

## Has admitted to have stolen the baby: Gamaliel

When asked her about the baby, she said she does not have a child of her own and she is not the one, so she is hiding it but today she said she is a man who was recently arrested at she has children and when we interrogated her again, she agreed that she has children. So we feel there is a lot she is hiding," said Namalenga.

Gamaliel comes from Mangazi Village, T/A Chimaliro in Thyolo. ■

## Pupils' death

together with the short history of the illness are highly suggestive of acute chemical (drug) poisoning," he said.

A final diagnostic and investigation report dated September 1 2010 on one of the deceased (Simama) done by Dr G.R. Njunga, head of diagnosis at Veterinary Laboratory, found a synthetic toxic carbonate compound.

The parents for the two children are demanding that an investigation be launched to establish what happened to the two close friends at the boarding school.

Last week, the school's general manager Andrew Nhlane dismissed claims that the poisoning would have been in the food prepared by the school, saying a lot of pupils would have been affected if that had been the case.

"We suspect that this food which they shared came in from outside and not within the school," Nhlane said. ■

about that story. So, we said to be at large. ■

## Malawi losing K27bn for unsustainable natural resource use

DUMBANIMZALE  
STAFF REPORTER

Malawi is losing an estimated \$191 million (about K26.6 billion) each year as a result of unsustainable use of soil, forest, fisheries and wildlife resources, an economic study by independent consultants has revealed.

The study, whose findings were presented yesterday at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe, was carried out by a team of nine local and foreign consultants and was conducted within the context of the Malawi Poverty and Environment Initiative (MPEI) currently being implemented by government.

The K27 billion loss is an equivalent of 5.3 percent of Malawi's annual total national wealth as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) and is higher than the total funding allocated to the key sectors of education and health in the 2009 national budget.

Economics lecturer at Chancellor College, Dr Ronald Mangani, who led the Malawi team of consultants in the study,

yesterday cautioned that the attainment of some targets in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) could be threatened by such unsustainable use of natural resources, including land degradation.

Said Mangani when presenting the findings: "that [K26.6 billion] is not a small figure considering our level of income...sustaining natural resource use could have enabled MDG one target to be reached."

Mangani said there is also compelling evidence that unsustainable natural resource management leads to poverty in Malawi, citing World Bank data from 1992, which he said indicates an average annual agricultural loss of 4 percent to 11 percent as a result of soil erosion.

Director of economic planning in the Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation Yona Kamphale said in his official address that the study was significant in the attainment of the ambitious targets of economic growth and poverty reduction set in the MGDS. ■

# spend

## FOOTBALL

MANCHESTER City, a club whose lavish spending has so far failed to produce the anticipated returns, have much in common with opponents Salzburg when they kick off their Europa League campaign tomorrow.

The two big spenders, who meet in Group A, are among 48 teams in action, ranging from former European champions Liverpool, Juventus and Porto on the one hand to Swiss second division outfit Lausanne on the other.

Uruguay's Diego Forlan, voted the top player at the World Cup, will lead the attack as holders Atletico Madrid, who beat Fulham in last season's final, begin the defence of their crown at Aris Salonika in Group B.

Like Manchester City, Austrian champions Salzburg have also found that spending vast sums of cash does not necessarily bring success, having yet again missed out on the Champions League.

City spent more than 50 million pounds (\$77 million) in the January transfer window alone but still failed to get a top four finish in the Premier League. They spent another 120 million pounds in the close season in an attempt to build a side good enough to qualify for next year's Champions League.

They hope their policies will not take them down the same road as Salzburg, which was bought and rebranded by the Red Bull soft drinks company in 2005 amid protests by the fans.

Since then, Salzburg have won three Austrian titles but, despite spending around 200 million euros (\$255.9 million) — a huge amount by Austrian Bundesliga standards — and signing 64 new



## BIG SHOT—

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# Ballack out for six

## FOOTBALL

BAYER Leverkusen captain Michael Ballack will be out for six weeks after fracturing his shinbone in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Hanover 96, the Bundesliga club said on Sunday.

The Germany captain, who missed the World Cup and has not played for his country since injuring his ankle in May, was diagnosed with the fracture on Sunday morning following a scan.

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# natural resources

THE report on the country's poor use of natural resources launched yesterday by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development with funding from UNDP confirms what we have feared for a long time.

The Malawi Poverty and Environment Initiative: Economic Study report says Malawi is losing up to K26.6 billion each year for its unsustainable use of natural resources.

According to the report, the largest costs result from the loss of agricultural productivity as a result of soil degradation, deforestation in catchment areas around main urban centres to supply firewood and charcoal. Others are unsustainable fishing and reduced economic activity caused by indoor air pollution.

The report's findings—though scaring—are not very new. They are not because we have always been seeing hundreds of bags of charcoal on bicycles carriers heading towards urban centres day in day out. Surely we know that charcoal is made from trees that are felled somewhere without replacement.

We also know that once land has been denuded of its cover from trees, soil erosion creeps in. In the case of Malawi, millions of tones of the rich top soil is eroded into rivers and then into Lake Malawi. Agricultural yields, we are told, diminish by up to 25 percent annually because of this soil erosion. This, to say the least, is catastrophic to the development of the nation.

The problem is therefore not that we do not know the culprit. We are all culprits in one way or another if we use charcoal or if we have failed to come up with ways of arresting the problem. The question is why are we not able to find lasting solutions to these problems?

The paradox is that the millions of tones of charcoal that is used in urban centres is not flown into these places. This charcoal is transported by road on the M1 and on many other roads where there are roadblocks that operate 24 hours a day and 365 days a year manned, we believe by professional police officers and forestry officers.

For example, what is the use of the roadblock at Zalewa in Blantyre where the law enforcers and forestry staff are supposed to impound charcoal being transported without proper documents and yet less than a kilometre away on the M1, villagers sell hundreds of bags of charcoal all the time?

As we have said above, the problem with the country's unsustainable use of natural resources is not due to what we didn't know. The problem has always been what interventions to institute to arrest deforestation.

In fact, as a country we actually know the solutions to the problem. The remedy is to find alternative source of energy for urban dwellers who provide a ready market for charcoal. The problem is how to come up with these sustainable substitutes for charcoal.

Sadly, until we do that we will continue to mourn over our unsustainable use of resources without hoping for a solution to the problem anytime soon.