Exiled Morales pulling Bolivian political strings... as polls loom

L A PAZ - From exile in Buenos Aires, former leftist president Evo Morales continues to influence Bolivian politics and is plotting his party's return to power in September elections, analysts say.

Though banned from running in the poll and facing arrest if he returns, the 68-year-old Bolivian first indigenous president - is masterminding opposition to right-wing President Jeanine Anez.

At this time when Evo Morales is in exile, outside of power, he has become a kind of 'virtual' political scientist Carlos Cordero told AFP.

Morales last year handpicked economist Luis Arce as the man who can win back the presidency for his Movement for Socialism (MAS) party.

To do so he faced down grassroots members who favoured former Morales allies Héctor DaSilva and Choquehuanca or young coca-growers' leader AdriánRodríguez.

Arce, however, has slowly won over the doubters and is riding high in opinion polls, which confirmed in September 6 elections, would hand the presidency back to MAS a year after Morales' tumultuous resignation.

The polls give Arce 33% and centrist ex-president Carlos Mesajust over 15%, while Anezaries with nearly 29%.

Maria Teresa Zegada, a sociologist at the Catholic University of Santa Cruz, says Morales is a key player in the electoral campaign, despite his absence.

"I believe that he will continue to play an important role, as long as he continues to be a polarizing factor in the country's politics.

There are important sectors that support MAS and that is where Morales' presence lies," he said.

"He has participated frequently within MAS leaders in Argentina, but direct communication has been frustrated by the pandemic lockdowns. These days he issues instructions via social media.

"We will come back stronger and we will restore freedom and dignity to the Bolivian people," said a message on his Twitter account.

Morales on Wednesday condemned what he said was an attempt by Anez to outlaw his party and remove Arce from the electoral race. "The dictator attempted to prevent me from participating in the elections," he tweeted.

"I have accused Morales of conspiring to damage his electoral chances by sending overloaded Spanish ventilators for Covid-19 patients into the country as part of a relief operation during the pandemic. Zegada said Morales has benefited from the errors and scandals that have tainted his adversaries in power.

Morales fled the country after three weeks of protests over his controversial second re-election in October 2019 in a poll in which he was constitutionally barred from participating. He had tried to cling to power but lost the backing of the country's military after an Organization of American States audit found clear evidence of election fraud. He initially fled to Mexico, which sent a government plane to pick him up, before settling later in Argentina, home to a large Bolivian population.

Most of Morales's cabinet fled with him, leaving behind a power vacuum in the bitterly divided country. Anez - a hitherto little-known conservative senator - assumed the presidency the following month. AFP
A 12-year-old boy has been arrested after police investigated racist messages sent to Crystal Palace forward Wilfried Zaha on social media.

Zaha revealed he had received several abusive messages on social media before Sunday’s trip to Aston Villa, a game they lost 1-0.

His manager Roy Hodgson called the abuse “cowardly and despicable”.

The Premier League called the abuse of the 27-year-old Ivory Coast winger “completely unacceptable”.

West Midlands Police tweeted Zaha to say they would look into the abuse and horas confirmed an arrest.

“We were alerted to a series of racist messages sent to a footballer today and after looking into them and conducting checks, we have arrested a boy,” read a WM Police tweet.

“The 12-year-old from Solihull has been taken to custody.Thanks to everyone who raised it. Racism won’t be tolerated.”

Speaking to Sky Sports before the arrest, Hodgson added: “It’s been highlighted at the moment anyway with the Black Lives Matter movement and everyone seems to be making such an effort to eradicate this behaviour.

“It is very sad that, on the day of a game, a player wakes up to this cowardly and despicable abuse. It’s right Wilf has made people aware of it and I don’t think this is something you should keep quiet about.

“Although one of our best players from playing well today, but to do it in the way he has been totally irresponsible.”

The Premier League said: “This behaviour is completely unacceptable and the Premier League stands alongside Wilfried Zaha in opposing this, and discrimination in any form.

“We will continue to support players, managers, coaches and their family members who receive serious discriminatory online abuse.”

Players in England’s top flight have been kneeling in support of the Black Lives Matter movement before every match since the season restarted in June.
From owning shares in the lottery to underwriting brands and fish shops - here are 12 football legends who started businesses including Zlatan Ibrahimovic and why he’s failed them all.

Football superstars have developed a reputation of being reckless spenders including Zlatan Ibrahimovic and why he’s failed them all.

However, the modern era Andrea Peralto and Andrea Iniesta were two of the most composed footballers in the history of football and both ventured into the wine industry.

Iniesta’s former Barcelona and Spain teammate Gerard Pique may not be retiring any time soon but he has also invested heavily into his future when he wasn’t winning big with the LaLiga champions, professional poker or marrying Shakira...

But on a more serious note, the veteran defender launched Kosmos Global Holding which invests in tennis, media and owns Spanish third-tier side Andorra.

2014 FIFA World Cup-winning striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic started early and it’s easy to see why at the age of 33 and still in the peak of his career. While he rejected the chance to return to Bayern Munich as the sporting director, Lahm has acquired shares in sports care and hygiene product manufacturer Sixtus and the sports lotery and Germany.

12 legends who started businesses

The wine route

Two of the greatest playmakers of the global popularity in the business of social media. As a result, David Beckham, the former and Cristano Ronaldo are prime examples of becoming marketing geniuses as two of the most recognisable figures on the planet.

Both former Real Madrid superstars have capitalised with various endorsement deals and personalised brandings ranging from alcohol, cologne and underwear - while Beckham is also a club owner with Inter Miami.

12 legends who started businesses

David Beckham - Self marketing empire with various branded businesses & club owner

Cristiano Ronaldo - CR7 fashion, cologne, underwear and hotels

Andres Iniesta - Bodega wines

Phillip Lahm - Schneekoppe food, Sixtus health care and shares in German sports lottery

Gerard Pique - Kendal Games company and shares in Rams Alimentaria meat industry

Gemarro Gatusso owns a fish shop and restaurant

Río Ferdinand owns a restaurant, clothing line and magazine

Andrea Piralto owns the Pratum Coller winery

Mathies Flaminitt: Co-owner of GF Biochemicals now worth $28 billion

Zlatan Ibrahimovic started his own mobile game and clothing business called A - Z

Oliver Khan - Goalplay Application
Manchester City's Champions League last-16 tie against Olympiakos at Etihad Stadium will be played at the home team's stadium behind closed doors.

City host Real on either 7 or 8 August, with Chelsea facing Bayern Munich away.

In the Europa League, Wolves will host Olympiakos and Manchester United will welcome LASK on 5 or 6 August.

Both competitions were suspended in March because of the coronavirus pandemic, after the majority of first legs had been played.

City lead Real 2-1 after the first leg, Chelsea are 3-0 down to Bayern, Manchester United are 5-0 up on LASK and Wolves are level at 1-1 having scored an away goal in Greece. Rangers will travel to Germany 3-1 down on Bayer Leverkusen.

Inter Milan against Getafe and Sevilla against Roma will both be played as single-leg ties after Manchester United beat the coronavirus situation in

Italy and Spain in March resulting in both first legs being called off. 

Uefa also confirmed that the ‘final eight’ tournaments for both competitions will be held without spectators.

The Champions League quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will all be held in Lisbon from 17 to 23 August.

The last three rounds of the Europa League will be held in cities across Germany, with the final in Cologne on 21 August, having been moved from Gdansk in Poland.

The draw for both tournaments takes place from 11:00 BST on Friday leading to host Real Madrid at Etihad Stadium.

In the Europa League, Wolves will host Olympiakos and Manchester United will welcome LASK on 5 or 6 August.
Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola said his team deserved an apology, after their two-year UEFA ban from European football was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) – a verdict he called a “good day for football.”

Guardiola said the club’s reputation had been damaged by the furore around allegations that their financing had been out of line with the Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules and it was “difficult to explain” to the managers Jose Mourinho and the furore around allegations that their reputation had been damaged by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) – a verdict he called a “good day for football.”

Guardiola also took aim at Spanish league president Javier Tebas, a long-standing critic of City, who had questioned whether CAS was the right court for deciding such matters. “He is another one, this guy Senor Tebas must be so jealous of our success,” he said. “We were damaged. The people say that we cheated and lied many, many times. The presumption of innocence was not there and after, when it happened and it was right, of course, we are incredibly happy because we can define what we have done on the pitch.”

Guardiola added. “When the sentence is good for him, he is an incredible legal expert (he should) focus on there. When it happened and it was right, many, many times. The presumption of innocence was not there and after, when it happened and it was right, of course, we are incredibly happy because we can define what we have done on the pitch.”

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Zidane urges Madrid to finish the job with title in their grasp

Zinedine Zidane has warned his players not to believe LaLiga is already won as Real Madrid chase the last victory they need against Villarreal on Thursday. With a four-point cushion ahead of Wednesday’s game at Barcelona and only two league games to play, Madrid will be unbeatable if they win at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium, regardless of Barça’s result at home to Osasuna.

It means a third league title in eight years is now firmly within their grasp, following a relentless run of form that has seen Madrid win nine games out of nine since the restart from coronavirus lockdown.

Madrid could even afford to lose to Villarreal if they beat Leganes on Sunday but Zidane is wary of complacency.

“There is a lot of noise about celebrations and holidays and that but tomorrow we have a game, period,” said Zidane in a press conference on Wednesday.

“We have to focus all our energy on tomorrow, nothing else. There is a lot of talk but all the players, everyone who works at the club, is only thinking about tomorrow.

“Nobody knows what will happen until it happens.”

While Barça’s age squad has struggled with the frequency of matches during the suspension, Madrid appear to have revelled in the intensity of a compressed calendar.

“It was something quite particular that when we started to work again after lockdown and after three months at home, the players had this desire to do more,” said Zidane.

“I saw the players and they wanted something more, they were staying after training to do extra. That says everything you need to know about this team.

“Lot’s Saser report in an interview with Diario Sport this week that winning LaLiga is now “almost impossible” for Barcelona, who play Osasuna, hoping to take the title race to the final weekend.

“That’s his opinion,” said Barca coach Quique Setién. “The truth is LaLiga is not yet lost because anything can happen but we know it is difficult.

“So not because of our failings, we have had three draws, but Madrid’s success. They have done things better but we will continue fighting until the end.”

Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Sunday that Setién will remain in charge for the Champions League but doubts remain about next season.

When Bartomeu sacked Ernesto Valverde in January, Barça were top of the table, albeit on goal difference, but Setién insists he is not entirely blameless.

“I take responsibility but not all of it,” said Setién. “When people look for a scapegoat they always look at the coach but I don’t feel I did things so badly.

“I would more give credit to Madrid, who have won all their games.”

Setién said Frenkie de Jong has recovered from a calf injury and is ready to feature against Osasuna while midfielder Eden Hazard is now “totally fine”.

Hazard has not started any of Madrid’s last four games after feeling pain in the same right ankle he had surgery on in March. “He’s better and has trained,” said Zidane.

Zidane also reacted with frustration when asked if it would be best if Gareth Bale left the club this summer.

Barca’s new boss has been the subject of debate after he was pictured with his face mask over his eyes during the win over Alaves on Friday.

“This question again. You try to put things between us but you won’t be able to,” said Zidane. “We’re reunited. Gareth, James (Rodriguez), everyone.”
The Walvis Bay correctional facility is experiencing a shortage of staff after 61 of its workers had to be placed in quarantine after two recently tested positive for Covid-19, who recently tested positive for Covid-19.

Last week two correctional facility officials tested positive for Covid-19 marking the first cases of Covid-19 within the correction facilities and also the first community transmission case in the country. Consequently, the health ministry is doing mass testing at the facility which has since seen a total of 83 isolated. Of those, 61 are officials and 22 are offenders.

Head of the Namibian Correctional Services Central Staff Directorate, Commissioner Sam Shaalulange told Confidente that as the contact tracing and mass testing continues at the facility, they are bracing themselves for more officials being placed in quarantine.

“We have a staff strength of about 150 personnel at the facility. Now, we are at 61. We’re waiting for quarantine resulting from others who have already tested positive. In fact, we are being even stricter about this. They are coming from. They are not given information to see things on the radio and they do not feel safe around them,” he stated.

Shaalulange added that they are trying to explore all possible measures to ensure that security is not compromised at the facility while trying to deal with the pandemic.

According to him, measures that they are looking at include encouraging staff not to take leave while calling back those who were already on leave.

“Testing is still going on and everything is very much in the hands of the Ministry of Health. It will take time to complete,” he added.

Samantha Kaumo

The security risk, “he stated.

The other two already tested positive and are offenders. Since seen a total of 83 isolated. Consequently, the correctional services central staff are making effective arrangements to handle the situation. They have also raised their alarm for more staff to be on duty. They are making sure that security is not compromised.

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Samantha Kaumo
For urgent attention, please.

Environmental Consultants: Risk-Based Solutions (RBC) cc
Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Dr. Sindilo Mwiya
ECC Application Reference Nr.'s: App-001566 & App-001567
ML Nr. 195 and ML Nr. 190

Subject: Input, Objections, Concerns, Comments & Sentiments from Bianca Foelscher (Community Activist)
P.O. Box 67 Kanibib Tel. (064) 550109 on Background Information Documents (BID’s) for:

i) Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the Mining Licence (ML) Nr. 190 Kanibib District
   Proponent: Bohale Investment cc

ii) Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the Mining Licence (ML) Nr. 195 Kanibib District
   Proponent: Bohale Investment cc

6/7/2020 Kanibib
Concerns and Comments from Bianca Foelscher/Navibib regarding the BID (Background Information) for the Environmental Clearance Certificate for ML190 + ML195

Proponent: Bohale Investment cc 6th July, 2020

Objection:

I hereby wish to object to the submission of the Application for the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) without having conducted the obligatory public consulting meetings. It should be noted that the public consultation meetings are of primary concern, with regard to the socio-economic issues and matters with regard to any large scale industrial development, and it should be the very first step towards our governments aim of all inclusive Namibian society. Without these public meetings the affected communities and the general public remains being excluded from very important national decisions, of which some might even severely touch their very own livelihoods. Too much harm, both economical as well as environmental has already been done, and we cannot remain blindfolded towards the massive destruction and the abuse of the optical image of our most beautiful and very unique landscapes, simply for capitalistic gain and exploitation only. This is not future-orientated, and no more acceptable! The Namibian people have a right to know, what can be expected in return for the exploitation of our own natural resources by foreign investors!

Bottom line: No Public meetings, no Environmental Clearance
Certificate!

To support my argument, it now seems that the proponent want to take advantage of the Covid-19 situation, to bargain on pushing for fast forward Environmental Clearances and rather want to avoid the obligatory public meetings. This is completely unacceptable! We therefore demand for public meetings for the surrounding farmers, the Neuschwaben Small scale miners, as well as the Oljimbingue and Hanibib local communities, without any obstructive excuses whatsoever. This development will affect us all!

1) **Input — for Revenue Purpose**

Following the national concern about ongoing corruptive engagement and possible tax holidays for foreign investment conglomerates, especially in the mining sector, I would also like to request for the following specific information from this specific Group of Companies, just for the sake of transparent business ethics and policies.

i) A detailed breakdown of annual sales of dimension stone for their local as well as export sales, if possible for the last 10 years.

ii) A detailed list of taxation categories contributing to our national budget, i.e. what kind of taxes are being paid locally?

iii) What financial provision plan is in place, in the event of mine closure?

From experience we know, that many abandoned...
mining sites cannot be rehabilitated, because the extracting mining company claims bankruptcy. This is quite easily done. So emphasis should be put on this financial security responsibility right from the start of any serious mining business, to ensure sufficient financial resources for the mine closure/final phase!

iv) Also in the interest of the Namibian president's "All out War against Corruption" effort, and for the matter of genuine transparency towards the general public's concerns, will The Group supply a detailed breakdown of how specifically this N$600 million claimed investment in the Namibian economy was effective spend? Supporting the Spirit of the Paris Climate Agreement, transparency on our mining ventures carries an enormous weight in these days of highly turbulent and uncertain economical times. Economic as well as ecologic accountability should be of the highest standard at all times.

2) Concerns - Development Activities for each Phase (pg 20)
   (Environment, Social Responsibility and Socio-Economic Model)

i) In general, I strongly advocate for regular and updatable meetings with all interested and affected parties during each phase (pre-construction, construction and operation, ongoing monitoring and rehabilitation as well as decommissioning, closure and after-care). This fosters an all-inclusive and well-informed participation of all stakeholders, and should therefore not be compromised at any time at all!
i) While the proposed development activities look really good on paper, much more specific commitment towards effective socio-economic returns are expected here. What is the situation with contractual bindings, to keep effective trade and labour relations in tact, as well as the honest respect for our Namibian legislation? There is a demand for huge improvement flagged here in the direction of Chinese and some other foreign investors here.

iii) I furthermore fail to find the item "Implementation of Sustainable socio-economic Plan" both during the Construction Phase as well as during the Operations, Ongoing monitoring and Rehabilitation phase. This is just no justifiable at a time, where social and socio-economic matters are a daily burning issue. There must be a comprehensive and viable socio-economic plan for every phase, but especially for phase 2 and 3. Too much damaged has already been experienced and Namibians can longer afford to turn a blind eye towards such kind of ignorance or negligence for Namibia’s own benefits and own advantages from our very own natural resource wealth! i.e. What is the situation on Namibian employment, training and social benefits from these mega investment opportunities?

iv) Abandoning of Mining sites due to unforeseen interception of project prior to actual closure phase. — In these serious days of global financial turmoil and highly insecure economic times, we must at all times ensure to conduct highly precautionary principles towards any kind of possible financial and economic loss, should the mining site be abandoned or deserted before the planned closure or
decommissioning phase | time. What are the financial reserve plans to counteract such kind of negative impacts? We have many examples of deserted and abandoned quarry and mining sites in our own area (e.g. Onguati Mine, Palisandro Marble Quarry) where the new owner cannot be held responsible for those rehabilitation costs, while these sites remain a danger to our surrounding environment and wildlife for undefinable times. This is absolutely unacceptable, and must be prevented and taken care of right from the start.

Input, concerns and comments/sentiments from
Bianca Foelscher (Community Activist)
P.O. Box 67  Tel: 664/550 109  Karibib

cc: Erongo Regional Constituency Offices: Mrs. Katrina Shikongo
    Karibib Magistrate: Mrs. Mona Hayes
    Small-scale Mining Association
    Ombudsmen: Mr. John Walters
    Receiver of Revenue: Mr. Joseph Ngarongo
    Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism
    Ministry of Agriculture
    Ministry of Mines & Energy: Small-scale mining
    General Public
MINING
FROM PAGE 1

"They have also destroyed our grazing land on the farm, and we cannot control our livestock anymore since the fence has been removed," said the farmer.

"Their livestock is running on the busy road. They must put back the cattle grids, or fence off the entire road to the mine," the farmer continued.

Thomas Mushimba last week told The Namibian that the land was not given to him, but that they have an exclusive prospecting licence (EPL) over the farm, which allows his company to conduct exploration while waiting for the mining licence.

Mushimba said he was not involved in the farmland disputes. "We only have an EPL that allows us to do our exploration on the land," he stated.

"If there is anybody saying that they are the rightful owners of the farm, they are not telling the truth because the resettlement programme has not been finalised," he said.

Land reform minister Nujoma last week denied Mushimba's claims, saying that the farm still belonged to the state, and that those occupying it were doing so illegally.

Nujoma said his ministry was in the process of evicting illegal farmers on the land, and others who were conducting small-scale mining activities and temporarily grazing their livestock there.

The minister added that this would allow them to allocate subdivided farms to the "sincerely" identified farmers who applied through the resettlement programme.