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'I will never beg for Zanu PF forgiveness'

— says defiant exiled Kasukuwere in apparent jibe at G40 colleagues; Prof Moyo hits back in kind

By Darlington Gatsi

FORMER Zanu PF political commissar, Saviour Kasukuwere says he will not grovel before party leaders, including President Emmerson Mnangagwa, seeking forgiveness and re-admission into the revolutionary party.

He has declared that "I am available as one of the comrades if people say come and lead I will not hesitate to do that."

The ex-Cabinet minister considers himself a victim of factional battles that reared their ugly head in 2017.

Kasukuwere fled into self exile at the height of internecine strife within Zanu PF, which witnessed then leader Robert Mugabe being ousted from the party and State presidency.

In a leaked virtual address to his supporters, the Generation 40 kingpin called for internal dialogue in Zanu PF to resolve the coup aftermath, which resulted in some leaders living in exile.

"I am not one who must



Saviour Kasukuwere

be expected to go on my knees to beg for forgiveness. I think there has to be a maturity on all angles to say you cannot expect one who

was also victimised, should I go and say I am sorry because you missed me? no.

"We have been man enough to accept that some of

these things must be handled in a much more matured way. There are no cry babies," said Kasukuwere.

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'I will never beg for Zanu PF forgiveness' — says defiant exiled Kasukuwere...

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The remarks come after fellow G40 kingpins Professor Jonathan Moyo and Patrick Zhuwao issued a public apology to Zanu PF members over their role in a campaign calling for the party to be removed from power.

Prof Moyo responded to Kasukuwere's jibe saying on Twitter, "Heard gratuitous jibes at the OPEN letter that @PatrickZhuwao wrote to ZanuPF members in the 'LEAKED' video to ZanuPF members."

"NB: There is a

difference of day and night between being READY TO LEAD and being READY TO SERVE. Politics is not about leading it is about service!"

Kasukuwere was believed to be one of the Zanu PF elements, who harboured ambitions to succeed Mugabe, thereby setting himself up for a power tussle with Mnangagwa, who at that time was vice president.

Following the military coup, Kasukuwere escaped into exile saying he was unsafe under the new

Zanu PF leadership under Mnangagwa.

Last week, fellow exiled Zanu PF members, Jonathan Moyo and Patrick Zhuwao, issued a public apology to the party members signalling a possible reintegration ahead of next year's elections.

Kasukuwere and Walter Mzembe had been touted to follow a similar path and retrace their footsteps back to the ruling party.

However, Kasukuwere who has made his presidential aspirations clear, in a cryptic way declared

that he is ready to lead, but cautioned his supporters not be 'hasty'.

"Do not be in too much haste for you might even meet more challenges in the future," he said.

"We still have time, we still have our eyes on how to resolve our question as Zimbabwe. There is the issue of security of individuals. There is issue of how all the processes we are proposing should be handled.

"I want to assure you comrades, I am not blind to your discussions. I am

aware I have taken this extraordinary step for the first time to say, yes we are leaders, I am available as one of the comrades if people say come and lead I will not hesitate to do that. I am not a coward; I am not a fool, I am not scared to do that.

"I have given this address for the first time because no leader must impose himself on the people. No leader must be one to say it's me. Let the people decide. Let the clarion call come from the people," Kasukuwere said.

Experts poke holes into Electoral Amendment Bill; say changes fail to address issues with 'direct bearing on transparency and credibility of elections'

By Reason Razao

HARARE: The recently gazetted Electoral Amendment Bill has come under intense scrutiny and criticism amid claims by legal and electoral watchdogs that the draft law contains numerous irregularities.

Also, some constitutional amendments that gave rise to the Bill were currently facing challenge in the Constitutional Court (ConCourt), it has been argued.

Among a litany of changes, the Bill seeks removal of driver's licences as proof of identity, and disqualification of previously convicted persons from contesting in national elections.

Candidates, according to the envisaged legislation, will not be allowed to withdraw from contesting in National Assembly or local authority elections less than 21 days before polling.

Furthermore, the Bill also provides for incorporation of the youth quota in Parliament and the women's quota in rural and urban councils, which are both products of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 2) Act, 2019.

According to the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) and parliamentary watchdog Veritas, the draft law addresses nominal and administrative reforms whilst ignoring

pertinent reforms that may have a direct bearing on the transparency and credibility of elections in Zimbabwe.

"The Bill is not a good one. It fails in its purpose of aligning the Electoral Act with the amended Constitution, even assuming that the constitutional amendments are valid, and some of its provisions actually violate the Constitution," Veritas said in a statement.

"The Bill will provide for the election of the 10 women members but, once again, it does not require party lists to specify which of the persons being nominated are disabled so it will be impossible for nomination courts to ascertain if the lists comply with the Constitution."

Commenting on the disqualification of persons convicted of a certain offence, Veritas said the Bill does not say that candidates will be precluded if they disclose such a sentence, but it clearly implies that they will be.

"The problem here is that the qualifications and disqualifications for election to Parliament are laid down in the Constitution, and it is not possible for an Act of Parliament to add further disqualifications."

In terms of the selection of youth members of the National Assembly under the new section 45E (1)(c), which clause 6 of the Bill will insert in



the Act, parties will apparently have to present their complete party lists of young people to the nomination courts in every province, even though only one of them would be elected.

"It means apparently that the nomination courts in every province will have to evaluate the candidacy of all the youths on the lists.

"It is not clear what will happen if the nomination of one or more youths is rejected by a nomination court in one province but accepted by a nomination court in another province," said Veritas.

ZESN said the Bill was not congruent and was silent on matters of credible, peaceful, free and fair elections as enshrined in the Constitution.

"ZESN is irked by the fact that the Electoral Amendment

Bill is silent and does not address some of the key principles of electoral systems and processes on the conduct and management of credible, peaceful, free and fair elections as enshrined under Section 155 of the Constitution," said ZESN.

According to ZESN the Bill has lowered Constitutional standards.

"The Bill creates a ceiling of 30 percent of women councillors as part of the quota system for women's representation.

"This does not represent the fullness of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 2) provision, which seeks to create a minimum threshold for women in local government at 30 percent on a ward basis through a Proportional Representation," ZESN said.

This according to the bill will result in the decrease of the women's quota percentage when a political party fails to present a full list of

candidates for the local authority women's quota.

"The provision makes women losers for their political parties' negligence, maladministration or incompetence."

The support network called on government to consider the quota system design that ensures the minimum 30 percent seats were within the existing ward boundaries through a portion of Proportional Representation and, therefore ensuring equality in how representatives of the country take up public office in direct election seats as guided by the Constitution Amendment (No. 2).

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Sombre atmosphere engulfs Mashasha funeral; mourners turned away as Zengeza residents call for granny's life imprisonment



By Darlington Gatsi

WHILE African funeral wakes are characterised by large gatherings and singing of hymnal dirges, Gideon Mashasha's send-off was greeted by deathly silence, with neighbours speaking in hushed tones from afar.

Elderly Mashasha of Zengeza 3 in Chitungwiza died recently and his body was found in a state of decomposition early last week, in a matter that has set tongues wagging.

A heavy stench greeted a locksmith hired by Plaxedes Mashasha, the now deceased's wife,

and neighbours as they forced entry after breaking the door, only to find the lifeless body suspected to have clocked four days in the house.

Weird too, Mashasha's son, Grant (39), was also discovered in the ceiling after allegedly spending more than 14 years perched there on his mother's orders.

Gogo Mashasha has since been arrested and dragged to court.

A Chitungwiza magistrate Thursday ordered the suspect to undergo a mental evaluation. She returns to

court on December 9.

While she is in custody, neighbours have been turned away by unidentified individuals from gathering at the house to mourn Sekuru Mashasha.

Gogo Mashasha reportedly warned neighbours against congregating for her husband's funeral wake.

Resultantly, Zengeza residents are fuming and calling for Mashasha's imprisonment.

"We have known the family for a long time, and we really knew Sekuru. What happened to him

pains us very much as the community. Gogo should not come back into society, she must be jailed for life. Society doesn't need people like her," said a resident.

A cross-section of the Zengeza community has implored authorities to thoroughly investigate the matter as they believe there is more to the incident than meets the eye.

"Police should investigate her. There is a bag she is always carrying, it must be investigated why she is always strapping it," said another resident, who requested anonymity.

DNA tests reveal 9-year-old Tsholotsho girl's baby fathered by teen cousin

By Staff Reporter

ZIMBABWE Republic Police (ZRP) has revealed that the nine-year-old girl from Masekesa village, Tsholotsho who recently gave birth was raped and impregnated by her 13-year-old cousin.

She gave birth to a baby girl via cesarean section almost two weeks ago at United Bulawayo Hospitals (UBH) where she was being attended to by specialists.

DNA paternity tests were recently conducted on the minor's close relatives, and preliminary results had cleared the nine-year-old's father who had been taken in for questioning on the matter.

"The ZRP confirms that the DNA results obtained from the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) on November 25, 2022 in connection with the paternity of the nine-year-old girl's child have established that the victim's cousin brother (13) is the father of the child," said ZRP spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi in a statement.

"The nine-year-old complainant and the suspect will now receive the appropriate counselling from the police's Victim Friendly Unit (VFU).

"The police is now working with other relevant arms of the government to ensure that the due processes of the law are followed."



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Fish catches plummet at iconic Kariba Dam; boats stuck in mud as water levels recede



By James Muonwa
Mash West Correspondent

KAPENTA fishing cooperatives and individual fishermen say they are experiencing an unprecedented decline in Kapenta catches on the iconic Lake Kariba owing to overfishing and receding water levels.

At its peak in the 1990s, the industry realised between five to 15 trays per vessel, but they are now netting as little as two trays per vessel or even less, Mapfumo said.

“The water has gone down to very worrying levels, especially in the fishing industry. As you know, we are affected by quite a number of issues including the depth of water.

“We are not allowed to fish in areas less than 20 metres deep. So the area has become smaller and smaller such that it is likely to cause a lot of fish depletion because boats will be just concentrated in a few areas” said the KPA chairman.

“If you go to areas we used to fish, there is no water or it’s considered shallow ground, and from the shoreline to inland we are supposed to fish two kilometers from shoreline.

“So with this low water level, the area we are fishing is too small. Quite a number of companies are closing.

“I think you can notice at harbours, a lot of boats are now stuck in mud, and so forth. People are failing

to remove them because of the expenses.

“It is now not viable to resuscitate those boats because of the huge expenses as compared to the low fish catches one would get,” said Mapfumo.

He urged government to review downwards the US\$1,200 per year fishing permits, which he said were no longer viable in the light of poor catches.

The huge number of fishing vessels in Kariba dam from both Zimbabwe and Zambian side has led to a decrease in catches.

In 2020, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority stopped the issuance of fishing permits in a move aimed at curbing the depletion of the fish species, including Kapenta which forms a major part of local dietary needs.

According to sources, the maximum fishing rigs allowed in Lake Kariba is 500.

Out of this, 275 should operate on the Zimbabwe side while 225 should operate on the Zambian side, but currently the lake houses more than 1,500 fishing vessels.

On the Zimbabwean side, Lake Kariba is divided into five hydrological basins; Basin 1 (Mlibizi), Basin 2 (Binga), Basin 3 (Sengwa), Basin 4 (Bumi/Chalala) and Basin 5 (Sanyati).



Allen Chafa

Zimbabwean Chafa shortlisted for Africa’s premier Engineering Innovation award

By Thobekile Khumalo

ZIMBABWEAN engineer Allen Chafa has been shortlisted for the prestigious Africa Prize Engineering Innovation (APEI), the continent’s leading recognition for engineering.

Chafa, an industrial engineer, is one of fifteen finalists for the award with the others from countries such as Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

“Now in its 9th year, the winner will receive £25,000 and three runners up will win £10,000 each. An additional One-to-Watch award of £5,000 will be given to the most promising innovator,” said the organisers in a statement.

“In mid-2023 four finalists will be chosen to pitch their innovations and business plans to Africa Prize judges at an event in Accra, Ghana. The winner will receive £25,000, and three runners up will win £10,000 each. An additional One-to-Watch award of £5,000 will be given to the most promising innovator.”

Chafa was nominated for his Smart Water Tech innovation, a web based real time water quality monitoring and control system which uses multimedia filters and

chemical dosing to address the spread of water borne diseases.

The technology is central to the United Nation’s (UN) Sustainable Development Goals including quality education, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities and communities, good health and wellbeing, and clean energy.

It was designed in response to a 43% increase in cholera cases in Zimbabwe between 2018 and 2020, and the 3.5 million fatalities reported annually in Africa due to unsafe drinking water.

Zimbabwe’s municipal water is currently only tested during pretreatment using manual methods that involve taking water samples to the laboratory for analytical testing. Water is often contaminated in-transit to the final destination.

However, Smart Water Tech applies sensors to municipal water treatment at three stages.

In the first stage, water is tested before and during flocculation, the process where a chemical coagulant is added to the water to separate specific particles and determine what additives are required.

The water is tested again at filtration stage, and a final time before the water

is loaded into tanks for delivery to the community.

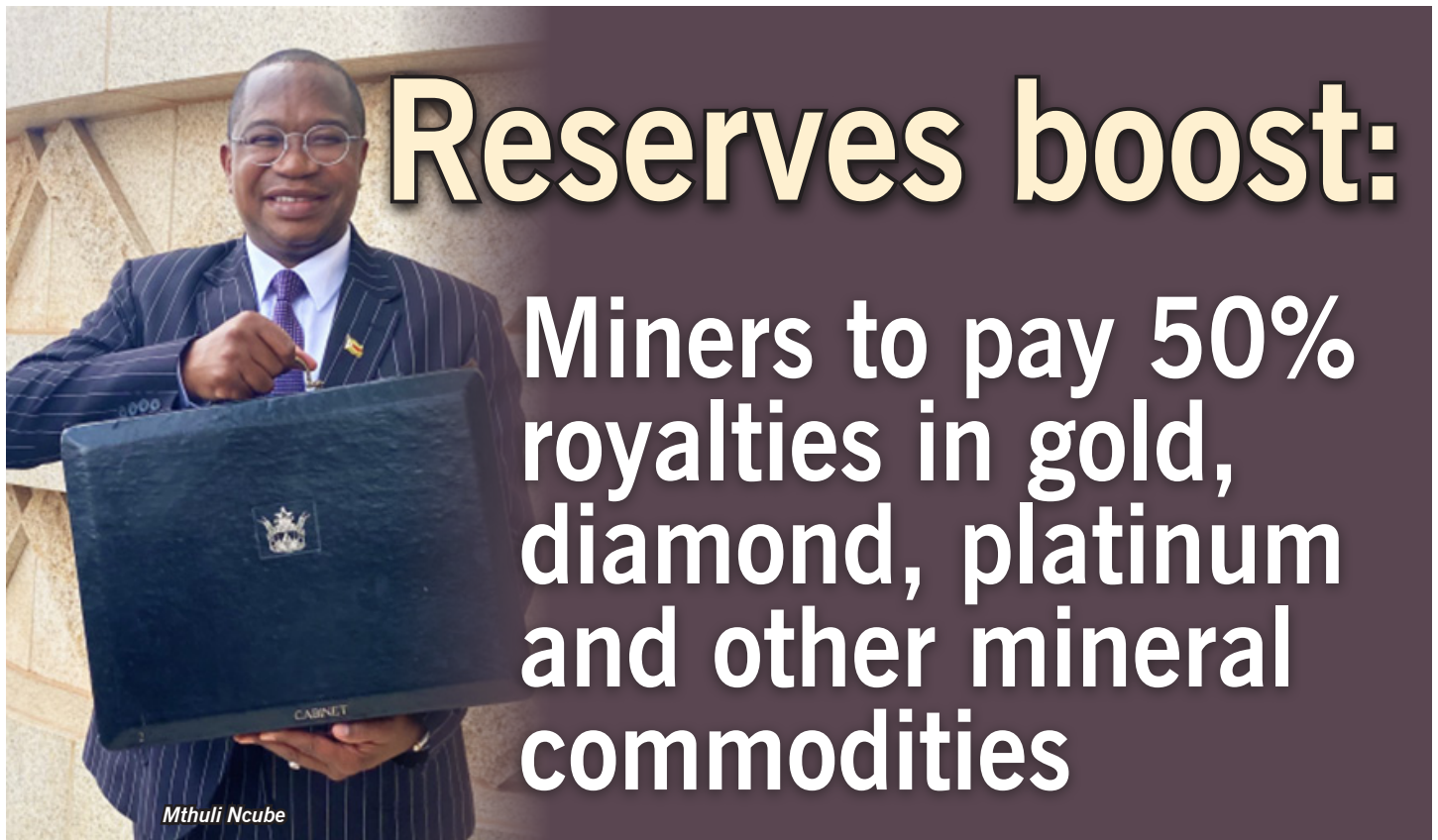
“The six sensors in Chafa’s innovation monitor dissolved oxygen, pH levels, temperature, turbidity, hardness and total dissolved solids,” reads an explanatory note about the innovation.

“The resulting data determines whether an intervention is required. The Smart Water Tech’s software sends an SMS notification about deviation in water quality from standards set by the World Health Organisation, enabling a rapid intervention.

“An autonomous control measure is carried out by use of multi-media filters and automated chemical dosing units. The web-based monitoring of water quality avoids the need for expensive and time-consuming laboratory tests.”

Chafa and his team have installed a lab-sized prototype unit at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo, and replicated the concept at three homesteads.

Going forward, Chafa hopes to develop a biosensor to specifically identify types of bacteria in water, to prevent the need for excessive amounts of chlorine.”



Mthuli Ncube

Reserves boost:

Miners to pay 50% royalties in gold, diamond, platinum and other mineral commodities

By Alois Vinga

FINANCE Minister, Mthuli Ncube has ordered mining companies to pay 50% royalties through physical submission of the commodities in a move envisaged to strengthen exchange rate stability.

Delivering the 2023 National Budget, Ncube said measures were enshrined under the Statutory Instrument

189/2022.

"In order to boost national reserves and hence strengthen the economy's resilience against external shocks, Government promulgated Statutory Instrument 189 of 2022, which compels miners of gold, lithium, diamond and platinum to settle 50% of payable royalties due to government through physical delivery of these commodities," he said.

Ncube said the measures will buttress the

country's foreign currency reserves and sustain the current exchange rate stability by providing backing for the domestic currency.

The measure will be accompanied by a 10% payment in foreign currency cash and 40% in local currency.

"Platinum Group Minerals miners currently do not have refining facilities, hence, sell semi-processed concentrates for further processing.

"Section 302 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe specifies that all government revenues, including royalty revenue, shall be deposited into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

"I, therefore, wish to emphasise that the royalties paid in the form of minerals shall continue to be accounted for," he said.

Zimbabwe earned about US\$5 billion from mineral exports in 2021, as investments by mining

entities in recent years boosted output, and placed the country firmly on course to meet its target of a US\$12 billion mining industry target.

Government contends that the mineral output benefitted immensely from deliberate efforts to grow one of the country's economic sectors since the Second Republic, led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, assumed power in 2017.

TM supermarkets units grow by 38, 5%, with three new stores on the cards

By Alois Vinga

TM SUPERMARKETS, trading as TM and Pick'n'Pay, has seen unit sales grow by 38, 5% amid plans to roll out three new stores in the immediate future.

Presenting the group performance for the six months ended September 30 2022, Meikles Limited's Chairman John Moxon said performance of the

unit was satisfactory.

"Units sold grew by 38,53% during the first quarter of the period under review. In the last quarter, units sold declined by 4,40%, reducing the overall growth for the six months to 15,46%.

"Revenue for the period was ZW\$127,8 billion. In historical cost terms, revenue grew by 414% to ZW\$94,2 billion from ZW\$18,3 billion in

the previous year," he said.

Moxon said the measures introduced by the authorities to curb rising inflation starved the economy of ZW\$ liquidity leading to reduced consumer spending.

The unit's Profit before tax for the period amounted to ZW\$8,2 billion, compared to ZW\$5,1 billion achieved in the previous period while in historical cost terms,

profit before tax grew by 507% to ZW\$10,1 billion up from ZW\$ 1,7 billion in the previous period.

"The segment opened a new store in Harare during the period under review. In addition, the refurbishment of the Triangle Store was completed. Work is underway on three new stores that are expected to come on stream during the first quarter of next year," said Moxon.

Overall Meikles Limited group revenue grew to ZW\$129,3 billion representing a 70% increase for the period under review due to a 15,46% increase in units sold, combined with price adjustments at the supermarket's segment.

Profit before tax for the period increased by 10% to ZWL8.2 billion (Last year: ZWL7.5 billion), translating to a profit margin of 6, 34%.



A Government Crackdown Is Looming, but Zimbabweans Still Flock to Online Thrift Shops

Coronavirus lockdowns prompted many businesses to move online. For shops selling secondhand clothes that were smuggled into the country illegally, the move brought new clients and higher profits. Can it last?



Lucy Mbambe takes photos of her African printed clothes, organized by size and color, at her home in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Mbambe used to sell prints and secondhand clothes at a flea market, but now reaches most of her customers online via social media.

By Fortune Moyo

VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE — Lucy Mbambe had just purchased her bale of secondhand clothes when the bad news hit: Zimbabwe was going on lockdown to control the spread of the coronavirus.

At the time, Mbambe, who has a 9-year-old daughter, rented a stall for \$150 per month at one of the many flea

markets in Victoria Falls. The economic decline — the country's real gross domestic product dropped by nearly half between 1999 and 2008 — had led to an explosion of such places in Zimbabwe. The stalls are known in isiNdebele, a local language spoken here, as “kothama,” meaning “to bend.” These stalls are known as “K boutiques” because customers need to bend over to select desired items.

With the suspension of all nonessential businesses in 2020, Mbambe had to come up with a plan for how she would sell her products from home. “I decided to take pictures of the clothes I was selling and advertise them on WhatsApp,” she says. “Later I decided to also post on Facebook, and I have never looked back.”

Mbambe's experience mirrors that of many other street sellers in Zimbabwe who moved shops online

to cope with pandemic restrictions. In the case of secondhand clothes, the move had an unintended effect: It upgraded thrifting from bending to chic.

“When I was selling at the stall, I did not have the chance to market my clothes in an attractive way. I was forced to just place my clothes in heaps and customers spend time going through the heap looking for what they want,” Mbambe says.

Now, instead of paying rent on a stall, she carefully sifts through her own pile to select the best items, which she photographs for her social media pages. Sometimes, she sends photos of just-arrived garments to her more regular customers in private. “Purposefully marketing my clothes online means my clients immediately see what they want and come and buy,” she says.

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A Govt Crackdown Is Looming, but Zimbabweans Still Flock to Online Thrift Shops...

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The clientele for secondhand clothes has changed too.

“When I was selling my bale in the city, everyone and anyone would pass shopping by my bale of clothes,” says Charmaine Nyoni, another secondhand seller who migrated from the flea market to selling online when the coronavirus struck. “When I deliver clothes to my clients, I realize that now my clients are those that live in low-density suburbs, whose homes are lavish. To me this means they are clients who have a choice of buying from retail shops.”

Like Mbambe and Nyoni, 63% of Zimbabwe’s population works in the informal sector. And more

of their businesses are moving online — during the first six months of 2020, the volume of online transactions in the region increased by 50% compared to the same period in 2019.

“Online platforms really helped secondhand clothes sellers to continue with their businesses during the pandemic,” says Virginia Chisanga, president of the Victoria Falls committee of the Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations. “Most have continued on that trend even post-COVID.”

This raises the stakes of the Zimbabwean government’s old fight with the secondhand sector, which it alleges

is crippling the country’s textile industry. Most bale clothes sold in the country are illegally imported from Western Europe and the United States.

“Attempts to ban [secondhand clothes] have been overpowered by the economic situation of the country,” says Felix Chari, an economics lecturer at Bindura University of Science Education. “The impact of COVID-19 on people’s incomes has also made thrifting popular, and this sector is bound to continue thriving.”

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce maintains that the secondhand clothing market poses “unfair competition” for clothing

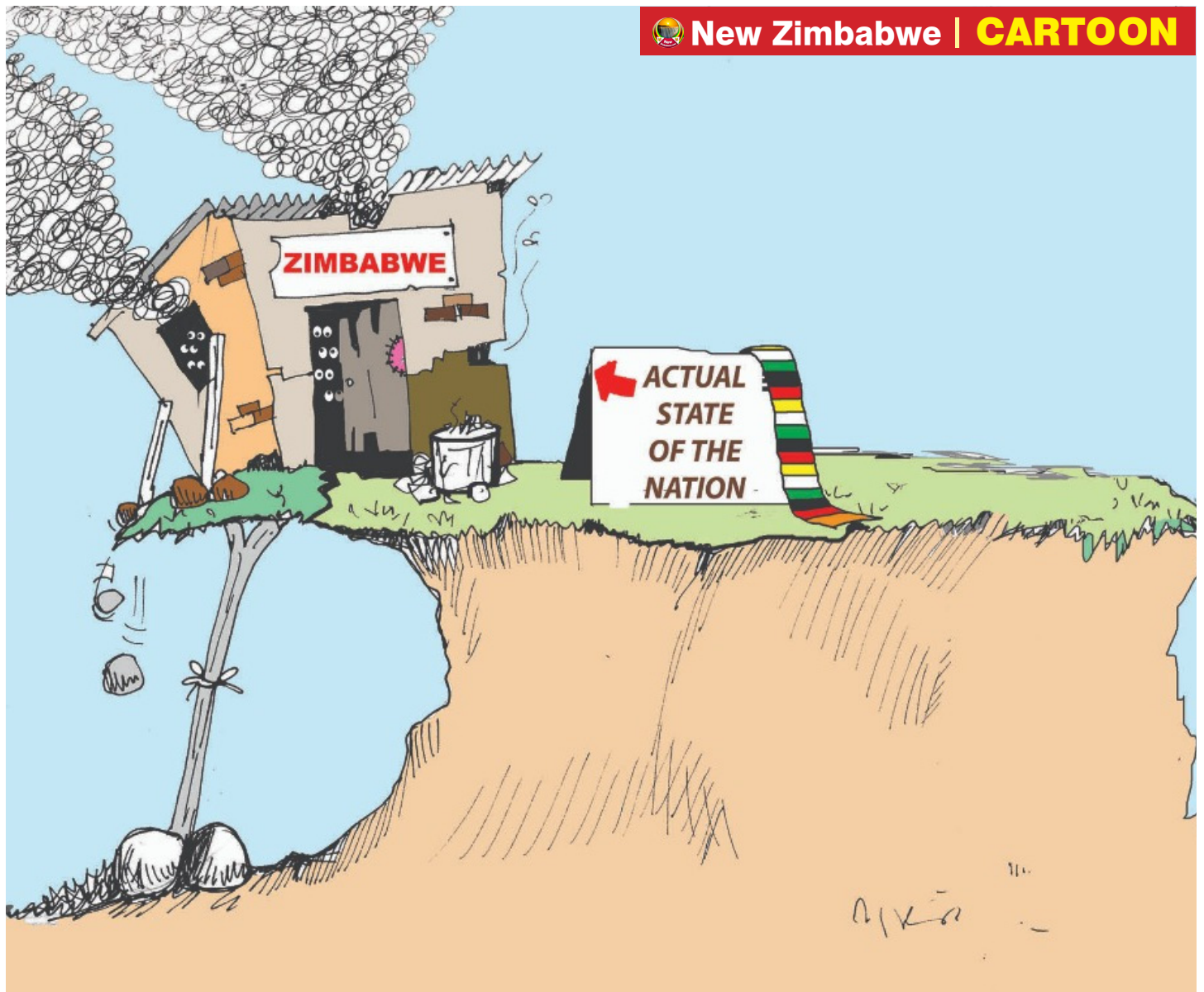
manufacturers “and ultimately affects the development of the whole cotton-to-clothing value chain,” Minister Sekai Nzenza says.

Both Mbambe and Nyoni say their sales have increased since they moved their businesses online. But that bonanza could come to an end soon — the minister adds that it’s imperative for the government “to develop strategies to regulate such online business opportunities.”

In the meantime, customers like Ruth Nkomo, a monitoring and evaluation officer at a local nonprofit, can continue to enjoy the variety, convenience and affordability of these

clothes. “About 75% of my wardrobe has clothes that I bought from secondhand shops,” she says. “I can afford to buy my clothes from a retail shop, but online thrift shops now have good-quality clothes for much cheaper.”

Now, Mbambe is planning the next steps for her business — perhaps hiring people to model her thrift clothes, she says. Moving her operation online made her realize one missing ingredient from her business: branding. At the stall, her operation didn’t have a name. “I did some research online and gave my business a new name on WhatsApp and Facebook: ‘Mbambe Thrift Shop,’” she says.





Time for introspection CCC

By Reason Razao

FOR THE better half of this month, reports emerging from the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party somewhat suggest the ship may be in disarray due to alleged inaction by the 'Change Champion in Chief' Nelson Chamisa.

A lot of debates have been raging on what the future holds for Chamisa and the CCC ahead of the 2023 general elections given that much of their calls for electoral reforms have not been met.

Is the country likely to see another election disappointment, as Chamisa earlier this week hinted on boycotting the plebiscite?

Before we delve into what awaits the nation in 2023, maybe for CCC its high time the movement carried out some self-introspection and got down to some serious business.

The bitter and better half of the past five years have been spent on; first the wrangle over a disputed election then the tiff within the MDC-A resulting in the formation of the yellow nation now CCC.

Now, despite all the hype, attention and slogans, little to nothing has been done in showing CCC's zeal to change as the government-in-waiting.

Part of the many roles of an opposition party's is to scrutinize and closely examine the work of the government whilst being critical in debating bills and proposed laws.

Reason Razao



In short, the opposition ought to hold the government accountable, put pressure and keep the party in power on its toes.

However, for CCC, the sole focus has been to get into power; in fact someone pointed out that the opposition is obsessed with power and slowly forgetting that the people need change.

Opposition led councils are in office but the rot within most local authorities is a reflection of what getting power without ideas entails.

Raw sewage, no running water, heaps of uncollected garbage have become a normal sight, so much that dumping litter at a bus rank is now common.

Recent comments by some of the staunch supporters of the CCC movement suggest that they are slowly losing hope with the state of affairs within the party and how business is being conducted.

One such figure is Hopewell Chin'ono who has not been shy to publicly claim that if CCC fails to pull up their sleeves come 2023 they will be left with an egg on their face.

Recently, former minister, Jonathan Moyo, poured scorn on CCC and how the party is being run.

According to Moyo, Chamisa is not one to heed advice and lacks political ideology.

Though seen as a bid to please Zanu PF cadres as he

looks to re-join the ruling party, Moyo's sentiments are also shared within the echelons of the CCC.

Some of Chamisa's lieutenants have also intimated their misgivings about the youthful politician and have been dropping hints of doubt on the possibility the CCC leader ever ruling the country.

The belief is that Chamisa has not done enough to wrestle power from Zanu PF.

If the leadership is frustrated to the point of folding hands and seemingly appearing to be out of ideas, what of the general public who may be facing challenges?

There are claims that Chamisa's 'dictatorial' approach, disregard for 'sober and genuine' criticism and failure to set up structures will not yield any fruitful results.

The issue of structures is one that people around Chamisa keep dismissing, claiming that if set up, those elected might be susceptible to being bought by Zanu PF.

True as this may be, what guarantees are there that those that will be elected later when Chamisa decides to set up structures will not sell out.

Issues of accountability and transparency cannot be ignored for long as they also affect and influence power, which constantly needs checks and balances.

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Time for introspection CCC...

● from page 10

Structures bring about formality and order from the grass roots to the top seat.

Now more than ever, is the time to rebuild the electorate's confidence in the CCC.

Change is needed but also change needs to be spearheaded by sober minds who should not just capitalize on the prevailing mood within the country, but who clearly communicate and articulate ideas and policies.

No viable efforts have been made to show that CCC is willing to engage with the grass roots communities ahead of next year's plebiscite.

Digital divide is real in Africa

People, particularly in Zimbabwe, cannot afford data and most are not technological experts.

Most do not know how to operate a gadget beyond WhatsApp, so that they can hear what the main opposition party is saying via Twitter.

If the aforementioned has some factual base to it, it means the opposition has been misfiring or rather firing on no cylinders; the leadership has been short-changing its supporters.

Chamisa's smart politics of tweeting from the comfort of his home when his comrades are languishing in the trenches of Chikurubi has not won any sympathy from those within his proximity and those glancing from a distance.

Despite being denied access to see his compatriot and CCC member Job Sikhala, one would expect Chamisa to keep on appearing on the doors of Chikurubi making noise until someone lets him in. But alas, the solidarity is virtual.

One of the founding fathers of the United States, Benjamin Franklin, once said that if one fails to plan, one is planning to fail.

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The opposition needs to brace for a heavy defeat, one that may leave them in their sixes and sevens if they fail to adequately strategize and plan.

Zambia's opposition

leader, now the current ruling party president Hakainde Hichilema was detained 15 times in his political career and once spent 127 days in prison, a feat that won him the vote

among the youths who wanted change.

Chamisa's fear of going toe-to-toe with the ruling party Zanu PF will expose him come 2023.

It's time for self-

introspection within CCC to see how best the party can turn-around the current misfortunes into a potential election victory next year.

New Zimbabwe

ARTS | CULTURE
ENTERTAINMENT

 Albert Nyathi and Lovemore Majaivana are smiling and posing together. Albert is wearing a white headband with a feather and a leopard print shirt. Lovemore is wearing a black jacket.

Albert Nyathi and Lovemore Majaivana's Big Celebration

By EarGround

ALBERT Nyathi, Imbongi, musician and playwright, and iconic musician **Lovemore Majaivana**, will celebrate their birthdays by shining the spotlight on the elderly in the community. Dubbed 'The Big Celebration,' the events will be held in Harare and Bulawayo on the 3rd and 10th of December, 2022, respectively.

Singer-songwriter Lovemore Majaivana was born in Gweru, on 14 December, 1952, and turns 70 years of age. His famous uncle, Albert Nyathi, a poet, musician, actor, writer and philanthropist, was born on 15 November, 1962 and turns 60, milestones worth celebrating.

What most people are unaware of is that the two artists are related. Majaivana's mother is MaNyathi and there that making him Albert's nephew, 'umalume lomzukululu' in isiNdebele.

The date of Lovemore Majaivana's birthday holds special significance in that was on 14 December 1990, that the United Nations General Assembly

designated October 1 the International Day of Older Persons.

Speaking on the celebrations, Nyathi says that old people have neither resources nor do they wield any power to earn or guarantee them the love and respect of society and those around them.

"Even though all religious persuasions underline love and respect for the elderly, the hustle and bustle of modern day society has virtually eliminated the role of the elderly to the periphery of both mainstream economy and faith," says Nyathi.

We envisage a different celebration that will involve the elder members of the community to highlight their condition, mainly in the urban setting.

"We plan to hold birthday celebrations in the form of a luncheon for selected elderly people in Highfields and at Ekuphumleni Geriatric Nursing home in Mzilikazi where we will entertain and provide them with goodies donated by partners and well-wishers. Our intention is to celebrate the elderly, identify their challenges and drum up support for

their needs," Nyathi says.

Speaking about the celebrations, United States-based Lovemore Majaivana still has many fond memories of home.

"Some of my deepest thoughts as I turn 70 are with the elderly citizens of my country, those that can no longer get into the clubs, travel to Emagumeni, to the gigs and lively spaces of life. I ask myself, if it is possible, in whatever small way, to remember and honour them. To put that rare smile on their faces just for a day," he says.

He says that if such a day were to be on his birthday, he would feel great and well celebrated even from that far. Majaivana personally can not make it for the celebrations, but locally based family members will represent him.

Lovemore 'Majaivana' Tshuma and Albert Nyathi are legends in their lifetime and their performances are not only unique, they are timeless. To top it up, people will be witness to a 'temporary return' from retirement of Majaivana who will record a duet with Albert Nyathi to be released later next year.

Zim born 'Deliver by Christmas' star Alvina August joins Bob Odenkirk's 'Straight Man'



Alvina August

By Staff Reporter

'DELIVER by Christmas' star Alvina August has been cast in a recurring role in Bob Odenkirk's upcoming AMC dramedy series 'Straight Man'.

According to Variety, the series is based on Richard Russo's book of the same name. In April, AMC ordered it into a series. The cast also includes Sara Amini, Diedrich Bader, Suzanne Cryer, Mireille Enos, Olivia Scott Welch, Arthur Keng, and Cedric Yarbrough in addition to Odenkirk.

As per the official logline quoted by Variety, the show follows "William Henry

Devereaux Jr. (Odenkirk), the unlikely chairman of the English department at a college in the Pennsylvania Rust Belt." August will appear as June Washing-ton-

Chen, described as "an English professor who is temperate and careful. She is as savvy and individually minded as her husband, English professor Teddy Washington-Chen (Keng)."

In the CW show "Nancy Drew," which is

ending after its current fourth season, August presently plays Detective Karen Hart. Along with this, she has made appearances on NBC's "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," Netflix's "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina," and Hulu's "Woke." She has appeared in several fea-ture

films, including "Noelle," "Bad Times at the El Royale," and "The Intruder."

The novel is being adapted for the screen by Aaron Zelman and Paul

Lieberstein, who will also co-show-run and act as executive producers on the

show. Odenkirk, who also plays the lead role, will executive produce. Peter

Farrelly will executive produce and direct. Additionally, Marc Provisiero, Mark Johnson, Naomi Odenkirk, and Russo will executive produce. Gran Via and

TriStar TV produce. The programme is expected to premiere in 2023. There will be eight one-hour episodes in the first season. (ANI)



UK: Investment summit for Zim diaspora at premier golf resort set for December

By Staff Reporter

INVESTMENT opportunities in Zimbabwe and other African countries are increasingly coming into focus as growth slows in the United Kingdom (UK) and other African countries.

This is the theme of an investment summit for the Zimbabwean diaspora in the UK scheduled for December 3, at the premier Chart Hills Gold Club in Kent, which will explore existing and un-explored opportunities on the continent.

Summit organiser and Heritage Pay Chief Executive, Crosby Pamberi, said the event has been necessitated by the recession Europe and the need to open new investment avenues.

"The programme is about three things: getting British people to see the true state of the UK economy and to appreciate that the short to medium term is not bright – specifically in terms of inflation, unemployment and recession amongst others," Pamberi told newzimbabwe.com

"All of this is in line with forecasts from respected analysts including economists from the Bank of England. If all of these things are going wrong in an economy, common sense tells us that there are going to be fewer opportunities for everyone.

"By contrast, there are amazing high growth opportunities in Africa and to truly appreciate their nature and scale, requires listening to company executives and other experts who are actually on the ground in Africa, right now."

He added; "Opportunities are there to be exploited. But you can't exploit them when you are not in the room where they



Crosby/Pamberi

are being discussed.

"So, we are inviting UK residents to meet us and other like-minded investors to discuss and hopefully agree how best to participate in African investment opportunities.

"And leading the discussion on that will be UK-based experts; including a Chartered Accountant, a Lawyer and an Economist."

The summit will witness high level experts in business sharing ideas on investment opportunities across the African continent.

Southern African countries, particularly Zimbabwe, have been clamouring for direct investments from their diaspora communities.

"All business opportunities carry risk. Additionally, identifying the right kind of opportunities carries with it a lot of research work. It involves developing the right kinds of relationships and nurturing them over time," said Pamberi.

"Often, there are also barriers to be overcome; these can be cultural, language, political, legal and other barriers. We are confident that we can better navigate these hurdles better in these



Proud achievement ... The Supreme Healthcare Recruitment leadership

UK: Zim-owned company nominated for Great British Care Awards

By Thobekile Khumalo

ZIMBABWEAN-owned Supreme Healthcare Recruitment has been nominated in five different categories in the Great British Care Awards (GBCA), officials confirmed recently.

The recognition comes as a huge pat on the back for the Bradford-based company which has only been in existence for three years.

Company spokesperson Rudo Chengeta said they have been nominated in the categories of Dignity Champion, Covid Heroes and the Three R's – Recruitment, Recognition and Retention.

Regional finals of the awards have been conducted around the United Kingdom throughout the autumn with the national finals set for March next year in Birmingham.

Commenting on the shortlisting Supreme Healthcare spokesperson

Rudo Chengeta said; "Our staff provide care to our clients in a way that supports self-respect of the people, giving them choices and recognising individual capacities and ambitions.

"One of the company's key staff, Akeshia Lee, was shortlisted as a finalist in the ancillary category for going over and above the call of duty in the way she executes her duties.

"All this has contributed to Supreme Healthcare Limited being nominated in five different categories."

Chengeto added that company staff are trained to allow clients to participate in community activities, adding that, by supporting everyone as individuals, "it leaves them with a great sense of self-worth."

"Promoting independence enables all our clients to be in control over their lives and to make decisions that are fundamental to them.

"The result is that some staff who started working with the business at inception are still here as recognition of staff values makes them feel part of our essential team."

The Great British Care Awards celebrate excellence across the care sector.

"The purpose of the awards are to pay tribute to those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding excellence within their field of work," said the organisers.

"The awards are all inclusive, bringing together the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors, as well as unpaid carers; promoting joint working.

"Working in partnership with care partners and local care associations is at the heart of the initiative; working and linking directly with local managers and networks to further promote the event."

four countries than say in Vietnam or Indonesia.

"While there are economic opportunities and strong growth and

Vietnam or Indonesia, we are less equipped to deal with the natural challenges in those environments or jurisdictions," said Pamberi.

Pamberi also highlighted that for easy of purchase, tickets to the summit are being sold online via EventBrite.



Pensioners stranded as they fail to withdraw money from banks.





New Zimbabwe SPORT



Cheetahs squad named for Dubai Sevens Invitational



By Sports Reporter

THE ZIMBABWE sevens rugby team's technical department has named a strong squad for the Dubai Invitational Sevens which will be played in the United Arab Emirates in early December.

The Dubai Invitational Sevens will take place from 1 to 3 December and will run concurrently with the opening leg of the HSBC World Sevens Series, which features the world's leading

sevens sides.

Zimbabwe, who are popularly known as the Cheetahs will use the competition to prepare for a busy 2023 season where they are scheduled to compete in the World Rugby Challenger Series and the qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Cheetahs head coach Graham Kaulback has strengthened his squad by including a number of new players who have been doing well locally and

outside the country.

Following the retirement of captain Kudzai Mashawi from international rugby, Kaulback has settled for Tadius Dzandiwandira and Godfrey Magaramombe as the co-captains.

Notable additions from the team which did duty at the Rugby World Cup Sevens in Cape Town, South Africa, are Emmanuel Zangari and Godknows Mavara, who play for Spartans, a

Botswana-based club made up of Zimbabwean players.

Experienced winger Takudzwa Kumadiro, who has previously played for the Sables has also been added to the squad.

Zimbabwe Under-20 starlet Shadreck Mandaza has been called up to the Cheetahs for the first time after impressing for the academy side during the Zambezi Challenge played at Harare Sports Club last weekend.

Zimbabwe Cheetahs:
Tadius Dzandiwandira (co-captain), Godfrey Magaramombe (co-captain), Emmanuel Zangari, Tapiwa Malenga, Kudakwashe Nyamakura, Alex Nyamunda, Carlos Matematema, Ryan Musumhi, Godknows Mavara, Shadreck Mandaza, Edward Sigauke, Takudzwa Kumadiro
Head coach: Graham Kaulback
Assistant coach/team manager: Ricky Chirengende
Physiotherapist: Alice Randall



World Cup: Why has no African team ever reached a semifinal?

By DW

NO AFRICAN team has ever made it to the semifinal of a World Cup. Four former African internationals tell DW why they think that is and explain what needs to be done to make a continent's dream come true.

Since its inauguration in 1930, 13 African nations have participated in the World Cup. Only three of them have reached a quarterfinal: Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002) and Ghana (2010). None of them have ever made a semifinal.

African players are currently shaking up Europe's domestic football scene like never before, with many among the world's elite. So why are their national teams on the African continent lagging behind?

"In recent years, African players have been more and more competitive, playing for some of the best clubs in the world and even competing for the Ballon d'Or," says former Moroccan international Yacine Abdessadki. "This enriches African football."

But he thinks there are still other factors holding African teams back at international level.

The role of the psyche

The former Strasbourg and SC Freiburg winger believes that African teams rely too heavily on the talent of their biggest stars whilst neglecting other parts of the game.

"Culturally, in Africa, you tend to not work on things that have long been standards in Europe or South America," he explains, "especially mental aspects."

For Abdessadki, even the best player in the world



doesn't know what to do with the ball in stressful situations. It's a question of mental preparation, which directly correlates with performances on the pitch.

"Teams like Spain, France, Belgium or Brazil always play the ball out very cleanly," he says. "Even under pressure, they never force the ball, but stick to their preferred approach. Less well-prepared teams, on the other hand, tend to just clear the ball as far as possible in stressful situations."

Developing a vision

Another problem facing African national teams is a lack of clear perspective and long-term planning.

"You can't suddenly enter a tournament one day and then set a lofty target like reaching the quarterfinal. If you do that, then it's too late," says Karim Haggui.

For the former Tunisian defender, who played for Bayer Leverkusen, Hannover 96 and Fortuna Düsseldorf among others, African football lacks long-term development plans.

"There has to be a training strategy," he says. "You have to work on raising the level of football in Africa, you have to invest in the training of coaches."

It's an opinion shared



by former Schalke and Wolfsburg defender Hans Sarpei. The 36-time Ghana international believes that African federations need to be more focused, set a goal like reaching a World Cup semifinal and give themselves 12 years to achieve it.

"There is no 100% guarantee that this will work," he says. "But if you look at Germany or even France, you see there are nations that work with that kind of plan."

Fewer resources, fewer chances

Carefully building a team, training competent personnel and implementing a project with all the technical, physical and mental work required takes time, but above all, money. In this respect, African teams are still light years away from their European or South American counterparts.

In 2021, the total budget of the French Football Federation (FFF) was just over €249 million (\$257.1 million), with the share for top-level sport accounting for around €65 million. By way of comparison, the budget of the Cameroonian football association FECAFOOT in 2020 was the equivalent of just €12.7 million.

However, the lack of

funds is not the only reason for poor performances at previous World Cups. For Abdessadki, it is also due to the number of participating teams from Africa.

"It's a question of probability," he says. "There are fewer African teams at World Cups than European or South American teams. So, statistically, it's less likely that one of these teams can make it to the final four."

Odds stacked against Africa

Up until France 1998, when five slots were reserved for the African federation for the first time, only three African teams had the right to compete with the world's best. It meant that even the most consistent teams lacked experience at the highest level.

With eight participations, Cameroon has the longest World Cup track record of any African nation but, as Haggui points out: "That's not bad, but it's only half as much as some of the top South American or European teams."

For Ricardo Faty, experience is also a key factor.

"Ghana came very close to reaching the semifinals against Uruguay in 2010 but I think they lacked experience," says the former Senegal international,

but he believes that could change this year in Qatar.

"I really believe that this year there are teams like Senegal or even Cameroon that have enough talent and experience to take that step," he says. "Especially thanks to the presence of players who play for the biggest clubs in Europe."

A slightly different pressure

But beware of expectations, which Hans Sarpei says are greater in Africa than elsewhere.

"In Germany, you hope the national team wins the World Cup. In Africa, however, winning is a must," he says. "Most African players play in Europe and are able to handle pressure. But it is something completely different when a whole country is expecting victory."

"They feel the pressure not only for themselves but also for their families. When you're eliminated, you know you can't go back to your home country for the first time, you fly back to Europe where you play."

In Russia in 2018, no African team made it out of the groups for the first time since 1982. This year in Qatar, the pressure is on Senegal, Cameroon, Ghana, Tunisia and Morocco to ensure that there is no repeat.