



Sean demands arrest warrant against Syakalima for not appearing before court

By Esther Chisola

Patriots for Economic Progress (PeP) leader Sean Tembo asked the Lusaka Magistrates' Court to issue a warrant of arrest against Education Minister Douglas Syakalima for failure to appear in court.

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By Agness Changala

The Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT), a specialised court that hears grievances relating to tax issues regarding decisions by the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has no members to determine and hear matters owing to the failure by Finance minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane to appoint members since April, 2023.

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ZRA EXPLOITS

MUSOKOTWANE'S

FAILURE TO APPOINT

TAX TRIBUNAL

...Commission is said to be placing unfavourable demands on businesses

Police have arrested Jay Jay to divert attention from abduction case-Makebi

By Esther Chisola

Lusaka lawyer Makebi Zulu says the police are expected to investigate the abduction of Emmanuel Jay Jay Banda unlike changing goal posts.

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Changala decries barbaric, inhuman manner police have handled Jay Jay

By Esther Chisola

Human Rights activist Brebner Changala says independent Petauke-Central member of parliament Emmanuel Jay Jay Banda should be given time to recover and share his ordeal with the people of Zambia.

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President Hakainde Hichilema was yesterday conferred with the honorary doctorate by Heriot-Watt University. He said he was grateful to the University for granting 60 full scholarships to Zambian students.



ZRA exploits Musokotwane's failure to appoint tax tribunal

(From front page)

And TAT registrar Yihemba Kanganja -Chirwa says there are several cases that are ready to be heard but unfortunately, there are no members and her office can only wait on Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane who has the mandate to appoint members.

Law Association of (LAZ) president Lungisani Zulu also said he is aware of the situation at TAT and wrote to Dr Musokotwane who informed the association that his office will act on the matter.

The tribunal takes a fresh look at decisions made by the ZRA and resolves whether it should stay the same or change the same.

The tribunal hears appeals relating to income tax, property transfer tax, value added tax, mines and minerals tax as well as customs and exercise duty.

The tribunal also hears matters relating to incorrectly classified goods intended for importation or manufacture within Zambia, grievances pertaining to commissioner-general's determination of the value of any goods intended for importation into Zambia or manufactured within Zambia, among other functions.

Despite the critical role that this tribunal plays on how the business is conducted through resolving tax disputes, it has no members, something confirmed by both TAT registrar and LAZ.

Sources have told *Daily Revelation* that the failure to have the TAT members in place has injured a lot of sectors in the business community.

They said matters that had been taken before the tribunal were in abeyance because there were no members to hear and determine those disputes that had arisen between ZRA and various tax payers.

"So issues have remained undetermined for more than one year. In some instances, goods are involved and some of them are perishables which are wasting away," sources said.

Sources said ZRA was holding on to people's goods until the tribunal determined matters, and that some of the products were even expiring in the custody of ZRA as there was no opportunity for disputes to be heard and resolved.

They explained that in many instances, taxes were being withheld because they could only be paid when these matters were

determined by the TAT.

The sources said this was not only a draw back to tax payers but also the government as it affected their timely collection of revenue.

The sources said owing to the situation obtaining, ZRA had taken advantage and was making arbitrary decisions because they knew that the tax payers affected would not go anywhere.

"They are making decisions that are injurious to businesses and in some cases, they are refusing to make any decisions. This is trying to make the tax payer to yield to unfavorable demands," sources said. "Because you know that if you go to the tribunal, you don't know how long you will wait. So sometimes you just have to yield to unfavorable demands to ZRA."

They also said even the taxpayers who wished to go to court, could not do so without passing through the tribunal and this had complicated everything.

"So you have no other recourse, as long as the tribunal is not there, then these issues will never be determined," sources said.

They said with what was happening at the tribunal, even getting a decision from the commissioner general's office had become a challenge.

They stated that the commissioner general was aware of this situation and those making appeals to his office had only received responses after six to seven months.

They further said ZRA had even abandoned their tax payer charter which stated how much time was required for a letter or correspondence to be responded to.

The sources said they had cases that had stalled for six months to one year.

Daily Revelation contacted ZRA commissioner general Dingani Banda to get a reaction on the accusations coming from complainants, but he advised that a query should be sent to the corporate Communications manager Oliver Nzala.

A query was sent on Saturday June 15, 2024 and by press time, no response had been received despite assuring that a response would be given by Wednesday.

TAT registrar Chirwa after being contacted confirmed that her office had no members and was still waiting for new ones to be

appointed.

She confirmed that the mandate of the previous members ended in April last year.

"In accordance with the Act, the mandate to appoint members to the tribunal resided within the minister of Finance Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane. Indeed, I can confirm that the term of office for the immediate past members did come to an end in April last year and since then, we have been waiting for the appointment of new members," Chirwa said.

Asked what has been happening to tax disputes being taken to her office since they did not have members, Chirwa said her

office had continued to receive appeals and was doing what was required to get them ready to be heard.

"We are receiving appeals and there are two processes that occur. There is a process between the filing of appeals up to just before the tribunal is ready to hear them. So we have been going through those processes. Any applications that have been made are under that scope, within that period but indeed when we get to that score, there are several cases that are ready to be heard, but unfortunately we don't have members so we can only wait until the members are appointed," said Chirwa said. "Otherwise, there are cases pending hearing by the

tribunal."

Asked to confirm that several people affected by the non availability of the tribunal members had been to her office to complain, the registrar said: "It's a public office and therefore, we do not turn anybody away but we have been explaining to both parties which are the appellants and the respondents, that we are still awaiting the appointment of members of the tribunal. But like I said earlier, we can only wait because that is the mandate of the honourable minister of Finance."

LAZ president Zulu said the association was aware of this situation as some of his members took matters to the tribunal on behalf of citizens.

"Yes we are aware. Even our members appear before ... they take matters on behalf of citizens at the Tax Appeals Tribunal," Zulu said

He said the association had engaged the minister's office to expedite the process of appointing members to the tribunal.

"The minister has written to us informing us that they will act on the matter," said Zulu. "Yes I agree with you it is very critical for the tribunal to be constituted because it impacts on how business is done in the country and disputes relating to taxes are resolved. We are concerned and we want that to be done soon."

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Sean demands arrest warrant against Syakalima for not appearing before court



PEP Leader Sean Tembo

(From front page)

In this matter, Tembo filed a complaint in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court against Syakalima for hate speech.

In his complaint filed in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court Registry, Tembo stated that Syakalima allegedly published on various media that the people of Luapula have poverty of the mind.

When the matter came up for hearing of the complaint before magistrate Mwandu Sakala, Tembo submitted that summons were served on Syakalima and a letter was written to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) seeking consent for him to privately prosecute the

matter.

He further asked the court to issue a warrant of arrest against the minister.

"In the premises above, the complainant would like to apply that the court issues a warrant of arrest against the accused Douglas Syakalima so that the honour and integrity of this honorable court can be preserved. Your honour, it is a well-established maxim of the law that no one is above the law no matter the social or economic status of that person. Much obliged your worship," he submitted.

In response, defence counsel Clavel Sianondo argued that without the consent, Tembo was

incapable of making any application under the proceedings

"It is our submission that the application is a nullity as this court does not have jurisdiction to grant it. The second reason is that in case the court took a view that it can entertain the application, there is excusable reasons for the accused persons not being before court. Because of the state commitment which were made before receipt of this matter," he said.

He further asked the court to discount the application.

"Out of regard of this court, the accused person engaged counsel who is now before you. I got attracted to the maxim volunteered by

the complainant that there is no one above to the law. I agree with that maxim. If the complainant is permitted to be making applications in the matter where consent has not been made, he will be putting himself above the law, which does not permit. The application should be discounted," said Sianondo.

In response, Tembo retaliated that a warrant of arrest must be issued against Syakalima because he had not appeared before court.

"Your worship, if we have a situation where an accused person can choose whether to appear before court or not to appear before court then our courts in general, and this honorable court in particular, will lose authority to preside and adjudicate over matters.

In addition, justice will not be seen to be delivered in a fair and objective manner by the public if other individuals are seen to be above the law, while other citizens are compelled to adhere to the law," Tembo submitted. "It is on this basis your worship that the complainant would like to reassert his earlier submission and application that this honorable court should proceed to issue an arrest warrant against the accused Douglas Syakalima for failure to comply with the summons that were issued on him and in accordance with section 91 of the CPC."

The court has reserved its ruling to July 9, 2024.

By Daily Revelation Editor

Police yesterday arrested and charged Petauke-Central member of parliament Emmanuel Jay Jay Banda with aggravated robbery and attempted murder over the offences he committed against journalist Peter Sukwa in 2015.

That case was adjudicated upon in the courts of law with Jay Jay being fined K12,000. However, Peter did not appeal the matter within the stipulated timeframe, and only recently did he start the push to have the matter revisited in the courts of law.

We wish to put it on record that we sympathise with Peter over the barbaric and inhuman abuse he suffered at the hands

Jay Jay's arrest

of Jay Jay. Jay Jay's actions are indefensible and he should be ashamed of himself that a human being could actually sink to such depravity of urinating in another human being's mouth. We surely would have wished for our colleague Peter to have received justice devoid of the politics. Thanks to Hakainde Hichilema that door is now closed forever because the President has decided to turn the whole matter into political theatre for his selfish ends.

Clearly, Hakainde's hypocrisy in this matter is plain for all to see. For close to three years, Jay Jay has been a member of parliament. In fact, during the early period of his and Hakainde's election into office, the

Independent member of parliament would even turn up at the airports and other public venues to welcome

Jay Jay's temerity in asserting that he was abducted by some State House officials



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the President. During that period, Hakainde saw no crime in Jay Jay, not until he started appearing with Edgar Lungu, with his recent abduction further muddying the waters in terms of his relationship with the President.

certainly did not sit well with Hakainde. We feel one of the main reasons he called his recent press briefing was to specifically address Jay Jay's issue, with that briefing infamous for the clear directive he gave the police to arrest

Jay Jay, something they effected with glee yesterday. They swiftly acted on the directive from their Commander-In-Chief. Such a chilling sad fact that people in this country are now being arrested on clear public directives from the President. Police, unashamedly, and without regard that the public would easily connect the arrest to Hakainde, nevertheless went ahead to effect the arrest. Such a hammer blow in this country's nascent democracy. This is no different from Hakainde arresting Banda himself, and simply using police hands to effect his wish.

Ever since the abduction saga, Jay Jay has not been given the opportunity to go home and see his family. He has not even been allowed to give a proper account

of what happened. He has been treated in such barbaric inhuman manner, where immediately he was discharged from the hospital on several occasions, police immediately arraigned him for interrogations. Surely, where is the humanity in all this? If you really want to interrogate someone and you are interested in undertaking quality interrogations, why not give someone time to fully recover so that you can properly interrogate them when they are fully fit? Why the rush in doing the interrogations? Is there something you are trying to cover up? Because even in the event Jay Jay is lying, the sequence of events leading to his arrest makes it all seem like Hakainde is in a grudge match against him, and seeking to exact maximum punishment on him.

DPP wants AG to testify against Malanji

By Esther Chisola

National Prosecutions Authority (NPA) prosecutor Gracelia Mulenga has asked the Lusaka Magistrates' Court to allow Attorney General Mulilo Kabesha SC to testify against former foreign affairs minister Joseph Malanji and former secretary to treasury Fredson Yamba.

And Mulenga also asked the court to allow the state to file in several documents among them Malanji's statement and the case officer's statement.

But lawyer representing Malanji wondered how the state can misplace his client's statement and documentation that related to the helicopters which were in the state's custody, questioning how the state moved the helicopters from the jurisdiction they were in specifically from Zimbabwe and South Africa into Zambia without documentation.

In this matter, Malanji and Yamba are charged with 10 counts of willful failure to comply with laid down procedures and possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

Yamba is charged with two counts of willful failure to comply with laid down procedures while Malanji is facing eight counts of being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of

crime.

When the matter came up for continued trial, Mulenga applied for leave to file in some witness statements among other documents.

"The state has an application to make pursuant to rule 5 sub rule 6. The application is for leave to file an additional list of witnesses, witness statements, additional list of documents and documents. And we propose to amend the list of documents to allow us to file additional documents into this court the following documents are; documentation of the registration of the bail 2016 from civil aviation, transaction statements marked AA7, as provided by the second accused person and 2020 and 2021 yellow books among others," she said.

She further informed the court that among the witnesses to be added were Kabesha SC.

"We wish to amend the list of witnesses that was filed before this court to allow us to call the following additional witnesses; Mr Mulilo Kabesha SC and AG and two witnesses. We were unable to file these documents at the time we were filing the rest of the documents because these documents were unavailable. The state was unable to



Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Malanji

file the documents alluded to, the reason being that these documents were not available at the time we were filing the list of documents and witnesses before this court," she submitted.

Mulenga further submitted to the court that the state was unable to file the said documents due to the voluminous nature of the matter before court.

She said it was unfortunate some documents were misplaced and were only located after the state had filed the initial documents.

Mulenga said all efforts that were engaged in by the prosecution to locate these

documents proved futile and some of the documents were only located on June 17, 2024.

"We are alive to the fact that the criminal procedure code rules, economic and financial crimes court require that documents be filed at the time the charge sheet is being filed. However, as the rules only came into effect on March 1, 2024, we could not strictly adhere to that provision and as such, this court did give us an opportunity to file the documents to be used in this court at a later date," she added.

She however, stressed that the accused persons

would not be prejudiced in any way by this application.

In response, Zulu argued that misplacing documents by the state was merely an act of negligence.

He said the state had given the reason that the documents were not available because they were misplaced.

Zulu said not available and misplaced could not exist in the same sentence and misplaced meant that the documents were available and placed at a place where they possibly could not be found.

He demanded that the state should show what steps they took if any, to find the

said documents.

"Without these documents, there will be no charge relating to the bail of the helicopter this document being misplaced by the state is merely an act of negligence and this court cannot on the basis of negligence come to a conclusion that the document was not available," Makebi said.

He further argued that documents such as the yellow book could not be misplaced when they could be easily gotten at government printers.

"These are public documents which are acceptable. Some of the documents relate to the helicopters which the state has custody of and could not have been moved from the jurisdiction they were in specifically from Zimbabwe and South Africa into Zambia without the documents," he stated.

"And to suggest that these were only made available at the pre-trial, the state would have at the earliest opportunity made an application for disclosure."

He further argued that his client would face prejudice.

The state however, reiterated that due diligence was met in trying to find the said documents.

Police officer exonarates Munir in seditious case

By Esther Chisola
A paramilitary chief inspector at Lilayi has told the Lusaka Magistrate's Court that he never saw any riot after Lumezi member of parliament Munir Zulu uttered the alleged seditious words on May 27, 2024.

Emmanuel Mulenga was testifying in a matter in which Zulu pleaded not guilty to three counts of seditious

practices contrary to the laws of Zambia.

When the matter came up for continued trial, Mulenga told magistrate Faides Hamaundu that his duty was just to apprehend Zulu as he was given instructions to do so.

"On May 27, 2024 around 04:00 hours I was deployed to do some guard duties at Maina Soko. During the execution of my duties, I was

instructed to apprehend a male person I came to know as Munir Zulu thereafter. I took him to Lusaka Central police where I handed him over to the investigations officer," he said.

Mulenga said he apprehended Zulu at Maina Soko when he was standing outside the hospital's premises.

"I was instructed to apprehend him; I was told

he was being investigated for offences of Seditious practices. My supervisor is the one who instructed me," he said.

He said he knew him as a lawmaker and a public figure. When further asked if he

explained to Zulu why he was apprehending him, he said he never explained the reason to him.

When asked if he was not in breach of Article 18 not to explain the reason for apprehending Zulu, Mulenga responded in the negative.

It is alleged in count one that Zulu on dates unknown but between May 26, and 27 2024 whilst in Lusaka, uttered seditious words, some of which include "the worst of the Patriotic Front we never witnessed a member of parliament being abducted, the worst of the Patriotic Front we never saw a member of parliament residence being burned down. At your best methodical, a house has been burned down, and we know there is a list. Mr president In case you do not know the people you gave instructions to have families and information is filtering".

In count two, allegations are that, Zulu on a dates unknown but between May 26 and 27, 2024 in Lusaka,

uttered seditious words, some of which include "President HH tiziba ndimwe muuzya IG vochita. There is no way Kungo who was killed in North Western Province and the people from North Western Province are in Lusaka and Jay Jay has disappeared."

It is alleged in count three that Zulu on a date unknown but between May 25 and 27, 2024 in Lusaka, uttered seditious words, some of which include "how many more are on the list of those that they intend to abduct and eliminate? You can come for me as Munir Zulu, my children will come and revenge if I do not succeed in defending myself, my children will come and revenge. This country does not belong to an individual, this country does not belong to one tribe, and I am calling upon nkosi yama nkosi Mpezeni to see to it ... Gawa Undi to see to it how his subjects are being treated", among other words.



Munir Zulu

Changala decries barbaric, inhuman manner police have handled Jay Jay

(From front page)

And Changala has called upon the Medical Association of Zambia (MAZ) and Human Rights Commission (HRC) to intervene in the manner Banda is being treated.

Since Banda was found after his abduction, the police have never allowed him to go home and be with his family, nor have they allowed him to heal before they could interrogate him.

The police attempted twice to interrogate him on some offences he is alleged to have committed in the past but he fainted.

Yesterday, police informed the nation that Banda was discharged from Maina Soko Medical Centre where he was admitted for treatment but remained in custody. They have since charged him with aggravated robbery and attempted murder over a matter he committed in 2015 and ruled upon by the courts

Speaking to *Daily Revelation*, Changala urged

the government to allow Banda to heal.

"Allow Jay-Jay to heal. He is the man who was abducted, traumatised and dumped. He cannot be subjected to such treatment. You cannot treat a human being in the manner they are treating Jay-Jay unless there is something to hide," Changala said. "I am inviting the voice of the Human Rights Commission also to clearly issue a statement and intervene in the abuse of one citizen by the state police. What is the role of the Human Rights in this matter?"

He said the treatment Banda was receiving from the police was barbaric and a cover up.

He said since Banda was abducted, there had been no clear statement either from him or the police regarding what could have transpired.

"First and foremost, we are seeing some of the worst barbaric conduct by state police. We agree that Jay-Jay Banda was abducted. We

must agree that there has not been any clear statement either from Jay-Jay Banda himself or indeed from state police as regards to what transpired on the day he was abducted," Changala said. "What we have witnessed is a cover up. The state trying to go back into history and find cases against Jay-Jay which we don't dispute but we have one demand, they must allow Jay-Jay to recover. Give him a period of recovery and time to share his ordeal with the people of Zambia."

He wondered why the government must start looking at long time cases against Banda when he had been a member of Parliament for three years now.

"Jay-Jay has been a member of parliament for three years, when did they realise that he had cases eight years old? Until after the abduction. That is a cover up. So, we demand that Jay-Jay receives human treatment, he is given time to recover," he said.



Human Rights activist Brebner Changala

Changala also demanded that the Medical Association of Zambia must intervene in the matter.

"The health facilities

are now being used as state detention centre. May it be reminded to those colleagues of ours that what they are doing today, will catch up

with them tomorrow. It is important that the correct things are done and in an orderly manner," said Changala.

Economist calls for increased local participation in economy to avoid capital flight

By Jane Chanda
Economist Kelvin Chisanga says increased local participation is crucial for Zambia's economic growth, to avoid capital flight from the country.

As the country recorded a 25.6 percent surge in tourist arrivals, Chisanga cautioned that relying solely on foreign investment and

tourism may lead to capital flight and widening of the trade deficit.

Speaking to *Daily Revelation* in an interview yesterday, Chisanga said the nation's economic growth depended on local Zambians' participation in the economy.

"We need to ensure that the economic benefits of tourism are shared equitably

among all Zambians, not just a privileged few," Chisanga said.

He emphasized that local participation was crucial to sustainable economic growth and avoiding the pitfalls of dollar-driven tourism.

While political stability, policy consistency, and infrastructure development had attracted investors, Chisanga said local entrepreneurs were key to creating jobs and driving economic growth.

"We must prioritise

local empowerment and | sustainable development

to ensure that Zambia's economic growth is inclusive and benefits all citizens," he said. "The future of Zambia's economic growth lies in its ability to balance foreign investment with local empowerment, ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared by all."

ZRA exploits Musokotwane's failure to appoint tax tribunal

(From page 4)

One of the tax payer affected told *Daily Revelation* that he had to lay off his workers because matters were stuck at the tribunal and their goods were being held at ZRA.

According to the TAT Act of 2015, the tribunal

is supposed to have seven members appointed by the minister.

There must be three legal practitioners of 10 years or more standing recommend by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) and have knowledge of and experience in tax matters.

The tribunal is also supposed to have two qualified accountants as such by the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants.

In addition, there must be two persons from the business community and the minister of Finance shall appoint a chairperson and vice chairperson from amongst the members who are legal practitioners.

The members appointed shall hold office for a period of four years from the date of appointment but may be re-appointed for one further term.

Those whose mandate expired last year include

Fraser Chishimba as chairperson, Dr Chintu Glenda Mazakaza, member and Dr George Nonde also a member among others.

Ministry of Finance and National Planning permanent secretary Dennis Chisenda was contacted and asked why the TAT had no members.

In response, the permanent secretary said he could not give the latest confirmation as he was not in the office.

He however said, he needed to engage the department that had been dealing with the matter.

Chisenda also explained that there was a process which was followed in coming up with members and the Ministry of Finance was not the only one involved.

He also said once identified, members had to be vetted, a process he said was ongoing.

ZICTA deactivates 176,000 SIM Cards

By Jane Chanda
Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) has deactivated over 176,000 SIM cards linked to fraudulent activities.

ZICTA corporate Affairs manager Hanford Chaaba announced that in a bid to combat the growing menace of scams, ZICTA was working tirelessly to empower consumers to take

charge in the fight against scammers.

"We introduced the *101# code to enable consumers to check their SIM card registration details, and later the *707# code to report scam messages. This has led to the deactivation of 144,000 SIM cards between October 2022 and December 2022, and a further 30,000 SIM cards between January and April this year," Chaaba explained.

He emphasised that fighting scammers required a collective effort, urging consumers to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity.

"Scammers don't target ZICTA or the police, they target the masses. Therefore, the people themselves should be the first line of defense. We have given them the power to report scam numbers, and it's crucial that they utilise this platform,"

he said.

ZICTA's efforts had resulted in a significant reduction in scam cases, but Chaaba cautioned that complacency was not an option.

"We urge consumers to continue reporting scam numbers. Don't engage with scammers; simply dial *707# and report their number. Together, we can win the fight against scams," said Chaaba.

Police have arrested Jay Jay to divert attention from abduction case - Makebi



Hon. Emmanuel Jay Jay Banda

(From front page)

And police have formally charged and arrested Banda for aggravated robbery and attempted murder.

Commenting on the charges of aggravated robbery and attempted murder slapped on his client, Zulu charged that police were now changing goal posts of not investigating his

clients' abduction case.

"I think it's quite apatosaurus, the scheme by the state to shut honourable Jay Jay is very telling. He was abducted and has revealed the persons that abducted him. We expected that the police will deal with the issue of abduction. They have changed goal post and now saying that he is guilty of aggravated robbery or at

least they are pursuing the issue of aggravated robbery and attempted murder over a matter that was prosecuted," he said.

He said the attempt to make Banda who is a victim look like the villain is unfortunate.

"The state had an opportunity to charge him with all that they needed to charge him at that particular

time. And now, to come and charge him for that offence as it appears to be, he has named certain senior government officials as the abductors. The attempt to make the victim look like the villain is unfortunate,"

Zulu further said that there is no justice for Banda.

"All this is starting from the very fact that the President made a prejudicial statement against Mr Jay-Jay Banda to the effect that he wanted to open up cases against Jay Jay Banda who had been abducted. It is unfortunate that the government should be frustrating its people instead of protecting its people,"

Zulu said. "This is very unfortunate. Honorable Jay Banda is being persecuted, there is no justice in the particular matter. There is no justice for honorable Jay Banda in this case simply

because he has not supported the government or at least the UPND."

And in a statement, police public relations officer Rae Hamoonga disclosed that Banda had officially been charged for aggravated robbery and attempted murder.

"The Zambia Police Service wishes to inform the public of the formal arrest of Honourable Jay Banda, the Member of Parliament for Petauke, in connection with serious criminal offences. Honourable Banda has been arrested for the offences of aggravated robbery contrary to section 294 and attempted murder contrary to section 215 of the Penal Code Act Chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia," Hamoonga stated.

Hamoonga stated that Banda also stole spectacles worth K1,800.

"The alleged crimes were committed on December

14, 2015, at approximately 15:00 hours at Mzigawa Primary School in Vubwi District of Eastern Province. The incident involved the theft of property valued at K12,000, broken down as follows: A Canon Camera valued at K10,000, spectacles valued at K1,800, two ATM cards, cash amounting to K200. The victim of this incident is Mr. Peter Sukwa Muchelenga," Hamoonga stated.

He stated that Banda was currently in police custody in Chipata will appear in court soon.

"The Zambia Police Service reiterates its commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that justice is served, regardless of the status or position of the individuals involved. We urge the public to remain calm and allow the judicial process to take its course," stated Hamoonga.

French first lady transgender libel case goes to trial

Courts previously ruled Brigitte Macron had no cause for an invasion of privacy or violation of public image prosecution

Two women have gone on trial for defamation in France after claiming that President Emmanuel Macron's wife, Brigitte, was a man once named "Jean-Michel," France24 reported on Thursday.

Amandine Roy, a self-proclaimed spiritual medium, was questioned in a Paris court on Wednesday, while the second defendant, independent journalist Natacha Rey, cited illness and was absent.

In a 2021 interview, Roy quizzed Rey on her YouTube channel, where the journalist aired the theory that Brigitte Macron was actually the transgender identity of

her brother, Jean-Michel Trogneux. The interview was followed by a social media storm of claims that the French first lady, formerly named Brigitte Trogneux, was Jean-Michel under a new identity.

Brigitte Macron filed lawsuits in 2022 after the video was posted, alleging it defamed her, invaded her and her brother's privacy, and violated her public image. The judge ruled there was no case for invasion of privacy or violation of image. The public defamation case had been pending since January 2022.

Brigitte Macron's lawyer, Jean Ennochi, is demanding €10,000 (\$10,750) in

compensation for both the first lady and her brother, according to France24.

Neither President Macron nor his wife were present at the proceedings, the network noted.

France's first lady was born Brigitte Marie-Claude Trogneux to a family of chocolatiers from Amiens. She married banker Andre-Louis Auziere in 1974, and the couple had three children together. She met Emmanuel Macron when he was 15 and she was teaching literature at La Providence Jesuit high school in her hometown. She divorced Auziere in 2006 and married Macron – 24 years her junior – in 2007.

RT



French President Emmanuel Macron and first lady Brigitte Macron, Paris, France, June 8, 2024.

US surprised at speed Russia built new alliances – WSJ

Washington reportedly did not see Moscow's outreach to Beijing and Pyongyang coming

Moscow's security partnerships with Beijing, Pyongyang and other US "adversaries" were not anticipated by Washington, the Wall Street Journal has

reported, citing anonymous intelligence sources.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a strategic partnership and mutual defense treaty with the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea on Wednesday, before flying on to Vietnam. Putin's trip to China last month prompted one US policymaker to declare that decades of American efforts to keep

Moscow and Beijing apart have come to naught.

"The speed and depth of the expanding security ties involving the US adversaries has at times surprised American intelligence

analysts. Russia and the other nations have set aside historic frictions to collectively counter what they regard as a US-dominated global system, they said," the WSJ reported on Wednesday.

Washington has accused Pyongyang of "sending workers to Russia to help man weapons production lines," as well as selling missiles and artillery shells to Moscow, for use against Ukraine.

The US also believes China has enabled Russia's military industry to circumvent Western sanctions, by delivering "massive quantities of dual-use equipment, including machine tools, microelectronics ... optics for tanks and armored vehicles, and turbo engines for cruise missiles," according to the Journal's sources. They also alleged that China has helped Russia "improve its satellite and other space-based capabilities

for use in Ukraine."

Beijing has rejected US allegations, called the sanctions unilateral and illegitimate, and accused Washington of hypocrisy for fueling the conflict by arming and supplying Kiev.

Iran has become "Russia's primary weapons supplier," unnamed Pentagon officials told the Journal, accusing Tehran of helping build a factory in Tatarstan Region capable of making Shahed-136 drones by the thousands.

Russia's "expanded security ties" with the DPRK, China and Iran don't amount to a NATO-like military alliance but appear to be "a series of bilateral exchanges," anonymous Americans told the Journal. The technology transfers involved risk improving the long-term capabilities of all countries involved, thereby threatening the US, they added.

RT

Celebrations after Ramaphosa is sworn in for a second term as SA's president

Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in for a second term as South Africa's president on Wednesday in a ceremony in the administrative capital, Pretoria, after his reelection with the help from a coalition of parties, a first in the country's 30-year rule.

Ramaphosa is now set to appoint a Cabinet in a new coalition government after his African National Congress party lost its parliamentary majority in an election last month. He was reelected president by lawmakers on Friday after the main opposition party and a smaller third party joined the ANC in an agreement to co-govern Africa's most industrialized economy.

He will have to guide the first coalition government in which no party has a majority. At least three parties will make up what the ANC is calling a government of national unity, with more invited to join.

Ramaphosa was administered the oath of office in a public ceremony



at the Union Buildings, the seat of government, by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

King Mswati III of Eswatini, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, Zimbabwe President Emerson Mnangagwa and former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga were among many dignitaries who attended the inauguration ceremony as Ramaphosa begins what promises to be a tough final

term in office.

The ceremony included a 21-gun salute by the presidential guard and a flyover by the South Africa Air Force over the Union Buildings. South African musicians and cultural dancers entertained thousands of citizens who attended the swearing-in.

Addressing the nation, Ramaphosa said that the people had spoken and their

will would be adhered to.

"The voters of South Africa did not give any single party the full mandate to govern our country alone. They have directed us to work together to address their plight and realize their aspirations," he said.

Ramaphosa said the people of South Africa "have also been unequivocal in expressing their disappointment and disapproval of our performance in some of the areas in which we have failed them." He also recognized the society "remains deeply unequal and highly polarized," which could "easily turn into instability."

"The lines drawn by our history, between black and white, between man and woman, between suburbs and townships, between urban and rural, between the wealthy and the poor, remain etched in our landscape," he said.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attend a reception in Pyongyang, June 19, 2024



A new Amazon Prime documentary goes behind the scenes of Roger Federer's final days before retirement

Federer documentary delves into final days of career

At one point during Asif Kapadia and Joe Sabia's new 90-minute documentary, the microphone picks up Roger Federer's long-time coach Severin Luthi observing that

"athletes die twice".

That line is a central theme of Roger Federer: Twelve Final Days, which documents the period between the Swiss tennis great's retirement

announcement and his final match in September 2022.

After a 25-year professional career, during which he played 1,750 competitive matches and won 20 Grand Slam singles

titles, Federer's final on-court appearance took place at the Laver Cup.

With tearful speeches, tributes, and appearances from legends such as Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg, the

occasion was a celebration, but also a way of saying goodbye to the then 40-year-old's career.

Towards the end of the film, the tennis legend admits that thoughts

of retirement had been accompanied by a troubling question: "What happens next?"

After Federer had made his decision to bow out, director Sabia was given behind-the-scenes access to the athlete's family and team for this sensitive period.

Kapadia, who directed films on Ayrton Senna and Diego Maradona, was later brought on board to co-direct and add archive footage.

Here are a few takeaways from the documentary.

Injury ultimately forced Federer to call time on his career. Between 2020 and 2022, he had three knee operations, making it to only three of the 11 Grand Slams staged in that time. During that period, he saw his record of 20 Grand Slams surpassed by both Rafael Nadal, who has 22, and Djokovic, who has won 24.

His lowest ebb was a 2021 Wimbledon quarter-final loss to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz. Federer, who once spent a record 237 consecutive weeks as world number one, had by then sunk to ninth in the world rankings.

BBC

UEFA blocked Man United transfer over ownership - Ratcliffe

Manchester United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe has said that UEFA's rules on multi-club ownership have prevented the club from signing a player from Ligue 1 side Nice.

Ratcliffe's company INEOS bought Nice in 2019 before completing a deal to purchase a minority stake in

United earlier this year.

While moving players between two clubs that share the same owners is not forbidden, Nice and United's qualification for next season's UEFA Europa League has raised issues around the clubs conducting business with each other in the transfer market.

UEFA rules state: "No

individual or legal entity may have control or influence over more than one club participating in a UEFA club competition," with control defined as: "Being able to exercise by any means a decisive influence in the decision-making of the club."

Sources have told ESPN that United were interested in signing Nice defender Jean-

Clair Todibo.

"They've said we can sell him to another Premiership club, but we can't sell to Manchester United," Ratcliffe, who did not name the player in question,

said in an interview with Bloomberg. "But that's not fair on the player and I don't see what that achieves."

Sources have told ESPN that United have decided that Erik ten Hag will stay on as manager after a season in which the club recorded its lowest ever Premier League finish but won the FA Cup.

Ratcliffe said that he is more focused on creating the right "environment" at the club, rather than personnel, as he attempts to take

United back to the summit of English and European football.

"The coach isn't the central issue at Manchester United," the INEOS boss said. "It's a sports club. It needs to be competitive, it needs a degree of intensity, but with a supportive side to it because you are dealing with players who are relatively young. It hasn't had that type of environment historically."

ESPN

Sprinter Knighton cleared for Games after failed test

United States sprinter Erriyon Knighton has been cleared to compete at the Paris Olympics after avoiding a ban for a failed drug test.

The 20-year-old was provisionally suspended in April after testing positive for a metabolite of trenbolone in March.

But an independent

arbitrator ruled that it was more likely than not Knighton digested the banned substance when he ate some contaminated meat.

Usada (United States

Anti-Doping Agency) said, despite testing positive, there was no fault or negligence on the athlete's part.

Travis Tygart, the Usada chief executive, said "justice was served".

Trenbolone is a known livestock growth promoter that is used legally in beef cattle produced in, and exported to, the United States.

The decision comes before the US track and field Olympic trials begin on 21 June in Oregon.

Knighton became the youngest male since Jim Ryun in 1964 to make the US Olympic team when he qualified for the Tokyo Games in 2021 - going on to finish fourth in the 200m final at the age of 17. **BBC**



American Sprinter Erriyon Knighton



Sir Jim Ratcliffe completed a deal to buy a stake in Manchester United earlier this year.



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FASHION, GERRARD SET FOR RE-UNION - DAILY RECORD

By Mubukwanu Kaingu

Media reports speculate that the former Liverpool great who coached Fashion at Glasgow Rangers wants the Chipolopolo striker to swap Saudi clubs.

Gerrard is currently coaching Saudi Pro League side Al Ettifaq.

Scotland newspaper The Daily Record has reported that Fashion is one of three ex-Rangers players on his transfer list for the 2024/2025 Saudi Pro League season.

“After leaving Rangers last season, the Zambian took the Pro League by storm with Al Fayha netting 19 goals and six assists last term. Gerrard is said to have “requested” a contract offer be made to the attacker,” The Daily Record stated.

Fashion was joint third on the Saudi Pro League top scorers last season behind golden boot winner Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Zambian striker spent three seasons at Rangers where he scored 21 league goals and 3 in cup competition.



Stev Gerrard and Fashion Sakala during their time together in Scotland at Rangers FC

Meanwhile, Gerrard’s Saudi club finished sixth last season on 48 points while Fashion’s club Al Fahya were ninth on 44 points.

Al Hilal won the 2023/2024 season with 96 points, fourteen points more than Ronaldo’s club Al Nassr who finished as runners up.

Fashion Sakala ended the season with a personal best of 22 goals in all competitions. The 27 year old and Al Feiha striker was third joint top scorer in the league. Cristiano Ronaldo finished the season with 35 goals

France faces Netherlands in heavyweight tussle at Euro tussle

By Mubukwanu Kaingu
Lipzig will be treated to battle royale tonight when France face the Netherlands in their penultimate Group D match.

This will be the second of two premium showdowns at Euro 2024 in Germany following last nights duel between Spain and holders Italy.

France and Netherlands head into the game following opening Group D 1-0 and 2-1 wins over Austria and Poland respectively.

Interestingly, it will be the two sides third successive meeting with the last two also from a Euro angle in their 2024 Group B qualifiers.

France best Holland

4-0 at home on March 24, 2023 and won 2-1 away last October on their way to finishing first and second in Group B in that order.

The Dutch last victory over France came three games ago in a UEFA Nations League match that the Netherlands won 2-0 at home on November 16, 2018.

But there is a huge doubt on the availability of France’s talisman and Netherlands tormentor in the qualifiers Kylian Mbappe who sustained a broken nose in the win over Austria.

Mbappe scored braces home and away against the Dutch.

News of Mbappe’s potential absence, despite

reports of him returning to training, will be like freshly squeeze “Oranje” juice for the Netherlands.

Group E

15h00:

Slovakia -Ukraine

Group D

18h00:

Austria -Poland

21h00:

France -Netherlands

