latest development in the PCB-Shaheen saga only further demonstrates the challenges that lie ahead in mending a relationship that was put under severe strain a few weeks ago. PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi hinted at a press conference in March that Shaheen may be replaced, and once he was,

the PCB put out a statement on their website containing remarks from Shaheen offering Babar warm words of encouragement. It would emerge that Shaheen never said the words attributed to him, and once he planned to make that public, Naqvi rushed to Kakul - where the players were undergoing a military training camp. While Shaheen remained thoroughly unimpressed and betrayed by the manner of his dismissal, an uneasy truce was understood to have been reached. That Shaheen turned down another chance at a leadership position, though, demonstrates how uneasy that truce still is. Shaheen is among the core leadership



Shaheen Shah Afridi during training Getty Images

group of the T20 side, but is understood to feel he does not need to take up an official role delineating it, particularly as the role is a demotion on the position he held just weeks ago. While Shaheen was their first choice, the PCB selection committee also discussed other alternatives.

Shadab Khan - who has served as vice-captain before - was one of the leading contenders, though his struggles with the ball and Pakistan's tendency not to use him with the bat in the top order means his place in the XI is not necessarily guaranteed.

Like in Singapore, where Red Bull's weaknesses on a track with bumps and requiring high ride heights were also exposed, Verstappen is too far back to be a real threat in a normal race. And, like Singapore, Monaco is a race a driver can control from the front at the pace he wants, because passing is so difficult. At Marina Bay, Ferrari set about the race with a strategy of doing everything they could to secure a Sainz win - Leclerc beat Russell off the line and then backed up the pack before the pit stops to ensure Sainz could not be passed. It sacrificed Leclerc's race, but it was all about a Ferrari victory. The plan will be similar on Sunday, whatever happens at the start, whether Sainz passes Piastri or not. **ESPN** **BBC**



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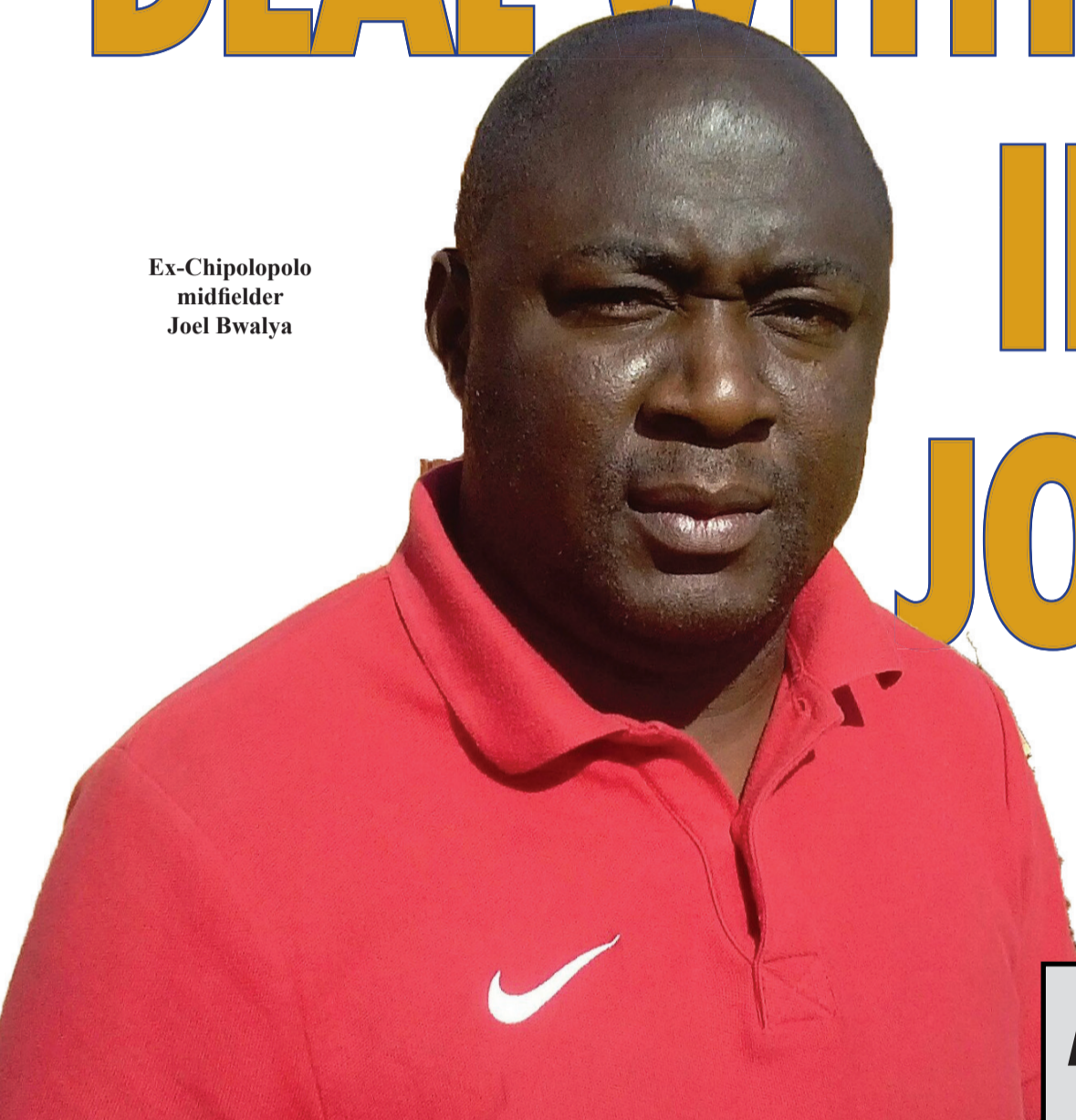
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# DEAL WITH MATTERS

Ex-Chipolopolo  
midfielder  
Joel Bwalya



# IN-HOUSE, JOEL URGES FASHION

**By Mubukwanu Kaingu**  
Ex-Zambia midfielder Joel Bwalya has urged Fashion Sakala to deal with matters in-house after the Chipolopolo strikers' explosive allegations about his fallout with national team coach Avram Grant.

The striker from Saudi Arabian club Al Fayha has been snubbed by Grant for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Group E qualifiers against Morocco away on June 07 in Agadir and Tanzania at home on June 11 in Ndola.

Sakala has alleged that Grant has dumped him from the Chipolopolo team because he declined to sign with the Israeli coach's agent and compatriot Nir Karin who also has a long-standing, high-profile list of Zambian players under his stable.

Bwalya said in an interview that Sakala's allegations are not a new phenomenon in football but

that there is a delicate thin line in the soccer business between the morality of going public and discretion.

"Very sad indeed. He could be right and wrong. Right, because he is Zambian, and will always be, wants the best for our country," Bwalya said.

"Wrong, that he feels offended that he is not getting his flowers while others seem to.

"This happens, and as a professional person, you just get on with it and do your job.

"Coaches will come and go, and they don't control your destination, you are in charge of that. Good coaches, bad coaches, good relations, bad ones are just part of your journey. You just keep driving, simple.

"And you just don't bring this out to the media. In my opinion, deal with it in-house. Over the years this

has happened many times but the world will never know."

Sakala last featured at the 2023 AFCON where he was started in two games against Congo DR and Tanzania but came on as a second-half substitute in Zambia's 1-0 loss to Morocco.

He was later left out of the Malawi Four-Nations Tournament in March.

Meanwhile, the Football of Zambia yesterday issued a statement that it was investigating Sakala's allegations.

"Matters of this nature require thorough investigations and therefore members of the public and all relevant stakeholders are encouraged to bring forth evidence to put this matter to bed," said FAZ General Secretary Reuben Kamanga.

"FAZ will in due course provide information on the next step."

## Ahly clinches historic 12th African Championship title

Egyptian giants Al Ahly have won their 12th CAF Champions League title. They beat Tunisia's Esperance 1-0 in the final held in Cairo.

The first leg in Tunisia was a 0-0 draw, making this game crucial. Al Ahly scored just four minutes in when an Esperance player accidentally deflected a header into his own net. The header came from a corner by Hussein El Shahat.

Fans could not hide their excitement.

"I swear to God, our happiness cannot be described. We tried to enter the stadium but we couldn't but my happiness is just as if I entered the stadium, this is the 12th championship, this number

is just twice the number our rivals have, we are the champions of Africa and no one can ever reach that number." Alaa Sayed, an Al Ahly fan said in Arabic.

Essam also an Al Ahly fan is hopeful the next game will also be a good one.

"Congratulations to Al Ahly and their fans

congratulations to Egypt, and hopefully we will see you again in the 13th championship."

The win on Saturday also marks 20 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League matches without a loss for the champions.

AFRICANEWS



Al-Ahly crowned African champions for 12th time

