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THE Nigeria Standard



FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 681

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021

N200

www.nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

ACF frowns at incessant attacks on Abuja-Kaduna highway

The apex northern sociocultural group, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has described the incessant killings along the Abuja-Kaduna highway by bandits as a national shame.

The forum added that it is becoming "agitated by the unrestrained acts of terrorism on the strategic highway between Abuja, the Federal Capital and Kaduna, the former capital of defunct Northern region."

In a statement on Monday, Emmanuel Yawe, the forum's spokesperson, said the trend is

"completely unacceptable" and asked the Kaduna and federal governments to wake up to their responsibilities.

He urged the government to save Nigerians from the daily nightmare on the road.

The group condemned the killing on Sunday of Alhaji Hamida Sagir, a retired Director of Protocol at the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and a governorship aspirant in Zamfara State.

Sagir was killed by bandits on the same besieged road, while several others were said to have been abducted.

The ACF lamented that both the Kaduna State and the federal government, which owns the highway, appear to be helpless in securing the lives on the road.

The ACF said it is worried

by the unrestrained acts of terrorism on the strategic highway between Abuja the Federal Capital and Kaduna the former capital of defunct Northern region.

"On a daily basis,

Nigerians are being terrorised, kidnapped and killed without let on this road. This is a national shame and completely unacceptable to our forum.

"The latest victim of this

act of terror is Alhaji Hamida Sagir, a retired Director of Protocol at the Federal Capital Development Authority FCDA and a governorship aspirant in Zamfara State who was shot and killed at Rijana.

"Indeed Rijana has become a popular spot where these terrorist

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Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo (right) putting heads together with the Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong last weekend during the graduation ceremony of SEC 43, 2021 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Jos South LGA PHOTO: DOPPA's OFFICE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, JOS

Senate uncovers N16bn illegally stuck in 2022

THE Senate Committee on Environment has uncovered about N16 billion naira said to have been included in the 2022 budget by the Ministry of Environment for servicing of debts, believed to have been collected by the state governments and not the federal government.

The Chairman Senate

Committee on Environment, Senator Ike Ekweremadu who dropped the hint during the presentation of his committee's report before the Senate Committee on Appropriation in Abuja.

Senator Ekweremadu expressed dissatisfaction that similar money of about N6 billion naira was included in 2021 budget, but the ministry of

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APC National Convention holds in February

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) has agreed to conduct its national convention by February, 2022.

The Governor of Kebbi State, Atiku Bagudu announced this after a

meeting with the President Muhammadu Buhari at the Presidential Villa, Abuja on Monday.

Accompanied by the Chairman of APC national caretaker committee and Governor of Yobe State,

Mai Mala Buni as well as the Governor of Jigawa State, Abubakar Badaru, the Kebbi Governor told state house correspondents that the meeting was to convey the decision arrived at by the

Progressives Governors forum on Sunday night.

He noted that the governors resolved that the convention should be held in February 2022 and the same suggestion was made to the president for approval.

Following President Buhari's approval, Bagudu affirms that the national caretaker committee will now work out the other details.

He further disclosed that a specific date has not yet been decided on but the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) will be given notification while a time table is worked out.

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Ekweremadu

NCC warns Nigerians over activities of fraudsters

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has warned Nigerians over the activities of fraudsters on the prowl to swindle members of the public by capitalising on the generosity of David Adedeji Adeleke, known as Davido.

NCC in a statement by its Director, Public Affairs, Dr Ikechukwu Adinde said a

group of scammers rolled out an advertorial titled "Davido Airtime and Data Giveaway", which went viral, claiming that Davido is "giving out free 5K Airtime and 10GB Internet data of All Networks" to celebrate his birthday.

"The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has discovered while undertaking online social

listening that an ostensibly syndicated group is on the prowl to swindle unsuspecting members of the public, particularly millions of Nigerian telecom consumers, by capitalising on the generosity of David Adedeji Adeleke, widely known as Davido.

"The Nigerian-American music star, songwriter and producer recently

announced he would donate 250 million naira to various orphanage homes across Nigeria.

"Exploiting Davido's benevolence, a group of scammers rolled out an advertorial titled "Davido Airtime and Data Giveaway", which went viral, claiming that Davido is "giving out free 5K Airtime and 10GB Internet

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News

Senate uncovers N16bn illegally stuck in 2022

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Environment was queried by the committee, only for it to be brought back in the next year's budget, this time to the tune of N16 billion naira.

He said the loan was approved by a world institution for states government in the country and not for the Federal, with a moratorium of ten years before the states government would begin the initiation of payment of the loan and wondered why the ministry keeps reflecting it in each year's budget cycle.

He urged the committee on Appropriation to write to the Ministry of Finance to find ways of retrieving the 16 billion naira.

Fielding questions from newsmen, Senator Ekweremadu who failed to mention the states that collected the loan said he forsee a grand plot to defraud the Federal Government.

Ekweremadu who was also the former Deputy Senate President expressed confidence that the Senate Committee on Appropriation would get to the root of the matter and handle the case in the best interest of Nigerians.

Also speaking on the effort to control desertification, he said about six hundred and ninety two million trees are to be planted in eleven states of the North to check desertification in the region.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu explained further that the trees planting would be funded by the Great Green Wall initiative.

He stressed that the initiative has no time frame attached to it, noting that the idea was aimed at addressing issues associated with desertification in the country.

The Chairman Senate

ACF frowns at incessant attacks on Abuja

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attacks are committed on a daily and routine basis.

"This is a challenge that the security agencies must overcome. We are worried that everyday Nigerians are attacked at this same spot and our security men seem helpless in sorting out the security problems that make such attacks on the same spot easy", the group lamented.

The group commiserated with the immediate family of the slain Sagir Hamida and the Zamfara State government, just as it prayed Almighty Allah to give them the fortitude to bear the tragedy.

Committee on Appropriation Senator Jibrin Barau expressed satisfaction with the report and commended the Committee on Environment for a job well done.

Similarly the Chairman Senate Committee on Army Senator Ali Ndume also presented his report before the committee while calling for the prompt release of funds

allocated for the Army to buy weapons to win the war against insurgency and Banditry.

He urged the Committee on Appropriation to increase the capital fund allocated to Nigeria Army in the budget proposal.

Senator Ali Ndume said wars are not fought with bare hands, and called on the government to change its funding approach on the Army.

APC National Convention holds in February

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Governor Buni took over the APC leadership in June 2020 following the dissolution of the party's National Working Committee (NWC) led by former Edo State Governor, Adams Oshiomhole.

Amid the crisis that hit the party at the national level at the time, the APC National Executive Council met and resolved to dissolve the NWC based on the recommendations of the President.

The party, thereafter, appointed Governor Buni to head the Caretaker Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee (CECPC), and he was immediately sworn in by

the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) Abubakar Malami.

While addressing party leaders at the meeting, President Buhari had called for the immediate suspension of all pending litigations involving the APC and its members.

He informed party chieftains at the meeting

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data of All Networks" to celebrate his birthday.

"In the advertorial, the general public is urged to hurry and get the gift by clicking on the links that supposedly redirect them to network sites, where they will be credited with airtime and data. This is a scam.

"The NCC wishes to advise our teeming telecom consumers to have nothing to do with the

that mutating disagreements could lead to the self-destruction of the party with dire consequences.

The caretaker committee was directed to take over the leadership of the APC pending when a convention would be conducted to elect a new set of national officers of the ruling party.

WAEC raises exam fee from N13,950 to N18,000

THE West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has increased its examination fee per candidate from N13,950 to N18,000 for the 2022 West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

Head of WAEC National

Office (HNO), Mr. Patrick Areghan, announced this yesterday while addressing reporters on the release of this year's WASSCE at the council's office in Yaba, Lagos.

Areghan said the increase became necessary because of rising costs the

NCC warns Nigerians over activities of fraudsters

advert or any similar bogus enticements. The adverts are what they are – social engineering rip-offs designed to get people's MSISDN and other information that fraudsters can use later to defraud unsuspecting telecom consumers and members of the public.

"For clarity, the MSISDN is simply the full phone number of a cellphone, in addition to other protocol information. This number is unique and identifies subscribers/owners in a GSM or other mobile networks. Therefore, it suffices to state that any unscrupulous person or unethical hacker can use the number and attendant protocol to undermine the

privacy of the real owners of the number through identity theft and other scams.

"The NCC, therefore, reiterates its earlier warning to telecom consumers to be cautious and not to let their guards down. If a promo or an offer seems too good to be true, then it is likely untrue.

"The Commission will not rest on its oars in empowering telecom consumers with the requisite information and education in order to protect them from cybercriminals determined to use the telecom platforms to perpetrate frauds", the statement reads.

examination body was incurring in conducting its examinations.

"We have received approval from the appropriate quarters, with effect from the WASSCE for school candidates 2022, to charge N18,000 per candidate. We are,

therefore, asking all school principals to collect N18,000 per candidate for registration. A part of this new fee has been dedicated to the enhancement of the remunerations for the various examination functionaries," he said.

Areghan announced that 81.7 per cent of the candidates who took the 2021 WASSCE for school candidates made Credit passes in five subjects, including English and Mathematics.

It is the first time in more than one decade that Nigeria has recorded such performance.

The WAEC HNO said of the 1,560,261 Senior Secondary (SS) 3 candidates who sat for the examination, 1,274,784 achieved the minimum benchmark needed for admission into the university.

Of the number, 630,138 (49.43 per cent) were males, while 644,646 (50.57 per cent) were females.

Dengi constituency described Idris Gambo as an experienced Surveyor, seasoned politician and a round peck in a round hole who will add a lot of value to good governance in Plateau State.

Responding to questions raised by the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel on how he will bring his wealth of experience to bare regarding the political crisis in Kanam and the issue of youth restiveness as a result of

unemployment, he said carrying everyone along and engaging the youths in various skills acquisition through SMEs is the way out.

Presenting the last nominee before the House, Hon. Philip Peter Dasun representing Pankshin North constituency described Hirkop who has served as Special Adviser to a former governor and having over twenty nine years experience in tax administration as one who will contribute immensely to the economic and development of the state.

PLHA confirms three commissioner nominees

By PAULINE DALLONG

PLATEAU State House of Assembly (PLHA) has during Tuesday's plenary, approved the confirmation of three nominees as commissioners and members of the state executive council, following the request made by the state Governor, Simon Bako Lalong.

They are Honourables Brian Bintim Dadi from Langtang North, Idris Gambo from Kanam and Philip Dan Hirkop from Pankshin Local Government Area.

While reading the citation for Hon. Dadi, the member representing Shendam constituency Hon Livinus Kwapfuan described the nominee as a straight forward and honest person whose wealth of experience in the teaching profession is an added advantage to the state.

Hon Dadi who is a graduate of Public Administration from the University of Jos, was born in Langtang North in 1963 and has served the local government in various capacities as management committee chairman,



Sanda

chairman and member representing Langtang North in the state assembly.

In a motion moved by the member representing Jos North-North constituency Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan and seconded by the member representing Wase constituency Hon. Yahaya Adamu Mavo representing Wase constituency, Baba Hassan opined that based on the House tradition of giving prominence to former members, he should take a bow and leave.

On his part, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong who is the Deputy Speaker and member representing

FG to pay 40 million poor Nigerians N5,000

THE federal government has designed measures to cushion the negative impact of the removal of

the subsidies on the most vulnerable 40% of the population ahead of the target date of mid-2022 for the complete elimination of fuel subsidies.

One of such measures would be to institute a monthly transport subsidy in the form of cash transfer of N5,000 to between 30 to 40 million deserving Nigerians.

Minister of Finance Budget and National Planning Mrs Zainab Ahmed made this disclosure in Abuja on Tuesday at the launch of the Nigeria Development Update.

According to the finance ministry, "with the



Zainab

*****PROBATE NOTICE*******IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA IN THE PROBATE DIVISION**

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first column hereunder died intestate on the date and place state in the said column:

AND WHEREAS the person whose name (s) and addresses and relations to the deceased are set out in the second column hereto has/have applied to the High Court of Plateau State for a grant of letter of Administration of the Real and Personal properties/ estate of the said deceased:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a **"NOTICE TO PROHIBIT"** the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty-one (21) days from the date hereof:

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Habu Adamu Shindai late of Plateau State died on the 22nd June, 2017. At Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Dalhatu Habu Shindai of Fubuna Jos, Plateau State lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Eplong Anna late of Plateau State died on the 7th June 2021 at Shendam LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Jecinta Tuamtsen of Behind Villa Guest Inn Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Apanpa Nimotalahi Ajile late of Plateaus State died on the 11th June 2021 at Osun	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Jimoh Hassan Adigun Babalola of No. 32T Giring Abattoir Jos Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Laitu Coley Daya late of Plateau State died 27th August 2020 at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Manji Coley Daya No. 80A West of Mines Jos North, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: L/C John Zwanbin late of Plateau State died on the 2nd January 2021 at Shendam LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Geofrey Zwanbin of Hekan Church Mabudi Langtang South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Tijani Sallau Sallau late of Plateau State died on the 22nd September 2016 at Jos Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Tijani Jamila of C Division Barracks Bauchi Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Firep Danladi Amos late of Plateau State died on the 9th July 2020 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Amos Alexander Vilde of Opposite St. Gabriel Catholic Church Anglo Jos, Plateau State Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Ruth Dang late of Plateau State died on the 8th December 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Dang Deborah Anafor & Dang Dahmawur Jim of Nyanya FCT Abuja & Zaramaganda Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful sister/nephew of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Dokgak Gowok Goden late of Plateau State died on the 10th March, 2017. At Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Gowok Ritkatmwa Gowok of Near Pangtumu Royal Hotel Congo Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Hamse Makeri Lamido late of Plateau State died on the 2nd January 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Victor Hamse Makeri Lamido & Polycarp Hamse Makeri Lamido of No.6 12th Avenue Fed. Low-Cost, Jos Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Chukwura Madueke late of Plateau State died on the 27th September 2021 at Bingham, Jos.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Madueke Nkoli Collins of No.2 now No 3 of Old Airport Boulevard Jos Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Haruna Ibrahim late of Plateau State died on the 13th Aug, 2019. At Mangu, LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Haruna Dan Mangsok of Kwaghas Lahir Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Simon Rike late of Plateau State died on the 21st January 2021 at General Hospital Langtang LGA Plateau State	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Habila Simon Rike of Pajat Langtang North LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Solomon Micheal Alabi late of Plateau State died on the 27th February 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Christopher Solomon of Shen Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Ohadike Peter late of Plateau State died on the 20th July, 2021, at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Irene Obioha Ifeanyi of Central Junction, Rukuba Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Danlami Shedrach late of Plateau State died on the 28th September 2021 at Langtang South LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Panshak Peter Dasen Tingpol Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Bulus Gwom late of Plateau State died on the 16th August 2021 at PHC Clinic Foron Barakin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Gwom Tommy Bulus of Near LEA Primary School Kugot Fan District B/Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: SGT. Yilji James late of Yobe State died on the 4th March, 2020, at Gen. Hosp. Dapchi.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Gozhak Yilchini Joseph of Gindiri Theological Seminary mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Petdiem Mathew Mualakdas late of Plateau State died on the 1st January 2020 at Shendam LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Mualakdas George of opposite GSS Shendam Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Umar Isa late of Plateau State died on the 1st September 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Sadiya Umar Halimatu of No. 29/8 Bauchi Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Markus Akpi Adik late of Plateau State died on the 18th March, 2021, at Zagun, Bassa LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Akpi Anko Adik of c/o ECWA Zagun, Bassa LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Patricia Yako Tali late of Plateau State died on the 14th September 2007 at Mikang Clinic Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Miriam Chuhwak Zongo of High Court of Justice Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Christopher Ugo Ogbudo late of Osun Lagos State died on the 13th March 2015 at Molabi Hospital Isheri-Osun.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Regina Chris Ogbodo of No 35 Yemi Ogunleye Isheri Osun, Ikotun Lagos State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Ibrahim Garba late of Plateau State died on the 15th July, 2021, at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Jamila Isah Abubakar of Sarki Arab Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Isaac Bako late of Plateau State died on the 20th April 2021 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Bako Gimbiya of Opp. Army Engineer Hwollaz Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Prof Emmanuel Stephen Mador late of Plateau State died on the 31st August 2021 at BHUTH Jos Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Mador Jummai Emmanuel of Block 1, Flat 1 University of Jos Staff Quarters, Jos. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Sawntong Sunday Ibrahim late of Kaduna State died on the 20th Aug, 2021, at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Sawntong Hamtong Sunday Old Government House Favwle Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Usaini Dalhatu late of Bauchi State died on the 14th August 2021 at Tilden Fulani, Bauchi State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Aliyu Useni of Tilden Fulani Toro LGA, Bauchi State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: ASP. Emmanuel Tobias late of Nasarawa State died on the 10th December 2020 at Mararaba Medical Centre, Nasarawa State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Emmanuel Joseph Chuwang of Dwei Shen, Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Audu Bako late of Plateau State died on the 16th Jan, 2021, at Gen. Hosp. Langtang.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Jamima Abdullahi Bako of Wase Tofa Wase LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Njoku Gloria Amara late of Plateau State died on the 25th April 2021 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Njoku Dennis Chigozie of Utan/Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Husband of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Donatus Adama Ameh late of Plateau State died on the 30th December 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Ameh Adama Dorathy of No. 16 Kufang Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Bitrus Haruna late of Abuja FCT died on the 12th Sept, 2021, at Abuja, FCT.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Lucky Haruna & Alheri Haruna Bitrus of Police Old Barrack K/Vom Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Wallem Thaddeus late of Plateau State died on the 17th August 2021 at Shendam LGA Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Thaddeus Jacob Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	(LADI A. MADAKI), PROBATE REGISTRAR, PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS			
				NAME OF DECEASED PERSON: Kieran Oko Eneji late of Plateau State died on the 11th Sept, 2021. At BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS Eneji Peter Eneji No. 14 A Agingi., Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.



Business & Economy

Petrol subsidy: FG to continue bridging cost payment

THE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), Engr Farouk Ahmed has disclosed that the Federal Government will continue to pay the cost of bridging petrol to ensure its availability across the country.

Ahmed in a statement at the weekend explained that the authority will also offset all the bridging verified claims by all the stakeholders in the distribution of Premium Motor Spirit (petrol) in the country.

He assured petroleum tanker drivers and other stakeholders that the authority was determined to continue the payment of bridging rate to ensure effective distribution of products nationwide.

The CEO also revealed that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited has stopped charging in dollars for their shipping services.

He also disclosed that both the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) were expected to also begin to charge for their services in Naira very soon as the two agencies of government have started engaging the Ministry of Transportation to get necessary approval.

Ahmed urged indebted marketers that collect bridging levies provided for in the pricing template to remit such deductions to enable the authority pay outstanding claims.

Ahmed had at the weekend insisted that the current petrol pump price would remain for now with the expected high rate of travels during the festive period.

Presently, petrol sells at N162/163 per litre in most major petrol stations with independent marketers selling at N165/litre.

He assured consumers that there would be no price increase in the immediate future.

According to him, "I will like to assure everybody that it is mere speculation. There will be no increase in the pump price, not in the near future. This is peak consumption period for Nigerians. Our focus must be on the average Nigerian who is on the street."

"People will be travelling



Sylva

now and so you don't increase pump price arbitrarily like that. So the pump price will be maintained and Nigerians should feel free to travel", he added.

He however pointed out, "But having said that, yes

there are issues. Last two weeks, for the first time, we had every major player under the same roof. They raised the issues, the issues were addressed as much as we could and we all left with happy faces and handshakes.

"This is the way forward for now. The NNPC was represented by as high as the Group Executive Director, Downstream, who assured that there will be sufficient supply during this period.

"And even on the dollar payment issue, they (NNPC) conceded to take freight in Naira. This is because as we know the dollar issue is critical. So I will like to assure everybody that there will be no pump price increase", he stated.

FG to grow states export capacity to \$1.2bn

THE Federal Government, through the National Action Committee on African Continental Free Trade Agreement, said recently that the first of its strategic goals under the AfCFTA implementation plan is to grow the export capacity of every state to the tune of \$1.2bn with a focus on products that have a competitive advantage.

The Secretary of NAC-AfCFTA, Francis Anatogu, who disclosed this in Abuja at a press briefing, said over the past year, the committee had embarked on sensitisation efforts around the country to educate stakeholders on the objectives and benefits of the AfCFTA agenda.

He said the efforts had also enabled the



Adebayo

government to gain valuable insight that had guided it in the development of the AfCFTA

NIGERIA'S leading commodities exchange, **AFEX**, has said that it is partnering with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria, (SON) to strengthen commodity standards in the country.

The initiative was announced at a workshop in Kano on Saturday.

The exchange said the initiative will aid the development and adoption of a grading and standardisation system that follows international best practices.

The workshop, titled 'Commodity Standards Sensitization', brought together stakeholders including government agencies, farmer groups, processors, agriculture commodity exporters, merchants/off-takers, collateral managers,

implementation plan.

According to him, the plan has been completed and is currently undergoing adoption by the relevant public sector stakeholders.

Anatogu said the activities had also led to the realisation that for the AfCFTA to be truly successful in Nigeria, there was a great need for the national strategy to be cascaded down to the sub-national level with state governments playing a major role.

He said, "The first of the strategic goals in the implementation plan is to grow export capacity of every state to the tune of \$1.2bn with a focus on products where there is a competitive advantage."

AFEX partners SON on commodity standards sensitization

development partners, and other agriculture experts.

The stakeholders gathered to provide input on the commodity standards and also identify the challenges of the existing framework, to develop a roadmap for a vibrant ecosystem.

In his address, Kano State Deputy Governor, Nasiru Gawuna, said that commodities exchanges can serve as a key catalyst for the development of critical sectors because it offers a credible platform for trading and facilitating the export of commodities.

Mr Gawuna, who represented Governor Umar Ganduje noted that to record success, commodities must conform with internationally accepted standards.

He noted that seeking to enhance agricultural productivity of small and medium-scale farmers will improve value addition along three priority value chains of rice, wheat and tomato through the Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support Project (APPEALS).

The Chief Executive Officer, AFEX, Ayodeji Balogun said: "We are building a trust economy



Yuguda

in which you receive exactly what you pay for. Having such a market enables liquidity, pricing transparency, and more contracts, options, and marginalized services to processors and investors. Future price stabilization will be achieved in this manner."

The Director-General of SEC, Lamido Yuguda said it is globally recognised that a unique feature of a commodities exchange is the standardisation of the commodities traded on its platform. He noted that the establishment of relevant standards would be transformational for the Nigerian commodities trading ecosystem.

eNaira'll work with other countries' digital currencies -CBN

THE Central Bank of Nigeria has said that the implementation of the country's digital currency will be done in four phases and also lead to the interoperability of the eNaira with those of other central banks.

The Director, Information Technology Department, CBN, Mrs Rakiya Mohammed, said this at the licensed payment service providers' engagement session in Lagos on Monday, as part of further interaction with a broader category of industry players, according to a statement.

The statement said the CBN and key stakeholders in the payments system

ecosystem, particularly the PSPs and a large community of fintech groups, during the one-day engagement session, resolved to work together to ensure more adoption of the recently launched eNaira.

"The full implementation of the eNaira would be done in four phases, culminating in offline eNaira payments solutions, cross-border payment and interoperability of the eNaira with those of other central banks," Mohammed said.

She clarified that the CBN was neither competing with the Deposit Money Banks nor other actors in the Nigerian payment system

environment.

Mohammed said the engagement was in continuation of the CBN's strategy to bring all stakeholders on board, noting that the apex bank was open to suggestions and innovation aimed at adding value to the eNaira and improving the user experience.

She urged the payment service providers (including the large community of fintech groups) to find more innovative ways to support members of the public, where possible, in the onboarding process and use of eNaira as well as develop solutions for offline



Imifele

eNaira functions, including cards, wearables and USSD.

While urging the licensed PSPs to create additional use cases for the eNaira, she tasked licensed PSPs to create additional products and services across the full spectrum of the financial system using eNaira.

The statement said representatives of the different stakeholder groups welcomed the introduction of the eNaira and expressed support for its adoption and use.

They also made value-adding proposals for the market and integration process to drive financial inclusion by bridging the gap between the banked and the unbanked.



Business & Economy



'Studying and running business is possible'

RUNNING a business in your spare time requires a huge amount of discipline from the outset. you need to identify the period during which you can concentrate on your business, and the period during which you need to focus on your studies, and stick to those plans. PIRITMWA THOMAS DADA writes.

TRY to plan around examination time and assignment handins. Remember that you will be taken away from your business and that you will need to work this into your medium term planning and goal setting. If you are to succeed in both business and studies, you need to maintain the discipline necessary to separate these two lives while devoting enough time to each. That is running a business, keeping up with your studies, and perhaps, working a part-time job is possible.

This combination will be exhausting. It is important to understand your limits, and to organise when you cannot do it all. For many entrepreneurs, education remains a key priority. It is wise to secure the best grades and they can, while still giving their business the push it deserves.

You should understand, though, that this may require you to make sacrifices elsewhere in life. You are likely, for example, to be able to live the classic student lifestyle. While this may not sound like a big deal, it is important that you recognise the impact that running a business will have on the rest of your life.

It is likely that your university offers a range of services and facilities for startup business.

Many campuses now include business incubators which offer space and support for new firms. These can be a key means by which startups get the help they need in their formative periods. Even if there is no incubators at your University, there will most certainly be other facilities to help you get your venture off the ground.

You may be able to seek advice from business mentors, or even just use the library to conduct research for a business plan. You might also consider joining a business society, in which you may be able to rub minds with like-minded entrepreneurs to swap ideas.

With the launch of the startup loans company, non-bank businesses finance is easier than ever for young people to come by. Start-up loans are generally extended on the basis of the strength of the application, although they do still check credit history, and they are actively aimed at young entrepreneurs.

These may therefore seem like an appealing proposition for students, starting a business.

However, some start-up loans and delivery partners have been criticized, for targeting university students too aggressively. You should remember that taking on debt of this sort is a major commitment. Although startup loans are backed by the government, they are not grant; you will need to pay them back. You should remember that taking on the debt of this sort is a major commitment. One of the great advantages of running a business as a student is that it gives you the opportunity to try, fail. This might not sound like a good thing, but in reality failure can be hugely valuable experience. Although you should, of course treat your business with exactly the same care and respect as you would if it were a full time pursuit, Running a firm as a student provides, you with the full -back of the qualifications you're gaining as a student. And, potentially, a part-time job is safer environment usually without the responsibilities of a mortgage and other commitments you may have after graduating.

The benefits of working while studying includes:

- . Student will earn an income
- . Provides student with a sense of independence and maturity
- . Nurturing your soft skills
- . Gaining valuable work experience at an early age
- . making valuable connections and relationships
- . Provides you with a head start in the job market.

Students learn a lot of skills when they're exposed to a working environment. Soft skills, such as good communication and decision-making, usually come in handy when your career kicks off and can be great to use in your resume.

To a select few, such skills come naturally.

Why students need to start working while studying in college.

It can help them avoid debt. When working while in college, it is an excellent chance for one to get off debt.

Learners get valuable job experience. Earn better time management skills.

Helps improve student's grades.

Exercising self-care can end low on your priority list. You may neglect your health and end up getting sick which will cause you

to miss school and work with detrimental consequences.

Advantages of working while studying include working is one of the best ways to sharpen your skills and make a name for yourself. Achieving success on time job can boost your self-confidence. If you're a gifted and talented student, you might want to be math tutor, guitar instructor, photographer, web designer or landscaper. You could use your imagination and think really big.

Gaining real-world experience can help you narrow down your list of possible career choices.

Disadvantages of working while studying

A part-time job can be less of a benefit and more of a distraction for the typical student. You won't make a lot of money working minimum wages jobs, especially after you factor in transportation cost, meals and work clothes.

Consider your kind of job before it affects your grades. The aim then would have been defeated. You won't have time for all that if your work shift starts right after school. Why risk your future for a few more naira each week.

Dada is an IT student with THE NIGERIA STANDARD

Politics

Senate to pass 2022 Appropriation Bill

SENATE President Ahmad Lawan has disclosed that the National Assembly will pass the 2022 Appropriation Bill before Christmas.

Lawan made the disclosure recently while receiving the New Telegraph's Lifetime Achievement Award in Politics, alongside other Nigerians who had distinguished themselves in public service and the private sector.

"This is my fourth term in the Senate; when we came in 2019, our colleagues decided to give us the opportunity to serve them. As a member, I have never seen a Senate chamber that is so united, determined and focused on achieving great deeds of legislation and development for our dear nation as this.

"The ninth Senate and indeed the ninth National Assembly has recorded great successes and that is not to say that we have no differences, we all decided that this time around, we must work for Nigeria together in spite of our political dispositions.

"It is in this regard that we have said that the 2022 appropriation budget would be passed before Christmas so the executive would begin to act on it in the following year," Lawan said.

He also said criminals should be made to face the full wrath of the law and not enjoy any special support from any ethnic group.

The Senate President advised Nigerians to remain united to be able to fight insecurity.

He said, "Crime committed by anyone is crime. If someone from an ethnic group commits a crime, he is a criminal. Is that not what he is? The country is supposed to fight against that person. Criminals should not enjoy any support from any group, even if it is from their ethnic group.

"Nigeria faces security challenges, but I feel there is determination by all levels of government to fight the insecurity that we face.

"In some areas, we succeeded; in others, we are still working hard to succeed. What is important is for us to think to remain focused, undivided and united as a



Lawan

people," he said.

Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said while receiving an award for good governance of the Year 2021, that he dedicates it to the over 22 million Nigerians living in the State.

"Indeed it is an honour and every sense of humility that I receive this award on behalf of the entire 22 million Lagosians who continue to support our government, who continue

to see that indeed the journey of a greater Lagos is on course, who continue to bear with the little inconveniences of all of the infrastructure that we are doing.

"I also dedicate it to them for continuing to believe that their hope is not lost on us and those who continue to encourage us to do more that is required, I want to thank all of you," he said.

Godwin Emefiele, Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, said while receiving the Number One Banker of the year award, that he believed the award was a drive for him and his team to do more to better the country.

"I think it will be an impetus for us and the team around me to continue to do the work for the betterment of the bank, the country and all Nigerians," he said.

Gov. Sule to appoint women into cabinet

GOVERNOR Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State has promised to appoint three Women in his next cabinet to be constituted anytime from now.

Responding to a request by the State's Women Leader of the All Progressives Congress Mrs. Elsie Monday during a thanksgiving service and celebration of the State Chairman of the APC, Mr. John D.W. Mamman, in Dari village of Kokona Local Governments Area, the Governor assured that he has granted the request.

He explained that out of the three Commissionership slots to be given one each would be allocated to the three Senatorial districts across the State.

Sule who stated that he had earlier decided to give up to five seats but since the Woman Leader requested for only three, he has granted their request.

"Earlier I have planned to give five seats but since you requested for three, it is hereby granted," he said jokingly.

The Governor then assured that his administration would continue to attach a great

significance and honour to the remarkable contributions of Women in both political and socio-economic activities.

He stated that it was even based on such recognition that his administration has appointed many women in various positions and would continue to patronize their services as well as empower them in many more ways to enable them contribute meaningfully to the



Sule

GOVERNORS of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) held a closed-door meeting recently in Abuja.

Sources say that the meeting was under the aegis of the Progressives Governors Forum (PGF) to discuss some knotty issues affecting the party at the moment as Nigeria prepares for the next round of national elections in 2023.

Present at the meeting were the host governor and chairman of the group, Abubakar Bagudu of Kebbi State, his counterparts from Kwara, Imo, Borno, Ebonyi, Lagos and Zamfara.

Other governors were from Niger, Ogun, Cross River, Kogi, Nasarawa, Katsina, Plateau, Ekiti, Jigawa and Kano, while others were still being expected.

The meeting was essentially called to discuss the party's national convention, zoning arrangement, direct primary and other issues.

2023: APC governors meet over zoning, direct primaries, others



Bagudu

The PGF, at its meeting of November 9, had said adopting direct primaries by political parties would overstretch the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The National Assembly adopted Section 87 of the amended Electoral Bill currently awaiting the

assent of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The section stipulates mandatory direct primaries for all political parties.

However, at PGF's last meeting, Bagudu said that INEC's decision to make it mandatory for political parties to elect their candidates for elective positions through direct primaries was undemocratic.

According to him, it will limit parties' ability to choose their desired options.

Direct primaries involve the participation of all party members in the selection of candidates.

In contrast, indirect primaries involves delegates who are mostly leaders and executives at the ward, local government and state levels to elect the party's candidates at congress or convention.

Chairman pledges to discharge responsibility with fairness

THE Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Nasarawa State Mr. John D.W. Mamman has pledged to discharge his responsibilities

with the spirit of equity, justice and fairness to all with

development of the State and the country at large.

While appealing to them to continue to contribute their quota in both politics and other aspects of human endeavours, the Governor re-assured that they would be carried along with a view to ensure justice to all.

He then commended the APC Women Leader for championing the cause of her constituency (the Women) which he believes is a good and caring representation.

a view to continue to earn the confidence and support from both his creator and the teeming party supporters from across the State.

Speaking with newsmen after the thanksgiving service and celebration on his election as Chairman of the party in his country home Dari in Kokona Local Government Area, the Chairman assured that he would in the course of leading the party ensure that he carries everyone along.

He stated that the party under his watch would strive to provide a level playing ground to all especially now that the 2023 general election is just around the corner.

Mamman who expressed gratitude to the teeming supporters and stakeholders of the APC in the State for the confidence reposed in him, assured that on his part, he would continue to do his best in upholding such trust especially that he emerged through a consensus.

According to him, the thanksgiving service and celebrations were organized to thank God for the honour done to him and to re-assure him and all the people concerned that he would use his position to serve God and humanity in return.

The APC Chairman however appealed to the people especially the teeming supporters of the party to always show understanding and maturity while seeking for any political position especially that in every contest it is only one person that would emerge the winner not all.

"Since in every contest for a particular position, even if



Buni

there are ten or more people vying for it, only one would get it at a time hence the need for all to show maturity and a spirit of sportsmanship becomes highly imperative," he said.

The Chairman who was full of praises for Governor Abdullahi Sule, Senator Abdullahi Adamu as well as other stakeholders and teeming supporters of the APC for their support and encouragement promised to do his best to justify the confidence reposed in him.

The Chairman has also assured that the APC-led administration, both at the State and local government councils levels, would be guided to provide meaningful developmental programmes and projects that would enable the people to reap the dividends of democracy in full.

Based on that, he solicited for the support and co-operation of the people of the State to enable them succeed in the task of discharging their duties.

Politics

Why I championed direct primaries - Gbajabiamila

FEMI Gbajabiamila, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, has said that deliberate efforts must be made to prepare the children and youth of Nigeria to become the leaders of tomorrow we desire them to be.

He said such efforts must include involving them in governance and expanding the democratic space to accommodate many young people.

A statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Lasisi Lanre, Monday noted that Gbajabiamila was speaking at the National Children's Dialogue to mark the 2021 Universal Children's Day in Abuja.

The Speaker explained that this was the reason he championed an amendment to the Electoral Bill, 2021 for the use of Direct Primaries by political parties as a method of choosing candidates for elective offices.

The dialogue had the theme, "The Nigerian Child and the National Unity Project."

Gbajabiamila added that with direct primaries, a youth with leadership qualities had equal chances of becoming a candidate for an elective office just like any other person.

He noted that this was one of the surest ways of securing the future of Nigeria, by giving people with multiple ideas the opportunity to be at the very top of governance.

According to him, "That debate on direct primaries, which I championed, is about the future of our country. Our position in the 9th House of Representatives is that everyone must have equal opportunities to participate in governance and the democratic process..."

"Our young people must have a seat at the high table and we must create the enabling environment for them to be in leadership such that, a young man with bold ideas can come out to vie for any position, be it legislator, governor or any other office. That can only be achieved through direct primaries, which will give a fair chance to the youth of this country to be involved in governance."

Gbajabiamila further called for huge investment in youth education, particularly technology, which the speaker said had transformed the world from what it used to be into a global village, delivering services and innovations at an unprecedented speed.

He added that, "Technology has changed



Gbajabiamila

our world. We no longer exist in communal or national silos but as part of a broad fabric of humanity in a global village where opportunities and challenges abound. In this new world where a child with a computer and internet connection in Lagos can compete for jobs in Texas or Bombay, our job as leaders is to ensure that every Nigerian child is educated and empowered to compete in and succeed in this global marketplace of ideas and talent."

However, Gbajabiamila told the session that to deliver on this obligation, all hands should be on the deck to make Nigeria a peaceful place to live, as securing the future means tackling the myriads of security challenges bedevilling the country squarely to bequeath a safe nation to our children.

"Peace is a necessary condition for development and progress. The present insecurity and the rampaging uncertainty it creates across the land represent the single biggest threat to the wellbeing of our nation's children and the security of their future."

IPAC hails confirmation of PLASIEC chairman, commissioners

THE Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Plateau state chapter, has commended the State House of Assembly, for its confirmation of the State Independent Electoral Commission (PLASIEC), chairman and his members.

It also urged the House of Assembly, to speedily work for the passage of the 2022 budget proposal pending before assembly for the benefit of the state.

The Plateau State House of Assembly, recently, confirmed earlier nominations of the the PLASIEC Chairman and Commissioners, for a second term.

IPAC in a press statement by its chairman, Hon. Abubakar Dogara, said the confirmation of Mr. Ntung

"We must wage the battle for peace with a warrior's resolve because everything depends on our victory over the forces that threaten our country and risk the future of our country", he stated.

To this end, the speaker informed the audience of the resolve of the House to continue to make legislative interventions that would help the executive to overcome the security challenges.

Gbajabiamila added, "The 9th House of Representatives has situated national security interventions at the top of our priorities in recognition of this. We have in the past year initiated legislative action to reform our national security infrastructure, improve funding for national security intervention and ensure effective oversight of resources allocated to protecting our country and defending our people from dangers within and external."

"We will continue in this regard because, as I said before, success in every other area depends on our success in this regard."

Speaking earlier, Salam explained the purpose of the project was to build exemplary children with all the qualities that would lead Nigeria to become a truly great country.

Northern Governors celebrate Buni @ 54

GOVERNORS of Nigeria's 19 Northern States have sent felicitations to celebrate one of their own, Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni on his 54th birthday.

The goodwill felicitations

GOVERNOR Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State has reaffirmed his earlier statement that there's no opposition party in the State as at now.

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri disclosed this to newsmen when he paid an unscheduled inspection visit on the grade interchange at the former police roundabout in Yola which has reached advanced stage of completion.

Fintiri also described some members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who are against government projects as not only enemies but organized noise makers that are out to distract the good people of the State".

"The APC according to Fintiri was given the opportunity to govern the State but they lost focus as they failed to utilize their tenure to change the lives of the people and put the state on the pedestal of development".

Says Fintiri, "I will continue to tell you that we only have noise makers in the state as far as we are concerned, there is no opposition in the State, I don't see them. I must tell you that APC are only people that make noise".

They were given this opportunity but they could not utilise it. They didn't even look at this state first for anything. We are less than three years in the office and people can see something tangible and meaningful projects on

'There's no opposition party in the state'

From
GYANG PAM, Yola



Fintiri

ground," he said.

On the ongoing projects in the State, Governor Ahmadu Fintiri reiterated his administration's determination to providing purposeful stewardship for the betterment of the people.

He said in line with his urban and rural renewal programme, his administration is planning to construct another flyover bridge in the state capital before the completion of his tenure.

With this development, Adamawa will boast of being the only state having three flyover bridges in the entire North Eastern part of

the country.

The Governor noted with satisfaction the quality and progress of the work, stressing that the job is excellent and fantastic and our people are happy about it, we will continue to provide such edifice that will be easing the lives of the people by fulfilling our mandate along the way.

Responding on why the project is still ongoing despite the country's present harsh economic condition, "the Governor said government has achieved this by cutting down wastages in governance."

"We are cutting wastages and deploying resources into the appropriate channel, we are doing this to revive the state from the suffering we went through such as insurgency and other criminality in the state" and thanked the people of the State for supporting his administration.

On his part, the commissioner of Works and Energy, Alhaji Adamu Atiku Abubakar said the grade interchange project is ninety Percent completed and revealed that hopefully it will be completed before the end of this year.

By PALANG KASMI

was sent to the celebrant Saturday in a statement by Chairman of the Northern Governors

Forum (NGF), Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State.

Lalong described Buni as a gentleman, visionary leader and silent achiever whose humility has continued to endear him to work for his people and develop his State despite the security challenges he inherited on assumption of office.

"Apart from doing his best to improve the living standards of his people, Buni has also done well since his appointment as the Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC) Caretaker Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee by strengthening the party, bringing in more members, and taking it closer to the people," Lalong said.

He praised the celebrant for making tremendous contributions within the NGF and searching for solutions to various



Buni

challenges of the region and the nation at large.

Lalong commended Buni's tenacity in the efforts to unite the nation particularly in the face of daunting challenges.

While wishing him more years of good health, peace and God's protection, Lalong prayed God to continue to give the Governor the wisdom and strength to serve his people and Nigeria at large.

IMAGES

NIGERIA'S VICE PRESIDENT AT NIPSS

President Muhammadu Buhari through his Vice, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo last weekend attended the Senior Executive Course (SEC) 43 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru, Jos South LGA



Prof. Yemi Osinbajo (middle) being accompanied by Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State (left) on arrival at NIPSS received by Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar (right)



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong delivering his remarks



A cross section of SEC 43, NIPSS 2021 participants at the graduation



Members of the high table during the rendition of National Anthem at NIPSS



A cross section of invited dignitaries at the ceremony



A cross section of NIPSS graduating SEC 43, 2021



Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo delivering the President's speech



Prof. Osinbajo, Governor Lalong, Acting Director General, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Bri-Gen. Chukwuemeka Udaya in a group photograph with SEC 43 participants after the ceremony

PHOTOS: DOPPA'S OFFICE, GOVERNMENT HOUSE RAYFIELD, JOS



PLATEAU STATE COLLEGE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY
P.M.B. 013, PANKSHIN, PLATEAU STATE
collhealthtechpkn2008@gmail.com

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates for **Management Position** of the **Plateau State College of Health Technology, Pankshin Plateau State** as follows:

1. REGISTRAR

DUTIES:

The **Registrar** is the **Chief Administrative Officer** of the **College** and is responsible to the **Provost** for the **day-to-day administration** of the **College**. He/She is a **Principal Officer** and **Head of Registry Division**. He/She is also the **Secretary** to the **Governing Council, Academic Board** and other **Statutory Committees**. He/She is responsible for keeping all the records of the **Institution**.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE:

The candidate must possess a **good honours degree** in any of the **Arts/Social Sciences/Humanities** from a recognized **University** plus at least **17 years cognate experience**, or a holder of **Masters Degree** from a recognized **University** plus **15 years cognate experience**, proficiency in **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**. Possession of relevant higher degree in the appropriate field is an added advantage. The candidate should have the ability to provide good leadership, possess personal integrity and demonstrate transparency in private and public life and be able to command respect and loyalty of staff.

Applicants who are currently Deputy Registrars in their organization will have an added advantage.

Candidate should have evidence of registration with a recognized relevant professional body. Candidate should not be below the rank of Deputy Registrar and not above sixty (60) years.

TENURE:

The candidate shall hold office for a period of four (4) years in the first instance, and renewable, subject to satisfactory performance for another four (4) years and no more.

SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS:

The **Registrar**, as a Principal Officer, is on a consolidated salary scale and would be entitled to enjoy other benefits of the office as approved by State Government or the College Governing Council.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested candidates are required to submit typewritten application and curriculum vitae in fifteen (15) copies specifying the following:

- i. Name (Surname first)
- ii. Date and place of Birth
- iii. State of Origin
- iv. Local Government Area of Origin
- v. Nationality
- vi. Permanent Home Address
- vii. Present Contact/GSM number(s)
- viii. Marital Status
- ix. Number of Children with ages
- x. Schools attended with dates
- xi. Certificate obtained with dates
- xii. Membership of professional Bodies/Associations
- xiii. Publications listed in chronological order
- xiv. Community Service
- xv. Previous Employer(s) and posts held with dates
- xvi. Present Appointment with date and salary
- xvii. National and International Honours/Awards
- xviii. Names and Addresses of three Referees

Candidates are required to forward their applications and Curriculum Vitae with photocopies of their credentials and are advised to request three (3) referees to forward reports on them under confidential cover to:

The Registrar,
Plateau State College of Health Technology,
P. M. B. 013, Pankshin Plateau State.

CLOSING DATE:

Applicants and referees report should reach the above address not later than four (4) weeks from the date of this publication.

INTERVIEW:

Only shortlisted Candidates will be invited for the interview by the College at the date to be communicated to them.


Elisha Turgak Shehu, (MNIM).
Registrar.

News

FG donates feeding utensils to schools in Plateau

THE Federal Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, has donated feeding utensils to Plateau State Government for onward distribution to schools across the 17 LGAs as parts of its School Feeding Programme.

This took place on the occasion marking the distribution of Utensils of the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme, held at the Obasanjo Model Nursery/Primary School in Jos, the state capital, Monday.

The Minister, represented by the Ministry's Assistant Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Ali Alhaji Garba, said the Ministry was created to strengthen the School Feeding Program, making it sustainable and institutionalized within Government's social safety nets.

"We are pleased to inform that we have commenced deployment of interventions within the National HomeGrown School Feeding Program, updating our records to accommodate the scaling up of the program with an additional 5 million beneficiaries as directed by President Muhammadu Buhari.

"The intervention today, is only one out of the several strategic plans of our Ministry that seeks to ensure that the target pupils have the best experience of hygiene and safety during their consumption of these free meals. It is our fervent hope and appeal that

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

these items are put to the use they were provided for so that these children will benefit more", She highlighted.

She, therefore, assured that the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development would continue to improve service delivery on all its social interventions and leadership role of the National Home-Grown school feeding program

Earlier, the Executive Assistant to the Governor/Focal Person, National Social Investment Programme, Plateau State, Dr. Sumaye Hamza, said, "today is another milestone of distribution of additional utensils under the NHGSF program. We are receiving these utensils for onward distribution to the cooks.

"The state has recorded increase in enrolment of school children as a result of the NHGSF intervention. We are anticipating to feed 320,088 pupils in 2,351 schools as soon as NBS validate the state data. This will surely go a long way in adding value to the whole process of increasing the number of children that have access to quality and nourished meal while in school.

"I wish to encourage the citizens of Plateau State under the leadership of our compassionate and determined Governor Simon Bako Lalong, to always avail themselves to benefit from Government intervention. We thank the Federal Government and



Lalong

the Honorable Minister for ensuring that poor and vulnerable citizens of Nigeria are placed on the priority list of beneficiaries", she appealed.

Meanwhile, Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State, who was represented by the State Commissioner for Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs, Hon. Irmiya Werr, thanked President Muhammadu Buhari, for considering the plights of Plateau School Children to have donated another set of Utensils to the state and promised to make judicious use of the items.

AS the world celebrates World Toilet Day, UNICEF reveals that there has been limited progress over the last two years in the fight against open defecation in Nigeria.

According to new figures soon to be released on Nigerians' access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, the rate of open defecation in Nigeria has remained steady at 23 per cent. As many as 46 million Nigerians still defecate in the open.

The states with the highest rates of open defecation are: Kwara, Plateau, and Ebonyi.

Those with the lowest rates are: Abia, Zamfara, and Akwa Ibom.

There has been some progress on ending open defecation, with 71 out of Nigeria's 774 local government areas now declared 'open defecation-free' – up from 18 in 2019. The states with the highest number of 'open defecation-free' LGAs are Katsina, Jigawa and Benue – with 21, 18 and 9, respectively.

Nigeria is making some progress in improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene services to its population, with 75 per cent of Nigerians having access to basic drinking water services – up from 70 per cent in 2019. Access to sanitation (toilet

Open defecation: Nigeria records limited progress

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

and hand washing facilities) has also increased modestly, from 44 per cent to 46 per cent over the same period.

"It is clear that more needs to be done to ensure that all Nigerians have access to safe toilets and that we shift closer to ending open defecation across the country," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria. "With the Clean Nigeria campaign, we are making strong efforts – but the whole country needs to put their full weight behind this campaign. We cannot afford to fail – ending open defecation is crucial to making progress in so many other areas, including health."

In November 2018, Nigerian President Buhari declared a state of emergency in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector and launched a national campaign tagged 'Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet' to jump-start the country's journey towards becoming open defecation-free by 2025.

"There is a clear commitment by the Nigerian government in

helping the population move away from the practice of open defecation – a move that will help support better health outcomes for all, including especially children," said Peter Hawkins.

"The importance of adequate and safe sanitation and proper hand hygiene practices cannot be overstated. It helps prevent illnesses that impact families' livelihoods, and more importantly, take the lives of far too many children. We can and must achieve an open defecation-free Nigeria by 2025.



Ehanire

Properties worth millions destroyed by fire

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAH, Keffi

Nasarawa State.

Consequent upon that, the council's Chairman Hon. Mohammed Baba Shehu who was just back from an official assignment outside the state immediately along his Council Members as well as Member of the State's House of Assembly representing Keffi East Constituency Hon. Abdulazeez Suleiman Danladi undertook an assessment and sympathy visit to the affected shop owners in the area in order to commensurate with the victims.

During the visit, the chairman and his team met with the various victims where he commensurate, console and assured them of the determination of his council to assist and convey their plight to the State Government for possible assistance.

Towards this end the Chairman has already inaugurated a nine man committee on the fire outbreak where he directed them to study the situations and bring back a report to the council in two weeks time for possible actions.

The Chairman who described the situation as

a trying and challenging moment to the Council, saying that the affected shop owners engulfed by the fire inferno are peace loving citizens of Keffi and their properties worth millions of Naira were destroyed adding that commercial activities in the area have been adversely affected.

"As a council with spirit of empathy as brothers' keepers, we share the pains of this tragic incident and appeal to all especially the victims to remain calm and accept what has happened with high sense of equanimity in this difficult situation" he admonished.

Life becoming unbearable for many

By GYANG PAM, Yola

LIFE in Adamawa State has become so unbearable to the common man that most people are surrendering their fate to God.

A survey by THE NIGERIA STANDARD Correspondent in Yola disclosed that people easily get angry when asked how life has been treating them.

Most respondents would say the past six years have been traumatic for them considering the high cost of living and transportation.

In Adamawa State the prices of foodstuff has skyrocketed beyond the reach of the common man.

Its difficult to see a peasant buying a bag of maize, rice, beans and what have you. "Even now when only the tough gets going, it is difficult to buy a bag of maize at N22,000 (Twenty Two Thousand Naira) and Rice at Thirty Thousand Naira", says Musa Rahman. Stealing according to our correspondent has become the order of the day as hardly a day passes without reported cases of people lamenting one theft or the other.

Many people have been attacked by miscreants

who invade homes with daggers and machetes in search of food.

The Police authorities confirmed the incidences while parading many youths for burglaries recently with advice to people to be watchful of their property.

THE Executive Chairman of Barkin-Ladi Local Government Council, Hon. Jock Alamba, has approved the appointment of Hon Dalyop Choji, as the Council Secretary.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Local Government Information Officer, Amos Azi, and made available to The Nigeria Standard in Jos, the Plateau State

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Capital Friday.

According to the statement, Hon. Choji holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from University of Jos, before his appointment, he was a businessman and a reputable political mobiliser.

Dalyop, who is from

Heipang District of Barkin-ladi Local Government Area and was also the state PRO of Simon Bako Lalong Campaign Organisation in 2019.

The Chairman congratulated the newly appointed Council Secretary and look forward to his absolute commitment to duty towards the progress and development

of Barkin Ladi Local Government.

He also commended Governor Simon Bako Lalong for conducting the most peaceful and transparent elections ever in the history of Barkin-Ladi Local Government and prayed that this would further transmit into lasting peace in the area and the state at large.



Ehanire

News

Taraba budgets N146.7 for 2022

TARABA state governor, Darius Ishaku has presented the 2022 Budget estimates of N146.7 billion to the House of Assembly. The budget represents an increase of over 5 billion naira over the 2021 budget.

The budget which is tagged: Budget of Hope and Consolidation, has N78 billion as recurrent expenditure, and N68.7 billion as capital expenditure.

The governor said in implementing the 2022 budget, the state government has resolved to complete all the ongoing projects across the state. He added that all MDAs must grow their IGRs as well as continue to rationalise their expenditure.

According to him, in ensuring that all ongoing projects are completed, the government has secured some loans in accordance to laid down procedure.

While welcoming the governor, Speaker of Taraba State House of Assembly, Rt Hon. Joseph Albasu Kunini, pledged that the 2022



Ishaku

Appropriation Bill would be given speedy passage.

According to the speaker, this has become imperative because of the change of the budget circle from March or April to January - December every fiscal year, thereby meeting international best practices.

He said, "I am happy to report that because of the dogged commitment of Your

Excellency to maintain a cordial, symbiotic and harmonious working relationship with all the branches of government in the State, particularly the Legislature, the budget circle, which hitherto commenced in March or, sometimes April, is now brought back to January - December of every fiscal year; this is highly commendable as it is in line with international best practices.

"As the 2022 Appropriation Bill is presented today and laid before this August Assembly, this Honourable House is very mindful of the imperative and sensitive nature of the timely processing and passage into law of this all important Bill.

"In view of this, therefore, I wish to humbly assure Your Excellency that we shall not let you down.

"In no distant time this Bill will be diligently processed and passed into law for the assent of Your Excellency.

"What this Honourable House demands is the cooperation and understanding of all and sundry who have one role or the other to play in the processing of this Bill.

"Politics of arms sales thwart insecurity fight"

CONCERTED efforts by the Federal Government and numerous stakeholders in the country to checkmate the preponderance of crimes and criminalities across the country have been thwarted in some ways by the politics of arms sales rolled out by arms manufacturers and their governments in the world.

Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto state stated this while condoling people of Goronyo, Sabon Birni and Isa local government areas in the Eastern part of the state over the recent bandits attacks in the areas.

According to him, although the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari is doing its best possible to end the spate of insecurity in the country, this is difficult to attain because of the 'end users' requirements of arms manufacturers abroad and the stipulations of their respective governments as to who or what country should procure arms and ammunition.

"Try as the government of

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

PMB may, Nigeria does not manufacture arms and ammunition. So, it has to buy these from foreign countries where the arms manufacturers are situated.

"Invariably, this makes it a victim of global arms purveying politics which determines who purchases what weapons and to what use he is going to put it.

He explained that despite efforts by state governors in the country, who have unanimously agreed to the deduction of \$1 billion in three to four years from their lean accruals from the federal government for the purchase of working equipments for the security agencies in the country, the insecurity situation is yet to abate.

He, however, added that all these snags will not deter the Sokoto State Government from working closely with the Federal Government and security agencies in the state to ensure that peace is established troubled areas of the state, as over time the northern governors have met several times with the president and assured him of their total support towards addressing the security challenges in their areas.

The Governor urged the federal government to recruit more security personnel and provide them with enough facilities, reassuring that the state government, which has since its inception six years ago donated 450 vehicles, in addition to other logistic support, to security agencies in the state, will continue to do

more to strengthen their operations.

"Informants are our enemies. We must take appropriate measures to address their activities. Even if an informant is your son or your daughter, please let the government know. We are ready to tackle them by bringing them to book," he assured.

He appealed to traditional rulers and clerics in the state to continue to pray in order for the government to re-establish peace in the state and the country in general.

Praying for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives to the brigandage of marauders, Governor Tambuwal expressed satisfaction over the manner in which relief materials the government provided to the IDPs in the affected areas were distributed.

Twenty four hours before the Governor's sympathy visit a committee mandated by the state government had, on Tuesday, distributed food items to the victims of bandits' attacks at Sabon Birni and Goronyo local government areas.

Speaking while handing over the items to the chairmen of the local government areas, the Commissioner of Solid Minerals, Maikudi Abubakar Sabon Birni, charged the Chairmen to ensure equitable distribution of the items to the affected IDPs.

He also prayed God to bring peace and sanity to the area, state and country in general; and also to prevent future reoccurrence of the incident.



Averting the looming food crisis

THERE is a looming threat that needs the urgent attention of all and sundry. The rate at which food prices are rising portends grave danger shortly. The harvest season has just set in and God in His infinite mercies has blessed the land with a bountiful harvest. Despite this blessing, the people are not likely to be able to feed and sustain themselves to the next farming season.

The new trend, sending chills down the spines of watchers of events in our society, is the aggressive buying off of agricultural produce right in the farms before they are harvested. Middlemen have taken over using their economic muscles to lure gullible people into selling off their products sometimes at very ridiculous prices. It is time governments at various levels step in and curb the dangerous trend.

In the past, when there was a surplus, the government bought off the surplus and stored them for the rainy days. That is the reason we had silos constructed all over the country. These silos were used to store excess grains and other products that would come in handy when scarcities drought or other calamities befall the society. One wonders whether these silos are still being put to use.

The rate at which middlemen are going from village to village mopping up excess grains and taking them to God knows where is not only frightening but points to the dangers that are imminent very shortly. Unless and until something is done fast, society will pay for it the hard way. Indeed, one can not help but speculate that the mopping up of these food products has helped in some way to fuel the insurgency that has plagued the country for

quite some time now. hardships to our society. The destruction of The present farmlands in the North administration has invested so much in East and North West are pointers to the evident agriculture and the shortage of food in these results are beginning to two regions and the show. But it must not aggressive purchases allow those who do not being made in the Middle mean well thwart all its Belt region of the efforts. What it needs to country. do now is to explore

There is thus a need for other means of ensuring circumspection on the that food security is part of those saddled guaranteed for its citizenry. And, it can do this by curbing frivolous moment. Drastic and unwarranted flight quick actions need to be of food produce from one taken to forestall the region to the other.

Least I be misunderstood. No one can stop the conduct and flourishing of legitimate commerce. If one produces his commodity he is at liberty to market it however he wants it. But government should be wary of the fact that if it sits by and just watch, it would cause itself greater harm. In the long run it would be accused of insensitivity.

To be sure, there is the need to go back to the days of old and resurrect our price control boards. The boards can be empowered to help fight some of these noticeable practices that are threatening to bring

"The new trend, sending chills down the spines of watchers of events in our society, is the aggressive buying off of agricultural produce right in the farms before they are harvested. Middlemen have taken over using their economic muscles to lure gullible people into selling off their products sometimes at very ridiculous prices. It is time governments at various levels step in and curb the dangerous trend."

everything it has got and can muster. To state that the insurgency has drawn us decades back and has been a cog in the wheel of the development of the country is to state the obvious. Government must, there fore, resolve the problem with immediate alacrity so that our normal lives will resume.

Already, prices of foodstuff are beyond the reach of ordinary folks, what needs to be done is to find ways of mitigating their sufferings. As farmers harvest their produce they too must realize that they owe themselves and their families the responsibilities of saving their stocks so they do not have to go cap in hand begging for what to



Tambuwal

News

Zulum condoles family of Gen. Zirkushu

BORNO State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has led a high powered delegation on a condolence visit to the family of late Brigadier General Dzarma Zirkushu at Ribadu cantonement Kaduna.

Special Adviser to the state Governor, Mal Isa Umar Gusau in a statement explained that an immediate release of N20million was made to support the family, added that support will also be made to families of soldiers who died alongside General Zirkushu.

According to the statement, Governor Zulum was received at the airport by Kaduna State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, and Garrison Army One Division, Brigadier General T. Opuene.

The Governor was accompanied on the visit to the General's family by Senators, Kashim Shettima, Mohammed Ali Ndume and Abubakar Kyari, the State Chairman of APC, Ali Bukar Dalori, and two Members of House of Representatives, Dr. Haruna Mshelia and Ahmad Jaha, representing their constituencies that include Chibok where late General Zirkushu was commanding the 28 Task Force Brigade, and Askira-Uba which was

**From DAUDA PAM
Maiduguri**

attacked by insurgents, for which the General died.

On hand to receive the Governor, were the widow of the late General, Mrs Blessing and her five children as well as Mr Gurdebil Zirkushu, a brother to the late General among other family members where he consoled the family and urged them to take solace in the heroic legacy bequeathed to them by the late General.

Gov. Zulum said the people of Borno will remain eternally grateful for the sacrifice of the late general and other soldiers who died with him, along with many others who made similar sacrifices as well as those in the front lines.

Similarly, the Kaduna State Government through commissioner for internal security and home affairs, Samuel Aruwan, announced a donation of N2m to also support the family of late General Zirkushu.

He said the support was to compliment Borno state government in reaching out to the bereaved family.

Responding on behalf of the family and Nigerian Army, Brigadier General T. Opuene, appreciated the governor and his delegation for traveling from Maiduguri to visit the



Gen. Zirkushu

family and described as a compassionate leader whose support for the military is known to everyone.

Recall in September 2020, the Borno State government donated a similar amount of N20m to support the widow and orphans left behind by late Col. Dahiru Chiroma Bako, who died from gun wounds sustained while battling Boko Haram insurgents.

Col. Bako was Commander, 25 Task Force Brigade, of then "Operation Lafiya Dole" in charge of Damboa and the surrounding axis in southern Borno.

Insecurity: SOSG to restructure, reposition vigilante

**From ANENE AIKE,
Sokoto**

SOKOTO State government has reiterated the need to restructure and reposition the vigilante groups in the state so as to enable them strengthen and assist the subsisting federal government security outfits in the state.

This, according to Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, becomes necessary in the face of pockets of security breaches being experienced recently in Rabah local government axis in the Eastern flank of the state.

Governor Tambuwal disclosed this policy thrust in the offing on Monday at Gandhi town in Rabah local

government area of the state, where bandits clashed with some local vigilante groups leading to the death of 21 people.

"We're going to restructure and reposition the vigilante groups in Sokoto state. We are going to make sure that we provide them with motorcycles and communications gadgets so that they can be communicating with security agencies effectively; and for them to provide basic information and guide to the security agencies," Gov. Tambuwal said.

In addition, the governor said his administration will also provide some allowances to the vigilante members "for the sacrifices they are making towards providing security to their localities, the state and the country."

"I must commend our security agencies for working so hard. They have been doing their best at the level of the Security Council of the state in which the Sultan of Sokoto is a member".

He explained, that the Council has been coordinating security activities in the state and

established peace in the Northern axis, including Silame, Binji and Tangaza local government areas. Noting that he has been reliably informed by the Chairman of Rabah local government area that the 21 victims of the recent onslaught were among the vigilantes recognized by the security agencies in the state.

Governor Tambuwal pledged that the state government will advance a token of gifts and cash assistance to the families of the victims "to ameliorate their sufferings."

He also pledged that, in view of the security breaches being experienced in the area; and in order to boost easy movement of goods and people, his administration will look into the possibility of working on the dilapidated Lambar Rabah-Bakura (Zamfara State), hitherto thought to be a Federal road.

"I have also observed that the electricity connection between Gandhi and Rabah has been affected. I have directed the local government Chairman to conduct an assessment and submit to the state government. Without delay the state

THE Emir of Keffi Alhaji Dr. Shehu Muhammadu Yamusa III has stressed the need for his subjects to redouble their efforts towards engaging agricultural production especially the dry season farming or irrigation with a view to boost food production and enhance their income and socio-economic upliftment.

Speaking during the first sensitization workshop on Dry season farming for selected farmers in Keffi Local government area organized by the Keffi Emirate Council with the theme "Economic Empowerment initiative through the dry season farming for sustainable development" at the New Keffi Hotel during the week. The Emir stated that since there are abundant opportunities in agricultural the people should never hesitate to key into it.

The Emir who was represented by Alhaji Ibrahim Abdul Usman the Wamban Keffi assured that on its part the Emirate council would continue to support and encourage the farmers in all possible means in order to boost their productive capacities.

"Let me assure of our determinations to continue to render our full support and encouragement for you the farmers to enable you boost your productive capacities in

government will put it in order soonest," the Governor added.

He prayed for the repose of the souls of those that lost their lives and the overall security of the country.

Boboye lauds Army on Human Capital development

**From DORCAS PANKYES,
Abuja**

THE Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Dr Boboye Oyeyemi has lauded the Nigerian Army for her support to human capacity development of the Corps.

He made the commendation during a courtesy call on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya at the Army Headquarters, Abuja.

Dr Boboye Oyeyemi, expressed appreciation to the Nigerian Army (NA) for providing adequate training platforms for officers and men of the FRSC, adding that the gesture has repositioned the Corps in the discharge of its constitutional roles.

He pointed out, that over 200 personnel of the

Emir urges subjects on dry season farming

**From
MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,
Keffi**

both the dry season farming and even in your vocational skills or traditional occupations like blacksmithing clothing among others" he stressed.

In his remarks the chairman sub-committee on Agriculture and Executive Chairman Keffi Emirate Council on Investment Committee Senator Abdullahi Adamu expressed his gratitude to the Emirate council for its efforts in encouraging farmers to take up Agriculture especially now that it has become a veritable key that would enhance their socio-economic activities.

Senator Adamu who was represented by the Alhaji Muhammad Kabir Suleiman the Koguna Keffi commended the Emir for his wonderful and encouraging initiative towards the development irrigation farming and advised the farmers to key into the project actively.

Speaking through his Deputy Chairman Hon. Vincent Anzaku the Executive Chairman of Keffi Local Governments Council Hon. Mohammed Baba Shehu called for the timely supply of agricultural inputs to the farmers like fertilizer, improved seedlings, pesticides, herbicides as well as major agricultural equipment like tractors, combine harvesters among others as a means of boosting their productive capacities.

Contributing Deputy



Dr. Yamusa III

Director in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and member of the Committee Alhaji Imam Rajab assured that they would work towards ensuring that the bulk of support given to the farmers especially by the Federal Government goes to them directly without any hindrance to the real farmers.

He then described the initiatives of the Keffi Emirate Council as timely and urged the farmers to make sure that they key into it especially that farming business is the most lucrative now as such they should not allow themselves to be left behind.

Contributing, the Coordinator of the program Comrade Lawal Ramalan Maizambo thanked the participants and asked them to make the best use of all what they have learnt during the two-day workshop in order to boost their farming activities.

expressed satisfaction over the compliance of Nigerian Army personnel to traffic rules and regulations, which he said has made the organization's work easier.

Responding, the COAS, Lt Gen Faruk Yahaya appreciated the Corps Marshal for his visit to the Army Headquarters.

He assured that the NA is ever ready to support and collaborate with other agencies in consonance with his vision to have, "A professional Nigerian Army, ready to accomplish assigned missions within a Joint Environment in Defence of Nigeria".

The COAS also extolled the Corps Marshall for his efforts towards minimizing accidents on Nigerian roads.



Boboye

Corps are presently undergoing Basic Driving Techniques Course at the Nigerian Army School of Supply and Transport, Benin, Edo State.

He commended COAS for approving the use of military and units of the Nigerian Army for training of FRSC personnel. Dr Oyeyemi



Tambuwal

Feature

Education in the context of museum

Learning can no longer be restricted to books or imparted within the school walls in a planned, sequenced and intentional manner. Learning occurs in a variety of settings and in different informal contexts, such as the home, the street, the museum among others. HANATU RAYMOND DAZE AND BENJAMIN JOSHUA JAURO writes.

OVER the years, schools recognized the need to increase opportunities for learning and all kinds of extracurricular activities as visits and field works; so the whole environment is considered a learning resource and art museums is part of this wide environment.

Museums are undoubtedly one of the most important learning facilities of society and are a commonly visited and highly valued venue for school excursions. With increasing awareness about museums as valuable resource of knowledge, schools recognized that the curriculum can be compromised with opportunities of learning at the museum. Art works in the museum and galleries have come to be viewed as valuable to students at all levels from kindergrating to university and the resource are made available to feel.

Eggemeyer explain that the teenage attitudes speak of a deficiency in the teacher's experience to manage a group of students to learn in an informal environment, the museum environment and their failure to nurture the interest of students during a museum visit.

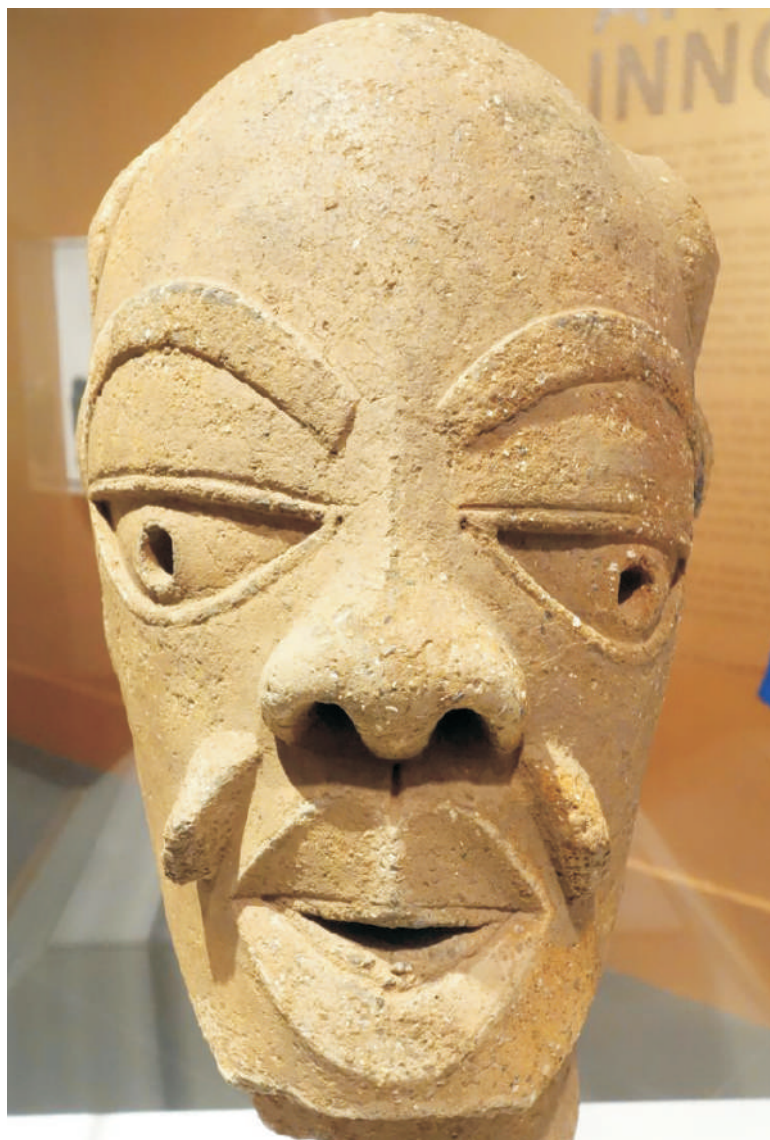
Presently, there is a reform in instructional methods and how art is acquired. Formal schools and conventional methods of instruction in the classroom limited access to the vast body of art and science knowledge. Griffin (2004) states that a school curricula – emphasis verbal language and linear symbolic system, while younger generations are much more familiar with visual metaphors. Hence, the school offers almost no visual culture while art or science museum has a particular relevant contribution in the visual era.

The year 1969 was important for the field of museum education because of changes made to this idea that museums can serve educational purposes. The proper use of museum collection requires shared responsibility and a special skill on the part of both the museum and the teaching staff. The integration is of importance of having teachers from public and private schools to do some of their teaching in the museum. According to Goodman (1985), museums ;objects are especially important for art education, because viewing art, touching and seeing originals is the most fundamental source of artistic inspiration. Through reproduction also gives an accurate idea about the works:

1. It gives a sense of enthusiasm and remember longer and generate a thirst to know more.

2. The ideas learned with the use of real objects are absorbed easily.

3. Different learning strategies are adopt.



4. It aims to offer the students an experience that is not possible elsewhere.

5. Educational programs in museum setting encourage students to interact with art works in meaningful ways.

6. Museum is the perfect place for school teachers to teach.

MUSEUM'S ROLE IN EDUCATION
Museums educate people. Specifically, cultural history museums educate people about people, about how people of the past reacted to their environment and the effects of those reactions to our past, present, and future.

FACTS

Museums receive more than 55 million visits each year from student school groups. Museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours annually for educational programs such as guided tours for students, staff visits to schools, school outreach through traveling exhibits, and professional development for teachers (study). As global competition broadens, museums are sparking the next generation of historians, entrepreneurs, scientists, artists, and political leaders. Museums help teach the state and local curriculum, tailoring their programs in math, science, art, literacy, language arts, history, civics and government, economics and financial literacy, geography, and social studies.

Museums are considered a more reliable source of historical information than books, teachers or even personal accounts by

relatives, according to a study by University. Students who attend a field trip to an art museum experience an increase in critical thinking skills, historical empathy and tolerance. For students from rural or high-poverty regions, the increase was even more significant. At least 22% of all museums are located in rural areas. Given these facts, why is it that museum people continuously have to explain to schools and districts that museums are fundamentally educational institutions, with learning embedded at the heart of our missions. Why is there a reluctance of teachers and school officials to actively involve the local museum in their student learning experience?

More often than not, part of the dilemma rest with limited available financial resources that allow teachers to engage their students with faculty-supervised external activities such as trips to museums and other off-campus venues. Securing transportation (school buses, activity buses, etc) sometimes creates another obstacle when considering "road trips". And, in many instances, because of the demand placed on teachers to cram a specific predetermined curriculum and testing schedule into a 180-day calendar leaves room for no more than one off-campus excursion per year — of which is usually reserved for a more distant, "exciting" urban venue.

Intrinsically linked to creativity

and modern innovation, small and rural museums must move beyond the walls of tradition to stay relevant and maintain sustainability. Not only are they "expected" to preserve their collections, but also to creatively engage and impact six (6) generations of visitors in a meaningful and memorable way. Remaining status quo is no longer an option for even the smallest museum. And, an education platform geared to learning styles and content relevant for each generation must be embedded into the mission of the museum. Museums must explore partnerships and collaborative opportunities that allow them to not only invite local student participation but also provide the means by which to achieve that involvement.

History museums have a unique opportunity to engage students in many different areas of interest. Historians are not limited to niche discussions or narratives. Through exhibitions and discussions about history, students can become engaged in science, math, technology, medicine, arts, politics, religion, humanities, social sciences, and more. Learning about history and culture includes learning about all the aspects of human day-to-day "being." For instance, if a student experiences an exhibit dealing with historical figures or events involving aviation and that student's intrigue leads them to want to learn more about aviation (which may or may not

be a vocation introduced in the classroom), then the museum experience could well be an initial influence that leads to future life choices of that student.

According to Lake, Snell, Perry public opinion survey commissioned by the American Alliance of Museums (2001), "museums are considered the most trustworthy source of information in America, rated higher than local papers, nonprofits researchers, the U.S. government, or academic researchers." The local museum must realize its value and its obligation to educate students and the entire community.

It is crucial that small, local museums maintain relevance in the communities they serve, and museum workers remain good stewards of the public trust by acting deliberately to develop innovative, engaging narratives that tell yesterday's stories for tomorrow's generations.

CONCLUSION

Museum learning is an instructional practice that gaining increasing popularity in schools everywhere. Planning a museum tour, clear educational aim, selection of particular objects for exhibition depend on the theme, and theme also depend on the questions and answers from the audience, a collaboration between the museum educators and the teachers to achieve the goals of school-related programs.

Jauro and Daze are staff of National Museum Jos.

Foreign News



At least 12 killed in eastern DR Congo attack

ARMED rebels have killed at least 12 people during an attack on displaced civilians in the northeastern Ituri province of Democratic Republic of Congo, a military spokesperson said.

Fighters from the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) group raided the village of Drodoro on Sunday night, killing six children, four men and two women, Jules Ngongo, a spokesperson for Ituri's military government, told the Reuters news agency.

Attacks by CODECO have killed hundreds of civilians in Ituri province's Djugu territory since 2017 and forced thousands to flee their homes, according to the United Nations.

CODECO's fighters are drawn mainly from the Lendu farming community,

which has long been in conflict with Hema herders.

"Their objective was to attack the population that was displaced in Drodoro," Ngongo said.

Ngabu Lidja Chrysante, a priest and coordinator for the Catholic charity Caritas in Ituri, said his colleagues on the ground had seen the bodies of 35 people killed in the attack, which also targeted the local church.

According to the US-based Kivu Security Tracker, which maps violent incidences in DRC, 107 bodies had been found in Drodoro and surrounding villages.

"The vast majority of the dead are civilians," the group said.

Mathias Gilman, spokesperson for the United Nations peacekeeping

mission in Congo, said at least 16,000 people fleeing the attacks had taken shelter at a nearby site protected by peacekeepers.

CODECO spokesperson Patrick Basa denied the group had killed civilians. He told Reuters that its fighters had clashed in Drodoro with a Hema militia but said the civilians had already fled the area.

Conflict between the Lendu and Hema communities from 1999 to 2007 resulted in an estimated 50,000 deaths in one of the bloodiest chapters of a civil war in eastern DRC.

Neighbouring North Kivu and Ituri provinces have been under a state of siege since May 6, an exceptional measure to combat armed groups like the CODECO – as well as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) – with civilian authorities have been replaced by military and police officers.

The ADF, which the United States has deemed a "terrorist group", is one of many armed groups that operate in the mineral-rich eastern DRC.

In August, the group burned and hacked to death at least 19 civilians in the Beni territory of North Kivu, according to local officials.

Israel formalises defence ties on minister's visit

ISRAEL'S Defence Minister Benny Gantz is headed to Morocco to "formalise" security cooperation between the two countries. The two-day trip,

beginning on Tuesday, came less than a year after Morocco normalised ties with Israel in a deal brokered by former US President Donald Trump's

administration.

In return, Washington recognised the North African kingdom's sovereignty over the disputed territory of

Western Sahara.

Gantz, the first Israeli defence minister to make an official visit to Morocco, will sign "a memorandum of understanding that will outline defence cooperation between the two countries", his office said.

The trip aims to "set the foundation for all future security cooperation between Israel and Morocco", said a source familiar with the visit.

"Until now there has been some level of cooperation, this truly formalises it," the source said.

Morocco controls most of Western Sahara and considers the former Spanish colony as its sovereign territory.

Tensions have flared between Morocco and

Algeria, which backs Western Sahara's Polisario Front independence movement.

Algeria cut diplomatic ties with Morocco in August citing "hostile actions" – an accusation denied by Rabat.

Earlier this month, Algiers accused Morocco of killing three Algerian civilians on a desert highway, raising fears of an escalation.

Polisario head Brahim Ghali said last week the movement has decided to step up military operations.

Israel, Morocco agree to normalise relations in US-brokered deal

Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, an Israeli expert on Morocco, said the timing of Gantz's visit and the signing of an agreement was not a coincidence.

Abiy Ahmed vows to lead army 'from battlefield'

ETHIOPIA'S Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister said he will lead his country's army "from the battlefield" starting Tuesday, a dramatic new step as the year-long conflict moves closer to the capital Addis Ababa.

Tens of thousands of people are estimated to have been killed as Ethiopian and allied forces fight against forces from the country's northern Tigray region, who dominated the national government before Abiy Ahmed took office.

"Starting tomorrow, I will mobilise to the front to lead the defence forces," Abiy said in a statement posted on Twitter late on Monday.

"Those who want to be among the Ethiopian children who will be hailed by history, rise up for your country today. Let's meet at the battlefield."

The statement by the 45-year-old prime minister, a former soldier, did not say where exactly he will go Tuesday. His spokeswoman, Billene Seyoum, did not respond to a request for

comment from the Associated Press news agency.

Abiy's comments came as the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) rebel group continued to press towards Addis Ababa, claiming control of the town of Shewa Robit, just 220km (136 miles) northeast of the capital by road.

It also followed a meeting of the ruling Prosperity Party's executive committee to discuss the war.

Defence Minister Abraham Belay told state-affiliated media after the meeting that security forces would embark on a "different action", without providing details.

"There will be change," Belay said. "What happened and is happening to our people, the abuses being meted out by this destructive, terrorist, robber group, can't continue."

The United States and others have warned that Africa's second-most populous country could fracture and destabilise the rest of the region.

Former US diplomat

William Lawrence noted Abiy had used a lot of war imagery when accepting his Nobel prize but that had been to highlight the horror of war.

"And here we are almost full circle with a Nobel Peace Prize winner using the most bellicose language to try and ramp up the stakes ahead of the defence of not only Ethiopia, but life and death," Lawrence said. "He says he's basically willing to die for the cause."

Getachew Reda, spokesman for the Tigray forces, tweeted: "Our forces won't relent on their inexorable advance towards bringing (Abiy's) chokehold on our people to an end."

The Tigray forces say they are pressuring Ethiopia's government to lift a months-long blockade of the Tigray region's six million people, but they also want Abiy out of power.

The prime minister, in his statement, said western countries were trying to defeat Ethiopia, echoing his government's references to "meddling" by the international community.



Abiy Ahmed issued a battle call on Monday night as Tigray fighters appeared to close in on the capital

Several suspects killed in Uganda after bombing

POLICE have said that seven suspects were killed and 106 people detained during operations by the security services linked to three suicide bombings in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, last week.

ISIL (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the November 16 attack, which killed seven people, including the three bombers, and injured dozens more. One police officer was among the four others killed and 27 of the 37 wounded were also police officers.

Police did not provide details on how the seven suspects were killed.

In last week's attack, a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a police station in the centre of Kampala. Three minutes later two other suicide bombers exploded along a road that leads to the parliament.

The explosions set vehicles alight, sent glass shards flying, and panicked officers and workers fleeing multi-storeyed buildings.

Enanga said those detained "included those who were involved in terrorist financing and persons who were involved in mobilisation and incitement of vulnerable



Gantz makes an official visit to Morocco.

Interview

"We want to opt out of the pension scheme"

Pension schemes though desirable, have been very controversial in Nigeria. In this interview with the President of Plateau State Chapter of Correctional Centre Service retirees, Anthony I. Ayiwu and Ishaku Ango, committee member speaks on why they want to opt out of the PENCOM Scheme. With VICTOR ALI and NAOMI SANTOS.

Sir, this Pension Scheme, is it good or bad?

In my own opinion the contributory system is bad.

Why is it bad?

Because the way they are paying when you retire from service is not something to think of it, so it is very bad.

How are they paying that is bad?

You will only get 25% out of your lomsum savings contributed.

What is wrong in collecting 25% of your lomsum?

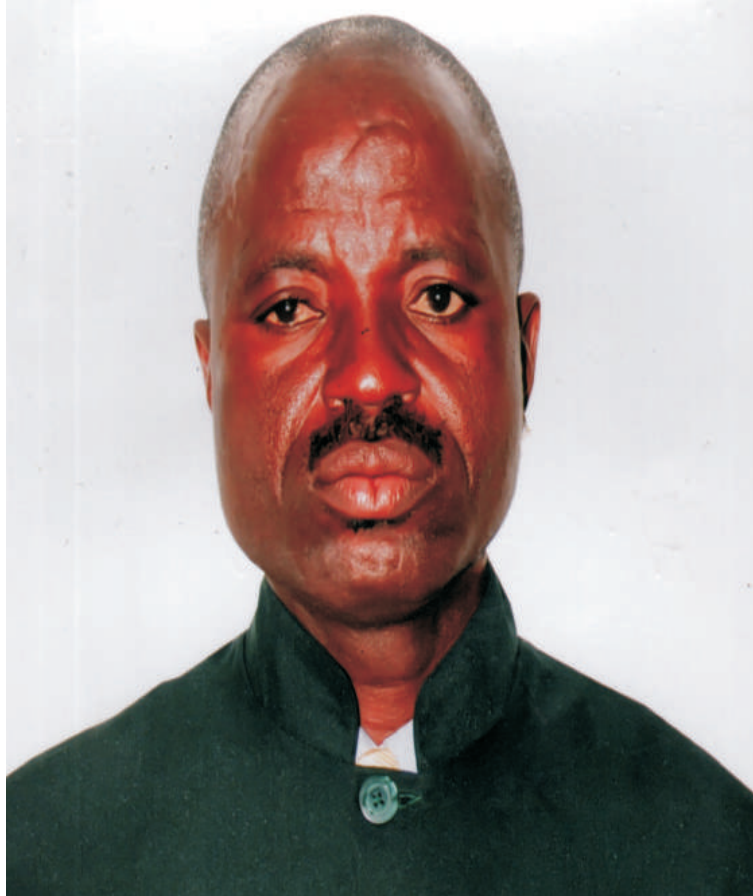
The wrong thing was that, the money given to you will not be enough even to pay your children's school fees, talk less of building a house after retirement, talk of feeding, you cannot take 3 square meals a day, knowing fully well that you have money somewhere hanging and you are hoping to get it someday.

When did the Correctional Centre join the system?

The act of these contributory system was enacted by the National Assembly in 2004 and when it started, it continued and after few years they included us that started work. Since we are not exempted from the scheme. We are included and during retirement you go back home with small amount, your monthly pay today is just N50,000, so it is too small with these economic situation you cannot feed yourself talk less of giving a helping hand to someone.

Though you are the President of the Correctional retirees of Plateau chapter. When the where police are saying they will be exempted from the scheme, what was your own thoughts?

Actually we started the scheme together with them till we reached



Ayiwulu

the 8th assembly and when it came to an end, we were waiting to see what will happen. Later we heard that the police went back and they were reading the second hearing and we thought it wise to still remind the National Assembly that we started the scheme together and we want a holistic approach of exemption of the uniform personnel.

Why are you requesting that the Paramilitary Services of the Nigeria Correctional Service, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria

Civil Defence Corps and Nigeria Immigration be included in the removal exercise. Why are you including them?

Because in the interest of justice, fair play and equity as personnel of the Nigeria police force and those of the paramilitary services are faced with similar hazards in the cause of carrying out their statutory duties like the Military, DSS, NIA that have long been exempted from the contributory pension scheme.

You mean after retirement your monthly contribution is not given to you accordingly?

Yes, is just a mega percentage which is given to you as what they call lum sum, this lum sum as I said is only 25%. The 25% to be candid the highest person collects maybe 3 million otherwise if you are a bid higher your money will drop down to 1.6 million. For God sake what will this money do for you. Somebody that serves for 35 years and only 1.6 million will be given to him, for goodness sake.

May be you are in a rented house for all these years hoping that your monthly contribution will help in cushioning your suffering after retirement and you cannot assess it. The system is not palatable to us. Let me tell you, 15 retired staff died this year.

So all uniform men don't like the system, if I may ask?

Yes, the monthly contribution scheme started with military and paramilitary, and the former Nigeria President, Olusegun Obasanjo, brought the idea of monthly contribution in order to reduce the suffering retirees are facing when they retire. But he later discovered that the scheme was not favourable and some exempted themselves from it, those that exempted were Nigeria Air force, Nigeria Army, Navy, NIA, DSS all these uniform men exempted themselves from the scheme.

They are being paid fully when they retire, but in the case of paramilitaries they are paid 25% some are being paid less than 25%. To our amazement, somebody that brought the idea later realized that it's not favourable he now withdraw

from the scheme. Our question is that why leaving others in the scheme? That is why we are struggling to pull out from the scheme.

What is the way forward?

We want government to exempt us too from the scheme, we don't want it, let them take the system back where they borrowed it. Since it is a borrowed idea from Chile, let them take it back, lets practice our normal system in our own country not a borrowed system.

Even in Chile, all the paramilitary where exempted from the system, why us? This is the kind of questions we kept on asking ourselves, why exempting others and leaving others in the system. As I said ,we are facing the same hazard, for example, when you go to Join Task Force, do you see only Army there? No! You will see all classes of uniformed staff there, they do the same kind of work, then why exempting others? It's even bringing problems in the security system.

The Correctional Centres are the security goalkeepers of the country. It is a place whereby the whole security forces are there. That is why you see when there's chaos the hoodlums will target the centre because is the strength of the government. For God sake, when hoodlums target Correctional Centres, that shows that there is no security in the country, is just like the womb inside a woman when it is removed she cannot deliver children again, so don't look at the centre as if they are doing nothing there. I tell you it is the heart of security in the country.

May I know your name Sir?

My name is DSC Anthony I. Ayiwulu (Rtd) and Ishaku Ango, committee member.

Feature

Minna Museum and the journey so far

The National Museum, Minna was established in 1988 as a "Museum of National unity. It was located at the old state Secretariat Complex, from where it moved to the basement of the Federal Secretariat Complex, Minna in March 1993. The Museum, despite its short span of existence, has fared well. In spite of the fact that it was located temporally at the federal Secretariat Complex. It can be said to rank among the best museums in Nigeria. HARUNA BALA writes

THE National Museum, Minna has staged several exhibitions and carried out several researches, documentation of antiquities, ethnographic and archaeological surveys, workshop and seminars. Obviously, it has contribute its quota towards national development.

The following are highlights of activities carried out by the National Museum, Minna since inception: A pictorial exhibition of monuments in Nigeria. The Exhibition was the first to be mounted in the Station in 1989; Exhibition of Children Art, using art works produced by Minna Museum, Children Art Club (1991 and 1993; A 1992 temporary exhibition on insects, focusing on the health and economic importance of insects;; Permanent Exhibition titled "As vehicle of Unity among Communities (2003 till date).

This exhibition was staged to promote peace and harmony in Niger State. The National

Museum, in re-examining her mission and relevance to Nigeria societies, has taken up conflict resolution as a new challenge. This is because peace and stability are the bedrock for sustainable development, farther more the museum decided to use the material and non-material cultures in its disposal to promote peace and unity in Nigeria.

In the event of war, many valuable objects for instance, may be looted and destroyed. (The case of Iraq is still fresh in our memories). The museum, therefore, decided and assembled artifacts from various ethnic groups in Nigeria. The first experiment of this type was carried out at the National Museum, Minna. In the museum, the artifacts are arranged in such a way that they transmit integrative cultural messages aimed at re-orienting the public about the need to appreciate, respect and love one another, irrespective of our tribal,

religious and linguistic differences.

Nigeria as a whole also has history of inter-ethnic cultural linkages. The records of relationships between and among the ethnic groups predated colonialism and could account for the culture diffusion, borrowing and in some cases in the psychic unity witness in development of culture practice. Museum professionals all over Africa should find means of harmonizing the culture and historical information available to them in such a way that they can promote unity among the various peoples of their countries and the continent at large.

What the National Museum, Minna, did was to use our rich culture materials to prove our relatedness. When people see that what they have in their own ethnic group, or at least a variation of it, also exist in other communities they will begin to appreciate that they are one

people. The museum sought to create awareness that if well managed can reduce ethnic violence and hostility or even end inter-ethnic conflicts.

In the area of skill acquisition, the museum complemented government at on poverty alleviation by teaching Nigerlites, particularly house wives and youths simple technologies and skills for making beads, mats, pottery, adire (tie and dye), soap, chalks, clothes, etc.

The workshops were held in 1997, 1999 and 2001. The museum also redirected attention to preservation and storage of food, the two workshops which were well attended by over 100 house wives specifically, were taught how to make and preserve tomato paste, Four of the women that benefited from this workshop have taken to commercial production of tomato paste.

The museum also introduced

the culture of general sanitation in the Federal Secretariat complex, Minna. This was sustained over the years, until the facility staff were employed by the Federal Ministry of Works took it over from the Museum.

In 2003, the Minna Museum Society was formed. This became so popular that it gave birth to the popular Minna Museum newsletter called "Museum Friend" but has stopped due to lack of funds.

Furthermore, over the past fifteen years, the National Museum, Minna has been conducting in-house seminars. which, it was organized two times a month, now with increased number of staff, it is organized every Tuesday. This helps Museum staff to keep abreast of the latest discoveries in the cultural, historical, archaeological sector etc.

Bala is of the National Museum, Minna, Niger State.

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

Be that best friend to your child

"MOM, are you my friend?"

Those are the 5 words my son asked me. That small question made me think – how do I want to answer this?

It had me pondering what other mothers thought about the idea of "being their child's friend." But before I share their thoughts, let me tell you my own: **"No, I am not your friend, I am your mom,"** is what I told my 10-year-old son.

But the conversation didn't stop there – he went on to ask me if I was friends with my own parents. Now, although my parents weren't always perfect, one thing they definitely did do right is that they never tried to be my friend – at least until I became an adult.

Why do I think that what they did was right? Because I believe that a parent is there to protect, guide and teach. They should model good decision-making, model kind behavior, keep the family safe, and provide consistency in a child's life so a child can feel safe and comfortable, and best able to handle life's challenges along the way.

A parent should be the one person a child feels he can talk to about anything, while at the same time being the person who sets the rules, boundaries and expectations for behaviors.

This structure is what provides children with a sense of safety and belonging.

If done well, this is how an open relationship between parent and child is established. When a child



breaks the rules, boundaries and expectations (as they are sure to do – this is how they learn), it is the job of the parent to give the child consequences for those behaviors, while using the experience as a teachable moment.

How can we learn from this?

How can we do better next time?

Our job as parents is to prepare our children for life. To be able to talk with our children about real issues, with the intention of teaching them life skills so they, and we, will feel confident that when they go out on their own, they will be best able to make

the safest and smartest choices. **"Friends" do not have that type of relationship; active parents do.**

But when I asked some mom friends for their thoughts, I was surprised at how many disagreed with me. They want to be their child's friend. I was told that if I was friends with my child, they would tell me everything. Other said they wanted to be a "cool" mom, and that they wanted their child's friends to think they were "cool."

I asked what makes a "cool" mom, and my friends all said the same thing: not many rules (like staying up late watching TV, playing video games, computer, cell phone and texting without any rules or consequences for breaking those rules), not being "overprotective," letting their child go to the house of a friend they don't know, letting them hang out at the mall at quite young ages (because everyone else is), letting them have a Facebook account before they are 13.

I could go on and on... and I realized I must be in the minority, because to me it sounded like a cool parent is a parent that lets their child run their house. Apparently cool parent doesn't want to

saying no or setting limits.

Well, I guess I don't fall under "cool" parent category!

My husband and I run our household. We set limits, have rules, boundaries and expectations. When those aren't followed, my son knows the consequences. I love my son and I want him to be the "best" person he can be, I want him to make mistakes and learn from them, I want him to be good to others and treat others how he wants to be treated. Most of all I want him to be happy and comfortable with who he is as a person. And if he was running our house, how could we teach him these things? If he had no limits, what will he expect from others?

If "no" is not a word he ever hears, he will expect the world to always say "yes" – and boy will he be in for a shocker as he gets older!

If my son didn't have to follow specific guidelines, what kind of person would I be preparing him to be in school, and more importantly, in life? So I tell my son, who I love more than anything, "I am better than just a friend, I am your mom, and proud of it."

Source :
Kidsafefoundation.com



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

The importance of pap smear test

By **LISA FAYED**

YOU likely have heard of the hype surrounding how often women need to undergo Pap smears. While healthy women used to undergo a Pap smear once a year, medical societies (for example, the American Cancer Society) now have spaced out the timing to every three years.

There are also set guidelines in place for when and at what age a woman should undergo HPV testing. The HPV test identifies women who are infected with high-risk strains of HPV that could lead to cervical cancer if left unmonitored or untreated.

Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines for Healthy Women

A woman should start screening for cervical cancer, which means undergoing her first Pap smear, at the age of 21, regardless of whether or not she is sexually active. Then, between the ages of 21 and 30, a woman should undergo a Pap smear every three years.



In other words, if your first pap smear is at age 21, your

next would be at age 24, then at age 27, and then at age 30.

During this period of time, HPV testing is not recommended.

At age 30, a woman has the option of having an HPV test along with her Pap smear.

If a woman chooses to have both a Pap smear and HPV

test, she can wait five years between tests. If she chooses to only have a Pap smear, then it should be repeated every three years.

Of course, it's important to remember that this assumes a woman's pap smears are normal and that she is healthy. Women who have had previous abnormal Pap smears are infected with HPV, or are at high risk for cervical cancer may need to be screened more frequently.

For example, a 21-year-old woman with an abnormal Pap smear for the first time (for example, the pap smear results reveal LSIL) will need to have a repeat Pap smear in one year, as opposed to waiting three years.

In the end, it's important to follow the recommendations of your doctor, and if you are not clear, call your doctor's office to ensure you know the correct follow-up.

Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines on Stopping Pap Smears

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. At age 65, women who have had three negatives ("normal") Pap smears in a row or two negative co-tests (meaning a "normal" Pap smear and negative HPV test) may discontinue having regular Pap smears.

This assumes that the most recent Pap smear was done within the last five years and that a woman has no history of moderate or severe abnormal cervical cells or a history of cervical cancer.

Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines for High-Risk Women

Women at high risk for cervical cancer may need more frequent Pap smears based on their health status. This could be the result of weakened immunity, such as women with HIV. Women exposed to DES in utero may also need to undergo cervical cancer screening more often.

If your health care team advises more frequent testing, discuss the reasons for it with them so you understand why it is being done.

Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines for Women Who Had a Hysterectomy

According to the American Cancer Society, women who have had a total hysterectomy, which means that the uterus and cervix were both removed, do not need to undergo any more screening.

However, this only applies to women who did not have a hysterectomy as a treatment for cervical pre-cancer or cancer. If this is the case, screening should still be continued, as cervical cells may still be present at the top of the vagina.

Women who have undergone a supra-cervical hysterectomy (meaning the uterus is removed, not the cervix) should follow the guidelines as usual.

The take home message here is that if you are healthy, you do not need to undergo a yearly Pap smear. But you still need periodic screening, like every three years or five years, depending on your age and whether you undergo an HPV test.

Regardless, though, seeing your gynecologist or family doctor once a year for a well-woman visit is important, even if you are not due for a Pap smear. During this visit, your doctor may perform a pelvic exam and a breast exam, as well as provide guidance for optimizing your overall health.



Editorial

FG's budget support facility for states

NIGERIANS recently woke up to the news of the Federal Government's plan to release new intervention funds of N656 billion for the thirty six states of the federation with each state expected to get N 18.2 billion. This fund is expected to help state governments meet up their financial obligations in the areas of support facility for provision of dividends of democracy to the people.

THE fund would be disbursed in six tranches over a period of six months to the states with a 30 year stipulated repayment time frame and a two year moratorium at an interest rate of nine percent. According to the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, after the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting the deduction would commence soon. This step is necessitated by the request of states for further support which led to the idea of bridge financing.

SINCE the approval of the recent bailout funds, most Nigerians have questioned the rationale for this second facility. It is however, clear that tough times are ahead for states as the Federal Government has insisted on bailout repayments. Sometimes in August 2020, the Nigerian Governors Forum had asked President Buhari for bailout fund to address the teething situations in their respective states across the country, even as governors agreed that federal government should withdraw one billion dollars from the Excess Crude Account for the procurement of weapons to fight insecurity in the country. In their submission, the governors highlighted the problems of poverty, unemployment, the deficit between the military and civilian populations and the inflow of small arms into the country.

THE bailout as beautiful as the idea is, needs to be people centred. Nigerians seem to be overwhelmed with several challenges that need urgent attention. A lot of things within the system need to be upgraded as these funds are made available. Indeed, the funds should be tied to specific developmental projects so that it is not mismanaged by the powers that be. In truth our healthcare facilities, educational institutions at all levels, roads, water etc are in dire straits and should be given due consideration as most of these infrastructure are in dilapidated states. Ploughing resources into agriculture and economic sectors are very vital as it would boost the financial base of each state and by extension, the country at large.

GOVERNMENT must be specific on how these bailout loans would be repaid to avoid any form of confusion with the utilization of the money. Our leaders must also put in place deliberate policies to increase their internally generated revenue so as to have a strong financial base to avoid the ugly situation where some states may begin to default in the provision of democracy dividends for its citizenry. This is to avoid a repeat of what obtained in the past where nearly two-third of the 36 states struggled to pay civil servants salaries despite receiving FG's bailout.

IN view of this, proper monitoring mechanism needs to be put in place and a clear template for adequate accountability by authorized bodies to checkmate the excesses of some leaders. The citizens of this country on the other hand, should be proactive by demanding for accountability from their leaders.

THE present day abattoir is at its decline, this is because some factors may have affected the mode of operation and activities in the abattoir, some of these factors are:- insecurity, lack of maintenance of equipment and management. These factors are major determinants of the present abattoir in which they can be rehabilitated. The abattoir should be operated in order to take it back to its initial state.

The hygiene nature of the abattoir today is no more, due to lack of safety of both the workers and the customers. People within this abattoir do things not minding if it affects their personal hygiene or not. For example, the burning of (skin with tires), this is very harmful to both the customers, workers and the immediate community.

The absence of water, electricity and waste management has greatly affected the abattoir, especially where blood and feasts of slaughtered animals pollute the

FG should provide free education/ scholarship programme

NIGERIAN Government should make Provision for free Education and Scholarship programme to student across Nigeria universities

Government is said to be the backbone of the people in terms of providing and making a better life for its citizens

Nowadays parents lack funds to get school, for their children, which is not good for the country. Education is one of the most beneficial areas which a country is supposed to enjoy from the government.

Students have become

environment worst still is the lack of running water to wash, clean and maintain the environment.

The lack of electricity in the abattoir do not allow the workers to use their machines, instead they slaughter animals with bare hand, which is more tedious and dangerous.

Jos Abattoir becoming an eye sour

Lack of electricity also affects the security by not allowing the security lights shine at night.

By the time waste are not properly disposed, it tends to pollute and litter the environment because the food (meat) been sold requires proper hygiene

environment.

With the current state of the abattoir, I want to please call on the government and urge that they help renovate the abattoir with standard and modern equipment so as to bring it back to its initial good state or better even,

in order to provide effective and efficient service for customers satisfaction and to generate more revenue for the government.

ALEXIS PETER is of Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi

PLSG should regulate mining activities

LET me use this medium of THE NIGERIA STANDARD Newspaper to appeal to the Plateau State government on the need to check the rampant cases of illegal mining in Jos and environs.

Plateau State is blessed with solid minerals such as tin, columbite, kaolin, barites and many others. Unfortunately, the activities of

illegal miners is robbing the state government of the desired revenues as well as the constant loss of lives at the mining fields as well as the dangers of digging out the minerals.

Mining, such as that of tin and columbite which is the most common and lucrative among the youths these days, has made many of

them to abandon the pursuit of education and other skilled jobs in search of quick money which usually comes with a price.

Over the years, there have been reported cases where such mining pond had covered alive some of the miners who in most cases do not consider precautionary measures in their activities and the resultant effect is that many are either injured or killed in the process.

However, it is now timely for the Plateau State government to put a check on this activities with a view to making that business organized with modern equipment and as channels of generating revenue for the state.

All relevant agencies must put measures in place to ensure adherence to safety regulations and also curb revenue leakages that is expected to standardized the business of mining in the state.

David Istifanus, Plateau State University, Bokkos

Covid-19 is still with us, please observe the protocols

Standard Cartoon

Baba Iyabo which party is this will you change this party again in the future?
" I dey hail ooo..."



Opinion

Revamping the Nigeria Police Force

BY NELSON OLANIBEKUN

SIX years ago, I was in the police station to respond to a distress call made by our client to the chambers I worked at. On getting there, an argument ensued between me and the officers; they were determined to perpetuate the illegality I sought to prevent, and as a result, they pushed and dragged me out of their station.

Violations of human rights, assaults, recklessness and extrajudicial killings have long been associated with the police. It is however essential to establish that not all officers are bad, and some officers are doing fantastic work in the pursuit of justice. Many upright officers who are diligent have shown outstanding efforts to keep communities safe. However, the ills that permeate the Nigeria Police Force, such as brutality, indiscriminate killings, arrests, and extortion, undermine the system's reasonable efforts.

As much as citizens are deeply exposed to human rights abuses, officers of the Nigeria Police are likewise, not invulnerable to human rights violations, most especially in their line of duty. Oftentimes, it comes from their employer and even the citizens they are saddled with the responsibility to protect and serve. They are also victims of

unfavourable policies.

According to a police officer interviewed by Team Gavel, "Good welfare is the major challenge. No one regards us, especially, if you are in a lower cadre. We buy everything with our money; money that is not even enough. We buy complaint books and uniforms. The last time I was given a uniform was when I was in Police College."

This was a statement made by an Inspector who has spent 21 years as a police officer and currently earns about N87,135. An average police officer earns their salary based on the level or rank. The majority of these officers start their career in the Nigerian Police as constables at grade level 03 with a monthly earning of N43,293.80, which is approximately 75 dollars. After three years or more on the job, an officer only moves to the next level with a N6,000 salary increase.

While it is worthy to note that the use of force by officers of the Nigeria Police is necessary, it should only be proportionate to the perceived harm intended to be caused by a suspect

In a society like ours, the mere appearance of armed police officers is enough to terrify innocent citizens. Indeed, the Nigeria Police Force has faced overwhelming criticism and detestation, which is not unconnected to cases of brutality

and inhumane dealings of its officers. Nonetheless, the force is made up of humans, people who could do better at their jobs if only the authorities made necessary efforts by way of reforms.

A police officer interviewed by Team Gavel shares his opinion, "I cannot really blame people when they are defensive. They have seen officers mistreat people and they are only scared for themselves. But I can categorically say, if there is improvement in our welfare, the officers will behave better. Although it is not a guarantee because there will always be bad eggs no matter the improvement."

While it is worthy to note that the use of force by officers of the Nigeria Police is necessary, it

should only be proportionate to the perceived harm intended to be caused by a suspect, without brute force and show of terror. The Police Act provides for humane treatment and dignity of all suspects, thus, there are no laws whatsoever justifying the brutality, use of lethal weapons, and reckless behaviour of officers of the Nigeria Police Force to citizens who they are expected to protect.

While the #EndSARS protest was in part, a response to the need for a better police force in Nigeria, a quick examination of the root cause of the age-long problem within the policing system would refer us to a vicious cycle where years of poor welfare and poor remuneration of police officers have sapped officers' morale.

Only recently, a video emerged showing police officers, many of whom were deployed to Anambra for the elections, protesting. The aggrieved officers were heard chanting 'pay us our money' as they demanded that the N10,000 approved for their feeding be paid immediately.

According to an affected police officer, the officers were "protesting over non-payment of Election feeding allowance. 10,000 naira is the amount for feeding. Meanwhile, over three days now, no accommodation and no food to eat. Many of the junior ranks are stranded in Idemili Ogidi Division where they received 1,500 police personnel from Lagos State."

These and many other similar plights of men and women tasked with securing lives and property necessitate the call for a total

"While the #EndSARS protest was in part, a response to the need for a better police force in Nigeria, a quick examination of the root cause of the age-long problem within the policing system would refer us to a vicious cycle where years of poor welfare and poor remuneration of police officers have sapped officers' morale".

Nigeria's changing climatic conditions

IT is barely a month to the Christmas season, yet the rain has not ceased to grace the country with its unpredictable and heavy presence. Climatic conditions have significantly changed over the years, and the current erratic trends come with undeniable concerns, especially in unprepared countries.

Climate change has indeed taken its toll on Nigeria's vulnerable geography as consequent anthropogenic influences due to global warming has led to massive melting of ice glaciers, hurricane experiences and coastal storms, overfilling of major rivers, as well as massive flooding worldwide.

In Nigeria, perennial flooding has been one of the country's most prevalent natural disasters. This unfortunate activity occurs as a result of natural and human-made causes.

From the natural scene, Nigeria's flooding experience can be traced to its geography. The country hosts two great rivers – the Niger, which flows from the north-west and the Benue, which enters Nigeria from Cameroon in the east. These two rivers converge at the centre of the country and then flow southwards as a single river into the Atlantic Ocean.

Much of the country's flooding occurs along these two river lines as their banks overflow during the rainy seasons. In 2012, for instance, hundreds of thousands of acres of land were flooded when rivers Benue and Niger split. In that period, the Niger River reached a record high level of 12.84 metres (or 42 feet).

Interestingly, it is not surprising that Nigeria's over-flooding occurrences occur in response to human-induced

By IFEOLUWA OGUNRINOLA

impulses. Increased human industrial activity, for instance, can lead to undue environmental exposure as environmentally unfriendly production processes produce toxic wastes in gaseous forms. When released into the atmosphere, these gasiforms constitute toxic materials that deplete the ozone layer, which protects the earth, causing the penetration of direct ultraviolet (UV) rays.

Such released oxides of carbon and other greenhouse emissions cause rising temperatures – even higher than the poles – resulting in the melting of giant ice glaciers, which calve off into the sea, and onto land. This, in addition to increased rainfall, results in massive over-flooding.

In addition to increased industrial activities, poor urban planning and inadequate environmental infrastructure deny Nigeria enjoying natural tranquillity when water levels rise. The resulting over-flooding experiences in the country can raise national sustainability concerns as it affects the economy, health, social life and the environment. Undoubtedly, flooding constitutes a threat to Nigeria in its drive towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over-flooding has, over the years, negatively impacted Nigeria's development efforts. There has been a visible compromise of the country's social, economic and environmental targets as yearly incidences have resulted in massive loss of lives, increase

in the number of internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Increased poverty and hunger, and lack of access to clean water and sanitation.

In 2012, for instance, the nation recorded its scariest flood experience where 2 million Nigerians were displaced, and 363 individuals died. The event cost the country an estimated \$16.9 billion in total losses. In 2015, over 100,000 individuals were displaced, and 53 persons died due to over-flooding. In the following year, 2016, 92,000 Nigerians lost their homes and businesses, and 38 deaths were recorded from over-flooding. Environmental damages due to over-flooding affected over 250,000 people in the eastern-central region in 2017.

Also, about 200 individuals were killed in 2018 due to massive over-flooding in Niger, Kogi, Anambra and Delta states, respectively. The President declared a state of emergency in the affected states, and an \$8.2 million relief pledge was made by the presidency.

It seems easier to address flooding issues that arise as a result of human-induced actions over natural causes. In Nigeria, many residential areas lack proper drainage facilities but rely on natural drainage channels. Also, increased urbanisation and the consequent rise in poorly planned buildings in urbanised centres contribute to over-flooding in Nigeria.

Poor waste management is another problem that entices the evil of over-flooding. When large chunks of improperly dumped wastes are not properly managed and disposed of by the

responsible authorities, flooding occurs, especially when heavy rain pours for a prolonged period.

Unregulated urban expansion without a commensurate provision of modern urban infrastructure and amenities can cause over-flooding. Also, poor implementation of planning laws that govern the locational distribution of erected buildings can cause flooding experienced in affected areas.

Corrupt town planning officials also lend a hand to this disaster. When officers take bribes and overlook issues, they encourage unauthorised land use and alteration of approved construction plans. When buildings are wrongfully erected in flood-prone areas, residents of that area become vulnerable to over-flooding during persistent rainy days or when the sea level rises significantly.

Appropriate actions by the government are needed to mitigate the occurrence of over-flooding in the country. There should be a focus on controlling and managing floods in Nigeria rather than spending billions of dollars in post-disaster rescue operations. Addressing the country's undue exposure to flood risks should be made a matter of national priority by the government and other relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, the government should develop the political will to invest appropriately in areas that help prevent and control over-flooding in the country. Investment in sustainable urban planning, green infrastructure and technology is required to avoid future over-flooding and provide early warning signals in incoming danger.

Change of Name					
<div>IBRAHIM I, formerly known as IBRAHIM FADIMA, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM FATIMATU MUSA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>MARKUS I, formerly known as BUBA KEZIAH MARKUS, now wish to be known and addressed as MARKUS KEZIAH IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>JING I, formerly known as STEPHEN TYANG, now wish to be known and addressed as JING PRECIOUS STEPHEN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>ZHIKUR I, formerly known as ESTHER NANMA EDWARD, now wish to be known and addressed as ZHIKUR NANMA EDWARD. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>IBRAHIM I, formerly known as MOHAMMED SHAMSUDEEN IBRAHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM SHAMSUDEEN IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>AFINIKI I, formerly known as AFINIKI YOHANNA, now wish to be known and addressed as AFINIKI YOHANNA MADAKI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>ALI I, formerly known as ISA MAIMUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as ALI MAIMUNA ISAH. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>ODOO I, formerly known as ODOO GEOFFREY MATHIAS,GEOFFREY ENENCHE ODOO, now wish to be known and addressed as ODOO GEOFFREY MATHIAS. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>FUNMI I, formerly known as FUNMI OWOLABI OLUWAKEMI, now wish to be known and addressed as FUNMI OSAMA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>HYACINITH I, formerly known as HASSAN EDWARD TERHIRE, now wish to be known and addressed as HYACINITH TERHIRE GWAR. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>ALIYU I, formerly known as KUDUDU UMAR ALIYU, now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU UMAR KUDUDU. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>FRANCIS I, formerly known as FRANCIS DAWENG DUNG, now wish to be known and addressed as FRANCIS WENG DAZAM. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>ABDULYEKEEN I, formerly known as YUSUF MADINAT ARIKWUYO, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULYEKEEN MADINAT SARUMI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>OLUBI I, formerly known as ABAH ALUBI ANGELA, now wish to be known and addressed as OLUBI ANGELA ABAH. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>MERCY I, formerly known as MERCY SIMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as MERCY NATHAN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>NIMBYEN I, formerly known as NIMBYEN ZIHKUR, now wish to be known and addressed as NIMBYEN FAITH DOMYIL. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>NAOMI I, formerly known as VICTOR NAOMI MADU BASSU, now wish to be known and addressed as NAOMI MADU BASSU. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>IDRIS I, formerly known as IDRIS DANBLAWUS MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD IDRIS HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>ZIYA I, formerly known as ABU CHRIS, now wish to be known and addressed as ZIYA CHRIS MAIRUWA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>BILIPNANRET I, formerly known as BHILIPNANRET PHILIP, now wish to be known and addressed as BILIPNANRET MANKA PHILIP. All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 04/09/1997. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>MBATARWO I, formerly known as FUNYE DAMISHI SIMON, now wish to be known and addressed as MBATARWO SIMON. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>GUMAP I, formerly known as GUMAT KYECHI DANLADI, now wish to be known and addressed as GUMAP KYECHI DANLADI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>VICTOR I, formerly known as VICTOR ARANDA, now wish to be known and addressed as VICTOR TRIGOL ARANDA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>HULDAH I, formerly known as HULDAH DAVID DUSHU, now wish to be known and addressed as HULDAH YOHANNA ALI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>BETTY I, formerly known as BETTY JOHNSON YAKUBU GWOTT, now wish to be known and addressed as BETTY JOHNSON YAKUBU. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>DORCAS I, formerly known as DORCAS ANTHONY, now wish to be known and addressed as DORCAS PANKYES GAMAJE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>JULIET I, formerly known as JULIET AUGUSTINE, now wish to be known and addressed as JULIET AUGUSTINE OCHAI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>ALI I, formerly known as ALIYU MANSIR, now wish to be known and addressed as ALI MANSUR. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>ARUMU I, formerly known as YAKUBU WILSON, now wish to be known and addressed as ARUMU ANGBWEKES WILSON. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>MUHAMMAD I, formerly known as MUHAMMED SULEIMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD SULEIMAN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>IDENYI I, formerly known as JUSTINA IDENYI OODO, now wish to be known and addressed as ODOO JUSTINA IDENYI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>DACHOMO I, formerly known as DACHOMO DACHUNG DAVOU, now wish to be known and addressed as DACHOMO DACHUNG DAFWOL. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>BITRUS I, formerly known as BITRUS PAULINA, now wish to be known and addressed as BITRUS PAULINA WISHAK. My date of birth is 13/1/1966 All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>LONGMEN I, formerly known as LONGMEN SYLVANUS, now wish to be known and addressed as NOLMEN PAPHEN LONGMEN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>OJULARI I, formerly known as OJULARI, ADEDAYO HABEED, now wish to be known and addressed as OJULARI, ADEDAYO HABIB. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>NAPDO I, formerly known as ZINGFA GWAKBONG, now wish to be known and addressed as NAPDO ZINGFA GWAKBONG. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>TITUS I, formerly known as MISHAP AYIKU, now wish to be known and addressed as TITUS MISHAP. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>FUKKY I, formerly known as FUKKY SAMSON, now wish to be known and addressed as FUKKY YILBET BILLION. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>GABRIEL I, formerly known as GABRIEL AYODELE, now wish to be known and addressed as GABRIEL AYODELE OLUWASEUN. My correct date of birth is 18-06-1999 not 01-01-1992,All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>BULUS I, formerly known as BULUS MUSA DAGOLE, now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS MUSA DOGOK. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>WADAK I, formerly known as WOKGAM JOSHUA WADAK, now wish to be known and addressed as WADAK JOSHUA WOKGAM. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>ABIDA I, formerly known as ABIDA ABDULLAHI, now wish to be known and addressed as ABIDA MINKAILU. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>DEAT I, formerly known as SATSHAK FAVOUR, now wish to be known and addressed as DEAT SATSHAK OMEGA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>VWANG I, formerly known as VWANG RIFKATU DALYOP, now wish to be known and addressed as VWANG TEYEI DALYOP. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>LENGJI I, formerly known as LENGJI GAYUS NANLONG, now wish to be known and addressed as LENGJI ISHAYA NANLONG. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>OKAFOR I, formerly known as NEBO TINA ADAORA, now wish to be known and addressed as OKAFOR TINA ADAORA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>HALLIRU I, formerly known as MUSA TALATU HARUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as HALLIRU TALATU MUTPAN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>GODREY I, formerly known as JACOB GODFREY, now wish to be known and addressed as GODFREY DABISH NANLAT. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>LONGCHAM I, formerly known as LONGCHAM NANKUME, now wish to be known and addressed as LONGCHAM YONGDONG MA'ANGOEME. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>MARGARET I, formerly known as MARGERET JAMES LONGZACK, now wish to be known and addressed as MARGARET JAMES LONGZACK. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>DAMINA I, formerly known as AHMADU MOHAMMADU USMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMINA AMADU GAGARE. My correct date of birth is14/04/1987 not 14/4/1967. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>YAKUBU I, formerly known as DANLAMI HELEN, now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU, HELEN ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>NANKILING I, formerly known as SHWARKISHAK JERRY ENOCH, now wish to be known and addressed as NANKILING SILAS WAMKAT. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>USMAN I, formerly known as MUHAMMADU YUNUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN MUHAMMAD MUSA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>
<div>JWANCHIN I, formerly known as KYENLONG GRACE FRANCIS, now wish to be known and addressed as JWANCHIN NANRET FRANCIS. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>FWANGSHAK I, formerly known as FWANGSHAK DASHEM, now wish to be known and addressed as FWANGSHAK YAKUBU. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>ELISHA I, formerly known as DASHI ALHAMIS PANAT, now wish to be known and addressed as ELISHA JOSEPH ALHAMIS. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>BITRUS I, formerly known as TIMOTHY NANFE, now wish to be known and addressed as BITRUS NANFE NANFE DAIWANG. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>VWAMSE I, formerly known as MOSES FRIDAY JOSEPH, now wish to be known and addressed as VWAMSE FRIDAY MOSES. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.</div>	<div>SPACE FOR SALE</div>

VOX POP

'Our children are always abused with impunity'

The lives of our children are no longer safe, especially the girl-child (minor), who is sexually abused on a daily basis by adults who often are close relations, caregivers and or guardians etc. The girl-child who is becoming vulnerable in our society therefore needs to be protected and laws strengthened to ensure that such perpetrators are brought to book. Our correspondents LONGS JOSEPH, SELE EZEKIEL, LUKA HAPPINESS, COMFORT ENOCH, RINAN KWANDE and BLESSING JONATHAN went round and sought the opinions of members of the public on how to address the issue. Excerpts:-

**Ezekiel**

Mr. Ezekiel Wurim Long who works with Ministry of Works Plateau State said how people treat children in our society these days is a matter of concern.

According to him, child abuse is not just about black eyes, physical abuse is shocking due to the marks it leaves.

Lack of parental training is exposing them to sexuality making them feel worthless or stupid. This can leave deep lasting scars on the children. Regardless of the type of abuse, the result is always that of serious emotional harm but there is help available. If you suspect a child is suffering from abuse or neglect, it's important to speak out. Physical abuse is just one type of child abuse, child neglect or sexual and emotional abuse can inflict just as much damage too.

Ezekiel said most children who are abused are children who are into street hawking at a tender age who are always the most vulnerable. For instance, the recent child abuse that happened in Abattoir in Jos South LGC of Plateau State is a good example. The culprit had been abusing children of between 10 years, 11 years and also a girl

**Plangan**

of 7 years old for a long time. Some men have been having sex with their own biological children who do not even know the difference between what is right and wrong. This is a taboo to the society and even the world at large.

Some people are having mental disorder, while some have psychological problems within their family circles which cannot be dealt with and as a result of the abuse, an individual can suffer from a variety of issues that will cause abnormality.

Mr David Kwilah Babs, an Entrepreneur said, "I would start by saying that there are various forms of child abuse, sexual molestation, emotional abuse and physical abuse.

As to why people get involved in child abuse, this owes to so many reasons of which I would touch on some. The most

**Babs**

common form of child abuse around us in Nigeria and may be Africa at large is child labour. It's worrisome how child labour is so rampant in this part of the world.

Child labour is a form of abuse whereby underaged children are involved in some economic activities they shouldn't be doing just to cater for themselves and even family members who might depend on them. This form of abuse can be attributed to poverty and responsibility of parents who are not able to afford basic living expenses for their families.

It occurs mostly in situations like streets hawking, house helps and care giving jobs. If you ever find yourself around traffic junctions, you would feel really sorry to see children who should be in school but they're hawking on streets to make ends meet.

Another catalyst for child

**Chaliya**

abuse is religion. Yes, religion. Early child marriage is a serious form of child abuse around us. Some religion support the marriage of underaged girls to older men. At times, men who are as old as their fathers will marry them with the support of parents. These girls in most cases are not even yet sexually matured enough to go through child bearing, they also suffer a lot of physical and emotional abuse from their older husband.

Possible solutions to child abuse I would say is enacting acts of parliament. The government has to step in and enforce laws that would check the abuse of children by their guardians.

Most parents who send their children to hawk on the streets do this as the last resort to providing the basic needs for their families. If the government do the needful and create an enabling environment for economic development, a lot of parents would not have to send their kid to the streets.

In the same vein, Mr. Simput Ezekiel, Proprietor of Mutka Solid Foundation High School

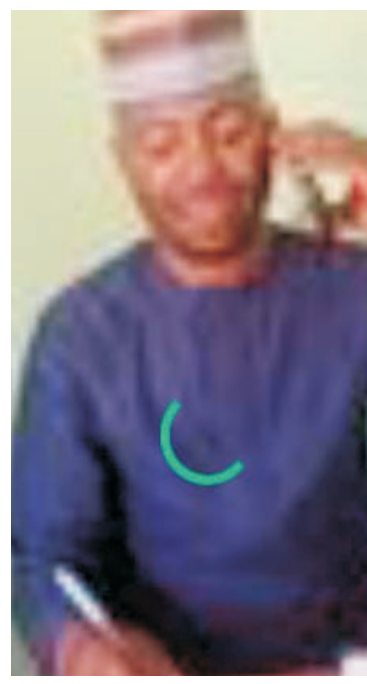
**Benard**

said child abuse is a crime of harming a child physically or emotionally. It is a form of maltreatment by an adult threatening a child.

Simput said child abuse and neglect are global problems that can be in form of physical, sexual and emotional neglect in providing for the child or children's needs which can lead to long lasting psychological damage. It occurs against children who are involved in street hawking. Most times, the higher risk in child abuse can lead to lower academic performance and achievements.

He added that children who are maltreated mostly end up as dropouts and face psychosocial and economic consequences.

According to Mrs. Plangan Timothy and Chaliya Kanadi, child abuse can be abusive on

**Simput**

a child who knows little or nothing to defend him or herself.

So, sometimes what happens is not actually because they desire to do it, from the word child abuse, it is an abuse that happens to them. They do it unnecessarily whereby parents do not give them proper attention, care they need and advice they should have gotten from their parents or family.

If a parent or a mother will give proper care to their children, to monitor their going out and coming in always and tell them what is good and what is bad, what they should do and what they should not do.

She also said, parents should attend to their children basis needs some parent don't give listening ears to their children even when they need answers

**Orthris**

they are always too busy in giving them listening ears.

Like my children, I normally put on decent clothes on them that covers their nakedness in order not to attract men, says Chaliya.

She added that not all abusive parents or guardians intentionally harm their children. Many have been victims of these abuse themselves. Parents and others may be struggling with mental health issue or substance abuse problem. Most abusers are family members or others close to the family.

All type of abuse and neglect leaves lasting scars. Some of these scars might be physical, but emotional scars have long lasting effects throughout the life span of such a victim. Damaging a child's sense of self, their future relationship and ability to function at home, work and school.

The solution to this attitude is that parents should volunteer their time, get involved with other parents in their community and discipline their children. Never discipline your child when you are upset. Give yourself time to calm down, remember that discipline is away to teach your child to be responsible.

She stressed that children have the right to be safe.

She advised victims to always report abuse cases if they witness a child being harmed.

Mr. Orthris, a business man said child abuse at times is spiritual. So I plead with parents to pray for their children, they should always keep their children on check, be watchful don't just leave a child with anybody you don't trust. Prevention is better than cure.

News

Senate Appropriation Committee gets deadline

THE Senate Committee on Appropriations has been given till Wednesday, 24th November, 2021, to conclude budget defense by subcommittees of the upper chamber.

Senate President Ahmad Lawan, who issued the order, said the ultimatum became necessary in keeping with the December 14 timetable for the passage of the 2022 budget by the National Assembly.

He added that working to the contrary may mar the timely passage of the Appropriation bill as planned.

Lawan assured Nigerians that the National Assembly would work assiduously in ensuring that it resolves any likely hitch that may interfere with the quick passage of the budget next month.

He commended ministries, departments and agencies of government for appearing before the committees of the chamber to defend their respective budget estimates.

He said, "According to our timetable for the budget defense and subsequent processing by our committees or subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, tomorrow will be the

last day for the budget defense.

"Tomorrow, no matter what, we have to conclude with the budget defense by the subcommittees before the committee on appropriations, and it is very important."

Explaining why work on the budget must be concluded in good time, Lawan said, "In fact, it is very, very essential that we keep to our timetable, otherwise, we may run into a very serious problem with our time for the budget to be considered and passed by the 14th of December.

"We have up to the weekend to conclude on the work of defense by the subcommittees before the appropriations committee, so that the appropriations committee is able to also work to compile the document for us to work with, when we come to the next segment for the budget processing – that is the laying, consideration and passage of the budget proposal by the grace of God.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank all our committees for doing very well so far, and I'm sure that this little hitch is not something that we cannot deal with.

"On the whole, the program is going on, and I'm particularly glad that we have been able to finish the defense by the MDAs, and

also commend the MDAs for coming forward to defend rather than leaving us to do what we think they want."

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CONSENT OF NEXT OF KIN

This is to inform the general public that I, **ALICE EMMANUEL** the wife of late **SGT. NANKPAK GAMDE** and the mother of **NANDOM NANKPAK** who is one of the next of kin to late **SGT. NANKPAK GAMDE** have consented that all the entitlement in respect of the deceased (**SGT**) **NANKPAK GAMDE** should be paid into the account of **MARY JOHN**, who is also one of the next of kin to the deceased

Authorities concerned the public to please take note.
Signed: ALICE EMMANUEL

THE ASSOCIATION OF TOURISM PRACTITIONERS OF NIGERIA, (ATPN)

The general public is hereby informed that the Association of Tourism Practitioners of Nigeria, ATPN, has applied for the registration of its Board of Trustees with the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part "C" (now Part "F") of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Kabir M. Malan
2. Andy Osa Ehanire
3. Abdulmumuni Mapindi
4. Ganiyu Balogun
5. Nkereuwem Onung
6. Frank Meke
7. John-Likita M. Best

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote Tourism development in Nigeria and internationally
2. To co-operate with government organizations and their various agencies regarding Government policies on Tourism and to thereby promote the virile development of the Tourism Industry, in line with the Public Private Partnership concept.

To establish contact and co-operate with other similar international bodies on Tourism and allied industries

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: JOHN-LIKITA M. BEST
National Administrative Secretary
Suites 26-28, Kalwa Shopping Complex,
Yakubu Gowon Express Way, Jos

Change of Name

MARTHA

I, formerly known as **STEPHEN LARAI MUSA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA LARAI RAIROM**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

ABUBAKAR

I, formerly known as **USMAN ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR USMAN**. My correct date of birth is March 27, 1979 not March 12, 1982. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

MUSA

I, formerly known as **STEPHEN LARAI MUSA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA LARAI RAIROM**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

MAREN

I, formerly known as **MAREN MANGAI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MAREN MOSES MANGAI**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

ELIAS

I, formerly known as **MATTHEW IDOKO MICHAEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ELIAS MATTHEW IDOKO**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

MANDIM

I, formerly known as **DESHI DAKUP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MANDIM DAKUP DAVID**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

MARTHA

I, formerly known as **MARTHA JAMES**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARTHA JAMES NYAKO**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

SANI

I, formerly known as **AUWALU MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SANI AUWALU IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

DANGWAM

I, formerly known as **DANGWAM DASHE VALERIAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANGWAM VALERIAN VOELDONG**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

MOLTU

I, formerly known as **MWOLTU COMFORT MISSANG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOLTU COMFORT MISANG**. My correct date of birth is 13/8/2003. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

BONKAT

I, formerly known as **KWAMKUR RECIT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BONKAT RECIT**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

MUHAMMAD

I, formerly known as **MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM AMEER**. Correct date of birth is 1/1/1994. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

NOSA

I, formerly known as **MAGRET ASUQUO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NOSA MARGARET EDET**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

ISA

I, formerly known as **ADAM ISAH SAMAILA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISA ADAM ISMAIL**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

BARDE

I, formerly known as **JOYFUL DANJUMA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BARDE MANYIL JOYFUL**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

ABUBAKAR

I, formerly known as **ABDULRASEED HUSSAINI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

OBIEKWE

I, formerly known as **UBAH NMA JENNIFER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OBIEKWE NMA JENNIFER**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

PROBATE NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA IN THE PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first column hereunder died intestate on the date and place state in the said column:

AND WHEREAS the person whose name (s) and addresses and relations to the deceased are set out in the second column hereto has/have applied to the High Court of Plateau State for a grant of letter of Administration of the Real and Personal properties/ estate of the said deceased:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a **"NOTICE TO PROHIBIT"** the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty-one (21) days from the date hereof:

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Ngyang Nvel Net late of Plateau State, died on the 28th Feb, 2018. At Hwolshe Jos, Plateau State.	Samuel Net Ngyang of CO-CIN LCC Fanbgroi Riyom LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Goyit Gregory Jikirit late of Plateau State, died on the 3rd Jan, 2020. At Jos, Plateau State.	Rita Fonai Goyit of No4. Joseph Akande Close Rantya Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Musa Adamu Solomon late of Plateau State died on the 28th Aug, 2021. At JUTH, Plateau State.	Musa Nancy Solomon of Federal Housing Estate Hake Lamingo Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Rev. Jacob Adilimil Azako late of Plateau State died on the 29th April, 2020. At JUTH, Plateau State.	Jummai Jacob C/O ECWA Church Kishika, Bassa LGA. Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Olaosebikan Rukaiyat Abdulwasu late of Kwara State died on the 30th Oct, 2021. At Kwara State.	Ahmed Abdulwasu Raji of TT and T Juunction Rikkos Jos, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Daniang Gloria Moenkang late of Plateau State died on the 17th July, 2020. At Rahwol Kak Gyel, Jos south LGA, Plateau State.	James Bitswar Daniang of COCIN Church Anguldi Zawan Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Joel Pomang Irmiya late of Plateau State died on the 4th March, 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	Joel Jummai Irmiya of COCIN LCC Bungba, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Dauda Sale late of Plateau State died on the 20th Dec, 2020. At Riyom, LGA Plateau State.	Samila Monday & Habakkuk Samuel c/o Habakkuk Samuel of Jenta Mangoro Jos, Plateau State lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Bukoye Oyewale late of Oyo State died on the 27th Aug, 2020. At Ago Are, oyo State.	Princess Ogooluwa Amarchi & Olubukoye Chinyere Favour All of Opposite FCT Pankshin, LGA Plateau State lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS
Cyprian Shillong Kwappol late of Plateau State died on the 3rd March, 2014. At Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA Plateau State.	Sandra Galura Kwappol c/o Catholic Church Nben Shendam LGA, Plateau State lawful daughter of the said deceased.

(LADI A. MADAKI),
PROBATE REGISTRAR,
PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS

Nigerian celebrities and their dance of shame



By KENNETH DARENG

ON March 7, 1985, singer/actor/activist Harry Belafonte along with fellow American musicians such as; Quincy Jones, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Michael Omartian and a host of other famous musicians inspired the world when they all came together to record a charity song; "WE ARE THE WORLD" in order to donate AID to the cause of famine victims in North Africa.

Since then, other individual efforts have been made by musicians and other celebrities across the globe in raising funds toward humanitarian activities and to draw global attention to issues that need urgent attention and so on. However this analogy may just be a contrast of events among our own celebrities here on the continent of Africa whom perhaps, only a handful do attaché interest in being their

brother's keeper talk less of performing free for charity or for the sake of philanthropy.

Back home recently, the social media space was agog which involved one of Nigeria's finest export and music icon David Adeleke, alias, Davido, the 30billion dollar crooner who on his birthday, decided to send his account number to his fans and other well wishers who quickly responded within hours with a whooping N200million. But before the young chap could give a vote of thanks to the people for their generous donations, there were wild condemnations from different platforms of the social media as to why such a well to do musician will dissent so low to demand for money.

However, the backlash became obvious, the musician quickly put up a statement saying, and he had added his personal money amounting to N50million which the sum total of N250million who he said, be donated to all charity homes. Then a torrent of questions started pouring in. Trust some Nigerians who also want as to a proof, which charity homes are beneficiary and also want to see convincing evidence of certified copies of bank transactions or cash disbursement of such funds.

While that was going on, another bombshell came in from the P-Square brothers who had reconciled after a long squabble that led to the duo parting ways as a singing group. The same sharing of bank account came up on the day of their renewal of vows which also coincided with their birthday. Although no specific amount was said to have been realized

through that account posted on the platform, such action drew the anger of some fans and commentators who even suggested they musicians ought to have staged a charity concert rather than turning themselves to "Celebrity beggars."

Unfortunately, Nigerians are taking such things for granted especially where millions of naira would be paid into an individual account without security agencies like the police, Independent corrupt practices Commission (ICPC) or the Economic and Financial Crimes Commissions (EFEC), calling that artist for questioning speaks volumes of our system in this country. In other climes, any amount donated to charity through whatever guise goes through scrutiny by the relevant authorities while proper audit is undertaken as to how the money was spend.

In the case of Nigeria, with the level of awareness, people are beginning to smell a rat when some so called celebrities try to play Whooooduni [a popular American magician known for his stage stunts] with their senses. This is a case some observers in the social media said was an act of;" pulling a smart one on their fans and friends. However the good intentions of Mr Davido and the P-Square brothers may misunderstood, a better angle of approach might have saved them the arrows of attack against the requests. They are rich enough to have a routinee of Public Relations and Financial advisers as to how they could avoid actions that may be



misconstrued as; 'playing smart 'After all, these are A-List celebrities who have a large fan based that could support any particular humanitarian gestures any day any time,

There are so many areas that our established celebrities can support Charity such as the fight against cancer, sickle cell, diabetes, HIV AIDS and other terminal diseases. What about refugees who are sheltered in different camps across the country and what about the case of those in hospitals who cannot pay their medical or discharged bills or those in need of scholarship to pursuit ordinary primary school education and so it is in many spheres of human endeavor begging for support.

It is a common reality to have seen the frail looking pictures of

some celebrities of the Hollywood fame or musicians who had made the mark in the entertainment industry soliciting for financial support to meet the demands of medical bills and stuff like that which they could not afford. And one begins to wonder, where are the Ramsey Noahs, the Desmond Elliots, the Richard Mofe Damijos, of this world, and where are the Whiskids, the Tiwas, the Davidos the P-Squares of this world.

Perhaps, behind the glitz, the pomp and the packaging, most of the net worth of some of these so called Nigerian celebrities are just mere exaggeration , and to put better it in the words of Peter Tosh of blessed memory...." Not all that glitters is gold."

"There are so many areas that our established celebrities can support Charity such as the fight against cancer, sickle cell, diabetes, HIV AIDS and other terminal diseases. What about refugees who are sheltered in different camps across the country and what about the case of those in hospitals who cannot pay their medical or discharged bills or those in need of scholarship to pursuit ordinary primary school education and so it is in many spheres of human endeavor begging for support."



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

MONEY makes the world go around, Economy of every nation solidly rely on the exchange of money for its products and services.

As a medium of exchange, money is a catalyst for human existence as a store of value in the economic life of any individual or nation to to depend on its usage.

This exculpate why every country in the world take it upon itself to protect its currency jealously from anything that would harm the currency or devalue the power of the currency both local and

Strenthtening the naira for economic viability

international in its value as purchasing power.

Naira in recent years has become extremely a matter of great concern to all Nigerian citizens. The continuous fall in the value of Naira has affected the economic growth and development negatively even on the common citizens of the country, perhaps the cost of high living in the country keeps or increasing everyday by high cost of goods and services is unbearable.

However, the purchasing power of the citizens, especially workers has remain stagnant as salaries and wages of civil servant cannot take them home by all indicaation.

The value of Naira has apparently translated into the devaluation of the standard of living of the averaged Nigerian who cannot effort do eat three square meals a day. With a negative impact of hunger which has resulted in the unprecedented wide spread of various forms of crimes and insecurity across the nation.

To this extend, the federal government should begin to get genuinely committed towards finding lasting solution o the

dwindling value of the Naira which is the economic strength of the country's economy.

The fact still remains that, every day the Nigeria Naira has being weakened against the dollar, this could be attributed to the government over dependence on loans and the high rate of importation of good from other countries which has made the country to be a consuming nation rather than exporting goods in other to have a balance trade.

Needless to say that a point has to be made without fear of contradiction that the biting predicament of the country which is responsible for the continuous external loan and borrowing needs an urgent attention by experts in the economic management and other related fields of management should quickly come to the aid to work out modalities that would bail this country out from it's present financial predicament.

These steps should be beyond political statement or propaganda that would only end up in paper work only, but to ensure that they boost the economic drivers to harmonics

and intensity its production and the export capacity of the country's goods and services.

It is also important to put all efforts together, towards diversification of the economy and enhancing the non - oil sectors for economic recover that would help to balance the gap between the import and export of goods and services.

Today the country's export potential are hipped only on the crude oil which has placed Nigeria operating a mono economy whereby the country economy is driven by vast by importation and also making the country as a dumping ground for other nations to bring in their sub-standard goods into the country which is the major factor responsible for unabated devaluing of the Naira.

Nigeria Producers, Federal government should begin to compete favourably in the international market with what is imported into the country and what they would export out of the country.

It is time that for Nigeria to be a producing nation rather than a consuming nations only because most consuming

nations and are depending on importation of goods and also borrowing huge sum of mondes to finance their economy and budgets.

Indeed, the launching of e-Naira, which makes Nigeria to be the first African Nation to launched its digital currency is a welcome idea.

This places Nigeria among 80 countries around the world that are exploring the possibility haing a strong and viable economy to facilitate exchange and promote trade, reviving the economy from recession or depression. Also an increase in the value of our Naira would better the purchasing power of its citizen through savings which ultimately would create feed back to the economic growth as well.

The e-Naira should be strengthened not to replace cash, but to also function as a safe and efficient alternative means of enhancing the power of Naira in payment, making the purchasing power of the economy stronger.

This equally would diversity the nation's economy by adding value of the Naira to curb the hyper-inflation in the country.

PFN unveils promise path programme on the Plateau

HOPE rekindled is indeed a powerful antidote that can in a split second fulfilled dreams especially when the other darker side of its edge is crushed to replace success. Also, it inevitably left one utterly defenseless or vulnerable to disappointment, pain and suffering forcing one to give up in life.

Certainly, every young child sees life as all blue and hopes to be like his or her parents while in his or her ignorance looking at the beautiful sky and its nature as free, not until the ugly hand of this life's exigencies exposed them to unbearable condition that looks as if the heavens had closed doors on them.

To note the umbilical connection of every parents wish for their children, is to see them trained or grow well to take up from where they stopped. Unfortunately, as they struggle to meet up the demands of placing their children in the right path goes, some along the line fell victims of the demons of "pull them down" who on the other hand do not sleep digging pits of doom.

It is sad that some promising parents found themselves in this dungeon leaving their children at the mercy of societal influences. Reports have it that most of these parents really commit crimes, while some were victims of set up by some evil minded influential individuals and others as well as victims of circumstance with no one to stand for them.

Talk about defenseless people who were attacked and arrested when they came out for self-defense but found themselves cooling their knees in various Correctional Centres. Infact, you can go on and on sieving stories of why some parents were incarcerated and you will be shocked to hear every version of it. Today, the number of out of school children and youth worldwide as a result of this is quite alarming.

However, in order to arrest this ugly train, the Prison Fellowship International (PFI)

launched a comprehensive community and family-based care Programme known as Children of Prisoners Program in 2013 to address the needs of this vulnerable population. This was to ensure that these vulnerable and at-risk children received essential supports: education, safety, health, social and emotional resilience within the care of their family units.

According to records, this Programme had effectively served over 10,000 children in ten countries namely; Cambodia, Colombia, Costa

However, it was for this reasons that, the Prison Fellowship International (PFI) collaborated with Prison Fellowship Nigeria (PFN) to pop up a Promise Path Mentoring and Psychological Support Programme for vulnerable and at-risk children whose parents are incarcerated.

Unveiling the Promise Path Programme at the TEKAN headquarters in Jos, the Plateau State capital, the Plateau State Chairman of the Prison Fellowship Nigeria, Engr. P. Y. Tongman, FNSE,



Events, People & Places

lives of children and their parents. It will help to break the cycle of ignorance, poverty and crime within the family and society at large. Beneficiaries of this Programme must be between the age of 4-18 in Public Primary and Secondary Schools in Nigeria whose parents are incarcerated

Nigeria and urged them to ensure proper implementation of the programme.

Also, the Plateau State Comptroller of Nigeria Correctional Service, Engr. Daniel A. Ojonini, who was represented by Gyang B. Bature, said the Programme has given hope to inmates



Rica, India, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. World statistics by UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) data for the year 2018, showed that over 258 million Children and youth were out of school. By 2019, it was discovered that the growing number of this out of school children from Prisoners Programme globally in the 166 National Ministries was unrealistic because of its high cost and complexity and many children were missing out on the support Programme.

FNICE, described the unveiling of Promise Path Programme (PPP) as a historic milestone in their effort as National Ministry to contribute in developing the potentials of children, youth and teenagers through education, guidance and counseling in the scourge of out of school children.

He said, "Nigeria is reported to have the highest number of out of school children in Sub-Saharan Africa with more than 10 million out of school children of schooling age. This alarming statistics is a time bomb unless urgent steps are taken to engage these army indigent children

"Promise Path is a new Programme designed to reach out to vulnerable and at-risk children especially those whose parents are incarcerated. The Programme is based on Prison Fellowship Nigeria's long standing Angel Tree Christmas Programme with added round components of education and community-based mentoring.

"The Promise Path children education program will have wide-ranging impact on the

(sentenced or pre-detention in Correctional custodial facilities", he highlighted.

Tongman, therefore, appealed to the general public, spirited individuals and corporate organisations that feel this pain with them and are concerned about the vulnerable and at-risk children to lend a hand of support as the Programme sought to reduce the number of out of school children and propensity to criminal activities.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that, at this pilot phase of the Programme, ten (10) States namely; Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ondo, Ekiti, Kwara, Benue, Plateau Nasarawa and Niger would provide opportunities for a total number of 600 children to be enrolled with an opportunity to scale up in the 2022/2023 academic year.

On his part, the National Ministry Adviser of CAN, Dr. Jacob Shadow, while commending the Prison Fellowship Nigeria for this initiative, congratulated Plateau State for being the first to unveil this Programme in

that their children were entrusted in safe hands and that, there were surely a future for their children.

The Executive Chairman of Plateau State Universal Education Board, Prof. Matthew Sule, represented by his Principle Officer, Helen Nandap Iliya, said, this was part of the board due and promised to collaborate with PFN in its PPP scheme so that, these vulnerable children would have hope.

Meanwhile, the Plateau State Commissioner for Secondary Education, Hon. (Mrs) Elizabeth Wapmut, who was also represented by Mrs Suknan Gloria, assured them of the Ministry's support at every level of the Programme, because when children were put in the right path, the society would be a better place for all.

It is our prayers that people of conscience who love these children and the future of Nigeria would support this great initiative and contribute to the development of this Programme. Be a father or mother of the hopeless and Nigeria would be better for our children.

"Talk about defenseless people who were attacked and arrested when they came out for self-defense but found themselves cooling their knees in various Correctional Centres. Infact, you can go on and on sieving stories of why some parents were incarcerated and you will be shocked to hear every version of it. Today, the number of out of school children and youth worldwide as a result of this is quite alarming".

IMAGES

LALONG SWEARS IN ADVISERS

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors’ Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently sworn in the newly appointed Special Advisers at the new Government House Banquet Hall, Rayfield, Jos



Governor Lalong administering the oath of office on the Special Advisers



Hon. Diket Plang (left) with his colleagues taking the oath of office being administered by the Governor



Rev. Dr. David Laje (left) receiving the appointment letter as Special Adviser on Religious (Christian) Affairs from Governor Lalong



Malam Sani Mudi, Special Adviser on Religious (Muslim) Affairs signing the oath paper and Governor Simon Bako Lalong too



Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, Deputy Governor (right) with Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi, member representing PKK at the NASS, Abuja and Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, SGS



L - R Prof. Ochapa Onazi, Advisers Agric, Chief George Michael Maqual, Youths, Major General Augustine Agundu, Intelligence, Hon. Salihu Kwando, Dep. Chief of Staff (General Admin.), Hon. Ibrahim Saleh Maitala, (Dep. Chief of Staff (Political Affairs))



Chief of Staff Government House, Hon. Noel Dongjur (right) with Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat, mni, Head of Service watched with keen interest



Barr. Ayuba Burki Gufwan, Adviser on Disability and Physically challenged Persons (right) with other Advisers at the swearing in ceremony

PHOTOS: JOHN LAR

Odd World

Suspect shoots self in robbery

A Gauteng man woke up this morning and chose violence – literally. But it seems his plan didn't quite end as he'd hoped after he shot himself in the leg while escaping.

Netcare 911 spokesperson, Shawn Herbst said emergency services were called to the scene of a shooting in Kenilworth just after 7am this morning.

"Reports indicate that an adult male had been shot in the head and chest during an armed robbery by a gun-wielding adult male. This happened at the corners of Van Hulsteyn and Andrews streets.

"After the firearm was discharged,

the gunman attempted to flee on foot. In doing so, he had shot himself in the upper thigh, effectively ending his escape," Herbst said.

He added that the adult male victim was found to have sustained critical injuries and was treated on scene by emergency care practitioners.

"The suspect had sustained serious injuries and was treated on scene by paramedics. Once stabilised, both patients were transported to hospital for further care. Circumstances leading to the incident will be investigated by the relevant authorities," Herbst said.

IOL



Mkpuru Mmiri yet again? Lord have mercy

A few days ago, yours sincerely was scrutinizing several videos which were downloaded by my android handset when one of these unusual absorbing videos ultimately caught my attention. It was a short video of a teenager perhaps far less than twenty years of age unpalatably staggering with unimaginable difficulty to cross a major road in one of these southeastern states of Nigeria. The young man almost unclothed with great difficulty was managing to maintain his footsteps to the complete bewilderment of the huge crowd watching him. At first, I thought the teenager was under attack probably by one of these stubborn demons who never let go in a hurry after occupying any territory in a human being. I had kept thinking that definitively; much more needed to be done to curtail the ferocity of this demon who had swallowed and was tormenting the young man against his will perchance.

As I kept watching the video much closer however, the young man subsequently became so epileptically foot-dragging himself into consciousness without any success as he was completely dazed by, he had conceivably consumed and had lost control of himself becoming holistically unconscious of his were about.

On a second thought, I immediately concluded that the young man had consumed one of these contemporary hard drugs and had become so high and intoxicated to reasonably comprehend the complex nature and dept of shame and embarrassment he had accumulated. Even as passers-by what continue to laugh and mimic his unusual behavioral attitude, I was subsequently left deep in thoughts as to what would become of him as he struggles to get back home.

As I was about flipping to another more suitable video however, I stumbled on another of such an unfortunate clip which popped up and this time, it was that of a well-dressed female misbehaving in a broad day light. This time around, this young girl who had lost touch with reality was also moving on the street glaringly giggling, soliloquizing and scavenging for leftovers in trash and other dirty places to devour.

These two videos prompted yours sincerely to investigate further with the sole intension of finding out what was actually happening. The next morning, this particular article on the front page of **The Guardian** newspaper of Saturday, November 20, 2021 methodically caught my attention. The bold headline "**How Mexican Drug Cartel Brought Mkpuru Mmiri**" instantaneously caught my attention. *Mkpuru Mmiri* is an Igbo slang for Methamphetamine or Crystal Meth, a very dangerous illicit drug which looks like ice or white chalk and can be dissolved in water.

The article described *Mkpuru Mmiri* as a deadly substance which was developed in Japan in 1919 and grossly abused during the World War II when it was issued to pilots on suicidal mission called Kamikaze. These Japanese pilots embarked on a suicidal mission against American soldiers at Pearl Harbor where they used their planes in a mission of no return to bomb their targets. After the war, it was briefly used for depression and for controlling obesity but it was quickly abandoned and thereafter banned.

As a stimulant, the substance has euphoric effects similar to that of cocaine and can keep users wake causing hallucinations and motivate violence of the highest degree amongst the users. Unfortunately, medical experts have also opined that Meth addiction is too hard to treat and most of the peddlers of these substance have continued with their nefarious activities in the region with impunity. Today, quite a number of these youth within the region are acclimatizing with this rare ridiculous habit which is fast affecting the productive capacity of the peopling. These young men and women get addicted to taking this substance not minding its devastating effects on the takers.

Though this dangerous drug has not proliferated up north of the country to a great concern, this present development is by no means a good omen. A few days back, I had cause to reminiscently and with great nostalgia refocus my thoughts on the devastation of drug abuse on our teeming youths all these decades past.

No doubt, the logical and statistical presentation of research data on this issue has continued to beat our imagination beyond comprehension. Take for instance, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the prevalence of any drug use in Nigeria is estimated at 14.4 percent or 14.3 million people aged between 15 and 64. The extent of drug use in Nigeria is comparatively high when compared with 2016 global annual prevalence of any drug use of 5.6 percent amongst adult population.

As it is, authorities concern including stakeholders have continued to boast that effective and efficient measures have been taken to halt the proliferation of illicit drugs in our society. Thus far, most of these drug peddlers who have continued to damage the future of our children have not been dealt with apparently to serve as deterrent to others in our society.

A few others of these elements when apprehended always find their way out of custody and are never prosecuted based on the complex level of the mafia behind them. Consequently, the vulnerable in our society are always left at the receiving end. While we have come to know some of these hard drugs to include, Indian Hemp, Cocaine, and cough syrup, many more are being dumped on our children on daily basis.

That is the more reason why the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA) must apt its anticipated obligations towards ensuring that we overcome the menace of drugs abuse in the country. Even though since his appointment to head the agency, former Military Administrator of Lagos State, General Buba Marwa is trying to change the narratives, not much has been convincingly achieved in the fight against drugs abuse in the country.

Interestingly, other stakeholders have not been dogged enough even as many of our youths have been overwhelmed by this calamity. Now that another devastating hard drug is finding its way into the hands of our adventurous youths, there is certainly no better time of controlling these illicit drugs in our society than now. To help curb this menace, more stringent measures must be taken against all illicit drug peddlers in the country and all those found wanting must be brought to book.

However, more educative and sensitization programmes must be held to help educate our teeming youth on the hazards of indulging in such detrimental acts which at the end would leaves them the worse for it. If for nothing else, we must all stand up against the proliferation of *Mkpuru Mmiri* before it becomes too late for us to handle. Lord, God please save our youth and the entire country from this calamity in Jesus name I pray through your gracious mercy.

View Point

Nigeria's National Development plan: A historical perspective

The Law on the Development Planning System, national development planning documents are prepared for a long-term (up to 25 years), medium-term (up to seven years) and short-term (up to three years). ATANG IZANG, writes.

ALL development planning documents include strategic objectives and results (outcomes and outputs) to be reached in the field of the relevant policy, a description of existing problems and their solutions, an impact assessment, as well as further action for the implementation and evaluation of the planned policy. The necessary financial resources and responsible institutions are also identified.

Therefore, any national economy is built up of several sectors broadly categorized as, for example, heavy industry, manufacture of goods, production of food, supply of services, tourism, etc. All generate wealth in some form and compete for resources in order to do so.

A National Economic Development Plan will analyse the country's objectives and priorities in relation to all these sectors in response to well-identified national needs. It will propose and justify an overall plan in which the role of individual sectors, including aquaculture as a source of food, can be seen in context.

Before 1945 the colonial government undertook no serious comprehensive planning. Nigeria's earliest national plans, the 1946-55 Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare (with plan revisions, 1951-55) and the 1955-60 plan (later extended to 1962), were framed by colonial administrators. As the authors of the First National Development Plan, 1962-68 (henceforth, first plan) wrote, these "were not 'plans,' in the truest sense of the word . . . [but] a series of projects which had not been coordinated or related to any overall economic target." After 1960, however, development planning had a broad scope, encompassing government policies to achieve national economic objectives, such as accelerated growth and higher levels of average material welfare. This planning affected the policies of such agencies as the central bank, state-owned enterprises, the Ministry of Education, marketing boards, state-level departments, and extension services.

Nigerian plans included economic forecasts, policies toward the private sector, and a list of proposed public expenditures. Plans did not constitute commitments by public departments to spend funds. Although Nigerian political leaders made decisions about general objectives and priorities for the first plan, foreign economists were the main authors of the actual document. Its authors favored decentralized decision making by private units, disregard of major discrepancies between financial and social profitability, and high economic payoffs from directly productive investments (as opposed to indirect returns from social overheads). They discouraged increased taxes on the wealthy (out of a fear of dampening private incentive), and advocated a conservative monetary and fiscal policy emphasizing a relatively small plan, openness to foreign trade and investment, and reliance on overseas assistance. Foreign aid was set at one-half of public sector investment.

Nobel economist W. Arthur Lewis has suggested that the main weaknesses of the 1962-68 plans were incomplete feasibility studies and inadequate evaluation of projects, accompanied by meager public participation, followed by excessive political intervention in economic decisions. Moreover, insufficient attention was paid to the small indigenous sector, and the machinery for implementing



Buhari

developments in the public sector was unsatisfactory. Lewis noted that the most important aspects of Nigeria's 1962-68 plans were "how the government proposes to raise the money and to recruit the personnel to carry out its objectives."

Similarly, Waziri Ibrahim, one-time minister of economic development said "The government of the federation of Nigeria has, in this document, set out plans which they regarded as the foundation stone upon which the future economic and social growth of Nigeria will be based". The 362-page document, Nigeria's first post-independence national development plan launched in 1962, was to be the "first in a series which will bring Nigeria to the take-off stage".

"Economic reasoning gave way before economic enthusiasm," and the necessary coordination and implementation were ignored.

Inflationary minimum wage and administrative salary increases after October 1974, in combination with the slowing of the economy, made budget shortfalls inevitable. In June 1975, several state and local governments did not receive their monthly subsidies from the federal government. Just before the July 29, 1975, coup in which head of state General Yakubu Gowon was toppled, government workers in several areas threatened to impair vital services unless their June wages were paid.

In March 1976, in response to an economy overheated by demands for new programs and higher wages, General Olusegun Obasanjo, then head of state, pointed out that petroleum revenue was not a cure-all. Many projects had to be postponed, scaled down, or canceled when oil-revenue-based projections made in 1974-75 later proved too optimistic. Projects tended to be retained for political reasons, not because they were considered socially or economically useful by the Central Planning Office of the Supreme Military Council.

The civilian government that took office on October 1, 1979, postponed the beginning of the fourth plan (1981-85) for nine months. Whereas the plan's guidelines indicated that local governments were to be involved in planning and execution, such involvement was not feasible because local governments lacked the staff and expertise to accept this responsibility. The plan was also

threatened by falling oil revenues and an increased need for imported food that had resulted from delays in agricultural modernization. Projected to rise 12.1 percent annually, exports actually fell 5.9 percent yearly during the plan, as a recession among the nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reduced demand for Third World imports. As exports declined, the capacity to import construction materials and related capital goods also fell, reducing growth in the construction, transport, communications, utilities, and housing sectors.

Nigeria was heavily dependent on agriculture, with the sector accounting for more than 40 percent of pre-1973 GDP. But in the decade up to 1983, agricultural output in Nigeria declined 1.9 percent and exports fell 7.9 percent. Agricultural imports as a share of total imports rose from 3 percent in the late 1960s to 7 percent in the early 1980s. Nigeria's unfavorable agricultural development resulted from the loss of competitiveness among farm exports as the real value of the Nigerian naira appreciated substantially from 1970 to 1972 and from 1982 to 1983.

Thanks in large part to the overthrow of Nigeria's second civilian administration, the Second Republic headed by President Shehu Shagari, at the end of 1983 and of the military government of General Muhammadu Buhari in 1985, the Fifth National Development Plan was postponed until 1988-92. Continuing the emphases of the SAP, the fifth plan's objectives were to devalue the naira, remove import licenses, reduce tariffs, open the economy to foreign trade, promote nonoil exports through incentives, and achieve national self-sufficiency in food production. The drafters of the fifth plan sought to improve labor productivity through incentives, privatization of many public enterprises, and various government measures to create employment opportunities.

In late 1989, the administration of General Ibrahim Babangida abandoned the concept of a fixed five-year plan. Instead, a three-year "rolling plan" was introduced for 1990-92 in the context of more comprehensive fifteen- to twenty-year plans. A rolling plan, considered more suitable for an economy facing uncertainty and rapid change, is

revised at the end of each year, at which point estimates, targets, and projects are added for an additional year. Thus, planners would revise the 1990-92 three-year rolling plan at the end of 1990, issuing a new plan for 1991-93. In effect, a plan is renewed at the end of each year, but the number of years remains the same as the plan rolls forward. In Nigeria, the objectives of the rolling plan were to reduce inflation and exchange rate instability, maintain infrastructure, achieve agricultural self-sufficiency, and reduce the burden of structural adjustment on the most vulnerable social groups.

From 1999, which ushered in the beginning of fourth democratic dispensation, the country did not continued with the previous development plans for the last 16 years until in 2015, when the new administration of President Muhammadu Buhari introduced a new development plan tagged the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP).

The Federal Government at the time said, the ERGP differed from previous plans in several ways. First, focused implementation is at the core of the delivery strategy of the Plan over the next four years. More than ever before, there was a strong political determination, commitment and will at the highest level. Whilst all the MDAs will have their different roles in implementing the Plan, a Delivery Unit is being established in the Presidency to drive the implementation of key ERGP priorities.

Reverted to old NDP template

However, six years after, it has somewhat reverted back to the previously discarded plan as the Federal Executive Council (FEC) recently approves a new National Development Plan for 2021-2025 Plan with N348.7 trillion investments.

The Plan is structured along six clusters—economic growth and development, infrastructure, public administration, human capital development, social development and regional development.

The National Development Plan (NDP) for 2021 to 2025 to succeed the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) which expired in December 2020.

Zainab Ahmed, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, disclosed this while briefing State House correspondents after a virtual FEC meeting presided over by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

She said the NDP was structured along six clusters—economic growth and development, infrastructure, public administration, human capital development, social development and regional development.

The minister said that plan had been costed to have an investment size of N348.7 trillion over the five-year period.

"The Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning presented a memo requesting approval for the NDP for 2021 to 2025, which is a plan that is succeeding the ERGP which expired in Dec. 2020.

"Also, the plan has been costed to have an investment size of N348.7 trillion over the five-year period."

Mrs Ahmed said the investment size will comprise N49.7 trillion from the public sector, representing 14.3 per cent and N 298.3 trillion, and representing 85.7 per cent.

According to her, the public sector expenditure component of N49.7 trillion will be contributed by both the

federal government and the states.

"The federal government expenditure component is N29.6 trillion, representing 8.5 per cent of the total expenditure size, while the sub-national government, states, will be contributing N20.1 trillion, and representing 5.8 per cent.

"The funding strategies for the plan have also been identified and these include broadening the tax base, enhancing the capacity of the private sector through creating investment opportunities and deliberate policy engagements and incentives.

"There will also be exploring domestic and concessioning financing sources and setting up financial investment vehicles such as growth funds and public private partnership as well as the Nigerian Investment and Growth Fund.

"The implementation of the plan requires the establishment of a strong implementation mechanism and framework that promotes performance and accountability, which is necessary for the implementation of the plan.

"There will also be a Development Plan Implementation Unit that will report to the National Steering Committee, which will be headed by the vice president with the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning as vice chair."

The minister said the establishment of the Development Plan Implementation Unit would be in the planning arm of the ministry.

She said the coordination of the implementation of the plan would be carried through to ensure that MDAs, state governments, private sector operators, civil society organisations, among others, are all working in a coordinated fashion.

According to her, the plan also has a specific concentration to deliver during the five-year period.

"Immediately we get this plan launched we will be continuing work on the longer term plan, which is the Nigeria Agenda 2050.

"This is to make sure that we don't have a vacuum going forward; we have a medium term plans for five years and there is a long term plan which is the Nigeria Agenda 2050.

"The long-term plan, the Nigeria Agenda 2050, work will continue immediately we launch this medium term plan.

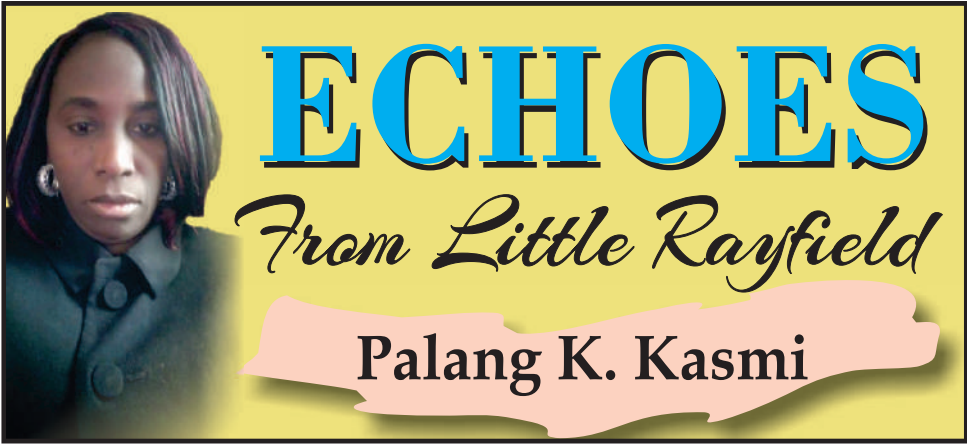
"Going forward, the national annual budget will be derived from the plan, the details of which have already been costed.

"All MDAs will be required to draw their programmes and projects from the detailed plans that they themselves have submitted during this process; the NDP 2021 to 2025 has been approved today by the FEC for implementation as a successor plan to the elapsed EGRP 2017-2020."

On his part, Ministry of State for Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba, said that the governance structure of the plan would have Ateko Peterside, as co-Chair from the private sector.

He said the National Steering Committee had 42 members comprising key ministers, representatives of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, other organs of the private sector and six governors representing the geo-political zones.

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Archbishop Kwashi’s visit

IT was a remarkable day as Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi led key stakeholders and principal leaders of the Anglican church on Wednesday November 17, 2021 to see the Governor at New Government House Jos.

During the encounter, Governor Lalong confessed to his guests that he had to leave an engagement and rush back to see recieve Archbishop, because there is no way he could have kept the Man of God waiting.

Archbishop Kwashi started the discussion by thanking God for sparing his life and making him cancer free, from stage 4 colon and liver cancer. “Even the Doctors said it was difficult to survive it”, Kwashi said he had just returned from the medical trip abroad. He further spoke of the blessings immersed in Plateau that makes it stand out. “Plateau has value of the gospel and it is holding many posts in the church at the national and international levels”, said Kwashi. According to him “The state’s peace, tourism and theology are things the Plateau has and they should be key things that are a great potential to the state. He cited an example of how UK’s Cambridge held to its own potential by investing heavily in education as its major valuable thing making it one of the leading educational centres in the world.

Other concerns the Archbishop raised was for the Governor to immortalise heroes on the Plateau and pioneers like Bishop Gabriel Gonsum Ganaka, Joseph Dechi Gomwalk, Dr. Musa Gotom, Col. James Yakubu Pam, Maj. Gen. Iliya Bisalla, John Amos Kwashi and many others to preserve the state’s history and make it a reference point for younger generations. He informed the Governor that Plateau has been given hosting rights to host the Anglican Church Provincial Standing Committee, that will draw participants from within and outside the country next year, around September 2022.

Lalong was glad that the Anglican church and the clergy always remember to uphold his administration in prayers and offer good counsel. “Sometimes I look at you as a spirit” Lalong exclaimed, appreciating God for the sparing the life of Kwashi from the dreaded cancer. Kwashi had earlier described himself as a ‘Miracle of God’ coming out as survivor from the ailment after over a year of treatment abroad. An amazed Lalong said “even calling the name of that sickness alone makes me scared, I look at you as a spirit, God is indeed with you” he said adding “I lost my younger brother to it, despite all we did to save his life, so I know how serious this sickness is”.

Lalong also recalled his days growing up in his hometown Shendam, and how he always saw the late Catholic priest, Bishop Ganaka as a saint and spirit because of his white priestly cassock, thunderous voice and prayerfulness.

He assured the Archbishop that he is already pursing pardon for the first Governor of Plateau State JD Gomwalk and other sons and daughters of Plateau who sacrificed their lives for the state and nation at large. “We were already in the process of honouring our sons and daughters who sacrificed for the state by and naming monuments after them”, he said.

Another encounter with his school mates

While other people joke with their school mates and alma mater, His Excellency Governor Lalong is someone that keeps tabs on them, participating in their WhatsApp chats and following up to know their welfare issues.

The Governor took his relationship with his school mates from his Ahmadu Bello University (ABU)

Law class set 1990 to another last weekend by fraternising and socialising with them at their reunion and awards dinner held at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers Abuja.

His classmates had visited the Governor last month in October to support his state with relief materials and assist those who were affected by the sectarian crisis that befell Plateau.

The event was also a forum to present awards to the Governor and some deserving set members who had made them proud in various endeavours. You could see the connection, it was just clear, each one of them comes to the podium to talk, cracks a nostalgic joke of school happenings and leaves laughter in the mouths of the audience.

Speaking after receiving an award for excellence in Public service by his set, in company of his dear wife Regina, supported by his counterpart Governor of Niger State Sani Bello, and Plateau Member of the House of Representatives Yusuf Gagdi, Lalong recalled the good and bad memories of his school days. He appreciated God for making them excell in different spheres of life and being blessed with about 8 Justices, high profile lawyers and others doing well in public and private sectors.

“There is beauty in togetherness and keeping social relationships that were started from school There is beauty in a class union” he said and stressed the need to support each other despite their status in life. “Let’s carry each other along and support those who are distressed, challenged, or less privileged among us” he said and further encouraged the class to support their teachers in any way they can so that they can reap their reward while on earth.

He paid special tribute to their lecturers for shaping their lives and making them who they are.

Lalong also said the reunion should be sustained and there should be a visit to their alma mater so that the set can look for areas of intervention and identify was of giving back to the institution, decades after graduation.

While calling for peace, unity and harmony among Nigerians, the Governor said during their school days in Zaria, when you go to school as new student, you are paired as room mate with anyone irrespective of ethnic or religious affiliations, but sadly the reverse is the case, “today roommates are chosen based on geographical, religious or ethnic divides and paired that way”.

Chairman of set, and one of the awardees Dr. Sylvanus Tahir was praised for handling, coordinating and working hard to keep them together. In his speech, he said he respects their only Governor in the set Lalong, who despite being a renowned and powerful politician has never changed to his mates. “A friend in power is a friend lost” Tahir said but was glad that Lalong has not changed nor let his old friends go. “He is down to earth, a man of humility, accessible and the only Nigerian politician I have met that still uses his old GSM line, the one he used while he was Speaker of the Plateau House of Assembly”, said Their.

The set Chairman recalled an incident that occurred when Lalong became Speaker. He said on the swearing in date, while the celebrations was ongoing, Lalong excused everyone including members of the Nigerian Speakers Forum, to be with us, his class mates. “This gesture humbled us greatly”, saying he has learnt from such humble and accommodating disposition.



News

Lalong fraternizes with classmates, bags alumni award

By PALANG KASMI

IT was celebrations galore at the Ladi Kwali Hall, Sheraton Hotel and Towers Abuja, as Governor Simon Bako Lalong bagged an award of excellence presented to him by his classmates.

The Governor’s classmates from the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Law class of 1990 gave him the award tagged ‘Award for excellence in Public Service’ during a reunion dinner they organised which was held recently.

Among the award recipients were other class mates of the Governor including Chairman of the set Sylvanus Tahir, the sets 7 Justices including Amina

most blessed sets of ABU.

He said many members of his class have been successful in the legal profession in various aspects like politics, corporate governance, business or as Judges, Senior Advocates of Nigeria and practitioners, and heads in federal and state government parastatals and Ministries.

He commended the class for contributing to national development and aspiring to keep the good relationship they shared by supporting and showing love and assistance to each other.

He recalled how he was supported by his classmates when he joined politics and got elected as member of the Plateau House of Assembly and the Plateau Governorship elections in 2015.

“Even when I faced persecution at the Plateau House of Assembly, you were there for me, many of you visited and showed me love till the travails was over”.

“When I came out to contest for governorship in 2015, you did not only pray for me but advised and contributed money to assist me into success”.

“Just recently, you again sent a delegation to my state Plateau with relief materials to assist and support victims of

the crisis that engulfed parts of my state”.

The Governor said his classmates have been able to sustain their friendship irrespective of religious, ethnic or political differences calling on Nigerians to emulate same.

In his welcome address Chairman of the class Sylvanus Tahir said the event is one of the reunions they have held in recent times, 30 years after graduation.

He said “We are here to celebrate each other, reconnect, reunite and rekindle old friendships and celebrate our mates who have reached high positions or contributed to the development of our class”. The chairman who appreciated God for being lucky to be alive called for the observance of a minute silence to honour 34 of their mates who have died adding “We were close to 200 when we graduated but 34 have died”.

“We have a governor, many academicians, Legal Practioners, SAN’s, Professors, Doctors, and professionals in the public and private circles including others who have climbed the ladder of success challenging the privileged to carry others along and more unity among members.

Climax of the occasion was display of traditional dances by Gamai and Ngas troupes which added colour to the event and

Appointment os Statistician General timely -Lalong

By BENJAMIN DUMAH

GOVERNOR Simon Lalong has described the appointment of Simon Harry as Statistician General of the Federation as timely as the government needed the correct data to plan for the country’s economy.

The Governor said this at the Thanksgiving Service in honor of the new Statistician General of the Federation, Simon Harry, held at his home town, Jingre, Bassa Local Government Area of the state on Sunday.

The Thanksgiving Service was organised to appreciate God’s unending favour on the life of the celebrant over the years.

Lalong in a remark noted, that the celebrant was the first from the state to occupy such position has every reason to give thanks to God.

Represented by Deputy, Governor Professor Sonni Tyoden, Lalong stressed that God has placed him in

that position, hence he should put in his best.

The Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, Yakubu Sanda who is from the same Constituency with the celebrant, said Pengana was blessed with several appointments in this present dispensation his people to reciprocate the gesture by being loyal to the government.

In a sermon at the Thanksgiving Service, the Vice Chancellor, Babcock University, Ademola Tayo encouraged believers to always stand firm on what was right.

The celebrant, Simon Harry while appreciating God for his new position, said God has been the power behind his success in life.

Our Correspondent reports that the occasion was well attended by dignatries from within and outside the state.



Lalong

Feature

Ritual of naming offsprings among the Beroms

By YAKUBU HELEN KANENG

IT is worthwhile to know that primitive man, living in relation with his fellow man and his immediate environment to achieve some harmony has to a large extent stimulated the art of philosophizing ranging from particular questions as, "where is my origin and how did I come into existence? The name I answer, what is its effect(s) in my life? to moral questions of why there is evil in the world. Thus, the human person is naturally inquisitive about everything that happens with and around him. More so, it is important to critical look at one area of our existence which is often neglected in most parts of the world and see how best to corroborate diverse opinions and strike a balance of how far the names people answer has effect on themselves and others.

Hence, arguments regarding culture has the most utopian naming system is not the focus of this work rather to develop the consciousness that names are realistic characteristics of the human community. A native Berom person is in most cases first identified with a particular "household" name which biological offspring of a particular forebear and his relatives are called before their first names. "Loh" which literally translated to English as "Household" is often used when one is asked to introduce him or herself. For instance, "wo ase hwei loh wa?" translated as "What household do you belong to?" is often asked at the introductory part of a fresh conversation among two natives. Gwom implied in his discussion on lineage thus, Nonetheless, our primary focus here is on the names given to children as well as its effect(s) on them, others and as well as how the Berom culture of nomenclature is sold to the world. we would examine the meaning and implication of two names: "Chundung" and "Neirat" as ancient and contemporary names respectively in context.

Conceptual Elucidation

I. Ritual: for the purpose of this discuss, we shall consider the Cambridge dictionary definition of ritual as "a set of fixed actions and sometimes words performed regularly, especially as a part of a ceremony. Therefore, since the act of naming infants in most cultures in Africa satisfies the already stated conditions in the above definition, we would limit it thus so.

Brief Historical Background of Berom Culture

Although the history of the Berom (Biom) people is still not very comprehensive as it is with many other languages and cultures especially in Nigeria. Pwajok (1991) posits that the Berom people migrated from Egypt of an invasion and settled around Lake Chad before arriving in Nigeria and specifically Plateau state and other neighboring states like Kaduna amongst others. The meaning of the word Berom has always been linked with the name of the Berom mystical ancestors and the word designates the language and the ethnic group of the people. Gwom (1992) confirmed also that the word Berom means "the sent away". It is presumed that the founding fathers who were either called *Worom* or *Orom* (a singular form) migrated a very long time ago from old Gobir Empire of Sokoto State to Plateau State and settled in Kabong and Riyom villages where history has confirmed that their earliest men supposedly lived. Furthermore, it worthy to note that:

Nonetheless, the Berom people have been described as a small but politically prominent people who live in Central Nigeria. In fact, the "Plateau Times magazine" recently survey has confirmed that Berom is the largest single ethnic group in Plateau state and it is significantly represented in Jos North and constitute the majority of Jos south, Barkin Ladi and Riyom.

The language Berom as classified by Greenberg (1966) is a member of the Benue-Congo of the Niger. The language is believed to have a very close affinity with the Bantu race and shows some traces of the Niger-Congo affixes. Consequently, this study shall limit its



compass around the Berom people on the Plateau.

Some Peculiarities in Naming Children in the African Context

At this point, the fact that all African names have a meaning cannot be over emphasized. The naming of children is therefore an important occasion which is often marked by ceremonies in many societies. Some names mark the occasion of the child's birth. For instance, in some cultures, when a child is birthed during the raining season, the child would be given a name which means "Rain" or water; if the mother is on a journey at the time, the child might be called "Traveller", "Road" or "Wanderer" (Nwadiokwu, 2016, p.44). There existed in most traditional African context, that harmony between man and nature.

Most often, naming ceremony takes place a few days after the birth when friends, relatives and well-wishers are invited to celebrate life. At that point, the baby receives a personal name which marks his/her ritual entry into the family. This festival is accompanied in most cases by Prayers and pouring of libation on the ground for the ancestors or Mother Earth in thanksgiving and asking for blessings upon the child as he/she grows. Presents are brought by the guests to signify joy and love. Then an elderly person announces the name of the baby and atmosphere is colored with revels.

A Study of Igbo tradition of Naming a Child

Naming ceremony among the Igbos is considered as the most elaborate and religiously significant infancy rites. In some communities, it is intended for two major reasons. Firstly, as a ritual of giving a name to the newly born Igbo child and also welcoming him/her into the human fold. Secondly, it is an avenue to offer prayers to God and the other deities of the land to watch over the child as he/she grows among other people (Uchegbu, 2010, p.157). Hence, the process of naming a new born baby in Igbo culture entail some practices which includes the father of the baby taking the child in one hand and palm wine on the other while he proclaims the name he wants to call the child. For instance, names like, *Chukwuma* meaning "God knows), *Ammana-* (a child who came after the death of his/her father) etc. could be given to that child. In this regard, Wieschhoff opined that, "names are not merely considered as tags by means of which individuals may be distinguished but are intimately associated with various events in the life of the individual, the family and in some cases even those of the larger society (1941, 214).

Yoruba Perspective on Naming an Infant

There are three major determinants in among the Yorubas in Nigeria which are

religiously considered before naming a new born baby: the circumstance of birth, the profession of the family into which a child is born into, and the religious totem (Orisa) of the family (Ajanaku, 1969). Based on these cultural factors, Nze observed that Yoruba names are categorized into three major types, thus: Oruko Amutorunwa (natural names), Oruko Abiso (ascribed names or given names), and Oriki (pet names) (1984, p.47-50). More so, some authors argue that Yoruba naming practices are culturally rooted, and they are reflections of their traditional cultural practices. In the traditional Yoruba culture, the process of giving a name to a baby starts as soon as a woman desires to have a baby. She approaches the diviner (Babalawo)- the Babalawo who is a spiritualist and a psychotherapist for diagnosis on the fate of the baby in the womb (Olatunji, 2015, p.80-82).

The Akans of Ghana and their naming rite

Among the Akan of Ghana, naming is a unique socio-cultural practice; they sometimes name their infant based on the day of the week the child was born. This system of naming based on the belief that the day that a child is born is the day that the spirit re-incarnates, and thus, a child should be named after that day. The names of the days were mostly derived from the names of deities and the particular day they are honored. It could be said that this practice is what was transferred into becoming African-British culture whereby a child is named based on the days of the week that he or she was born; hence, we have names such as Saturday, Sunday and Monday with each day having its own peculiar features attributed to it. Hence, people born on particular days are expected to display the features attributed with the day. For example, 'a child born on Monday is believed to be peaceful and tranquil, while a child born on Friday are expected to be a wanderer or an adventurer and a child born on Saturday would be creative and ingenious' (Obeng, 2001:16). For instance, if a child is born on Sunday referred to as "Kwasiada", the male child would be called "Kwasi" while the female "Akosua".

Circumstances Surrounding the Naming of an Individual in Primitive Berom Culture

Until the early 18th and late 19th century, the Berom people, like many other cultures in Africa, engaged in some practices like farming and hunting. For a typical Berom man, encounter with some wild animals in the forest especially in the display of their strengths and skills marveled him. Therefore, the Berom man saw the need to name his children after these skillful and crafty animals believing they would

grow up to exhibit such characteristics.

The prefix "Da" was used before these names meaning "Father", "Leader" or "Head". A practical example is "Davou" Da + vou meaning literally the leader of dogs. In like manner, the female folks were also named with the prefix "Ngo" meaning Mother. "Ngovou" i.e Ngo + vou meaning mother of dogs. For the primitive Berom man, animals were seen to some brave characters such as, protecting their subjects as in the case of the lion king of a particular The illustration above gives examples of some names commonly used in naming a baby before civilization and modernization came to Africa (education). However, with the advent of Christianity, Berom people have developed the idea of naming their children on the basis of some theological virtues in consonance with their newly accepted faith. Below are some examples of contemporary names commonly used in naming children.

It is worthwhile to mention at this point that this paper did not exhaust the whole Berom names used in both Pre-civilization and contemporary eras in the Berom kingdom. However, further research especially from the various clans and districts in the four local governments (Jos North, Jos South, Barkin-Ladi and Riyom) where the Berom people are known to be predominant through oral interviews of the aged in these communities will help broadening the scope of this discuss.

Evaluation/Conclusion

We are confronted with real critical challenges concerning African names. Thus far, true life situation has shown the difficulty those who hold traditional view of African names would have to face should we argue for a complete return to precolonial and pre-missionary Africa. The other side of the dilemma is that should we continue with the rate of abandoning African names for Christian and foreign names we are also faced with the danger of culture decline. Nevertheless, it is instructive that the enlightened Africans should realize that there is the urgent need for a re-think so that they can begin to halt mental slavery that foreign influences have imposed on them (Igboin, 2014, p.37-38).

It is against this backdrop that I wish to establish the fact that slavery does not necessary have to come from a foreign body. When an individual vehemently on several occasion reject enlightenment and change, he becomes either a beast or a god borrowing the words of Plato in his republic. Hence, there are some key areas which indicates that the ritual of naming children in both the pre-civilization and contemporary Era among the Berom people of Plateau state are mutually exclusive.

Names and Identity

As already established, names and

identity have correlative appeal. Names have much to do with identity-determination as well as identity-crisis. The sense of identity is crucial to individuals even though some have tried to "downplay the critical importance of identity inheritance and constructions to the well-being of the individual human and the group" (Bewaji, 2008, 267). To buttress this point, he puts it:

A sense of identity can be a source not merely of pride and joy, but also of strength and confidence. It is not surprising that the idea of identity receives such widespread admiration, from popular advocacy of loving your neighbor to high theories of social capital and communitarian definition. (2008, p. 268).

In as such as was dumbfounded as a student whenever I am asked the meaning of my surname, it posed a serious challenge to me to return back to my root to seek for clarification. This has definitely engraved some confidence on what my ancestors (who were predominantly farmers) were able to reason out on their own level and ascribe some significance to the names they gave to their progenies. Some of which are explained thus,

a) Courage: This is the most associated character of a hero. Once one mentions a hero the fact of his courageousness cannot be over emphasized. Invariably, one who answers a traditional name such as Bot should imagine a scenario of how the seemingly little frog has the ability of defeating a snake. This very feature preserves an inexplicable confidence in the community.

b) Integrity: most ancient Berom names although related to animals, depicts a "stands up" attitude for what the Berom culture holds and reserve so much so that, the bearer of such name could pledge his life in protection of the precepts of the land from all forms of profanation.

c) Decisiveness/Determination: the bearers of most ancient traditional names could be said to have inculcated some level of interest as well as the common good of the community that has looked and taken care of him/her thus far, therefore standing out as a primary figure of imitation and passion to uphold the ascribed features of such animal.

d) Tenaciousness/Cleverness: the animal kingdom is one where cleverness is often observed among all species, firstly, to preserve their lives and also their dynasty. Thus, bearers of some animal's names are expected to keep going on no matter the challenges he/she faces with sound and clever mind to know when to act and when not to. Thus, he/she is perceived as the wise and just fellow of the community.

Conclusion

The relevance of a name as an important necessity of everyday living could be reflected upon the fact that a name has been a significant factor of social life from time immemorial. Although naming of persons and even objects, is a universal socio-cultural practice; it is remarkably particularistic, and thus, the dynamic nature of cultural practices among people of the world greatly influence it. However, despite the socio-cultural relevance of this practice, it is quite unfortunate that not much sociological works have been directed towards studying it in recent times.

From the foregoing, it could be said that names should be acknowledged as an important social phenomenon which needs to be given further attention by sociological scholars since there is dearth of research on this topic of social living. Specifically, African sociologists should give more priority to names because it is a remarkable culture. Finally, I would like to argue that there exists complementarities with regards to naming children and drawing the vitals (meanings of the names) either from the ancient Berom traditional names and those influenced by civilization to define what the name a child answers stand for as well as to developing the child's confidence when asked to explain.

Yakubu Helen Kaneng is an Assistant Director, National Commission for Museums and Monument NCM, Jos

Sports

NFF gets ultimatum to submit Technical Report

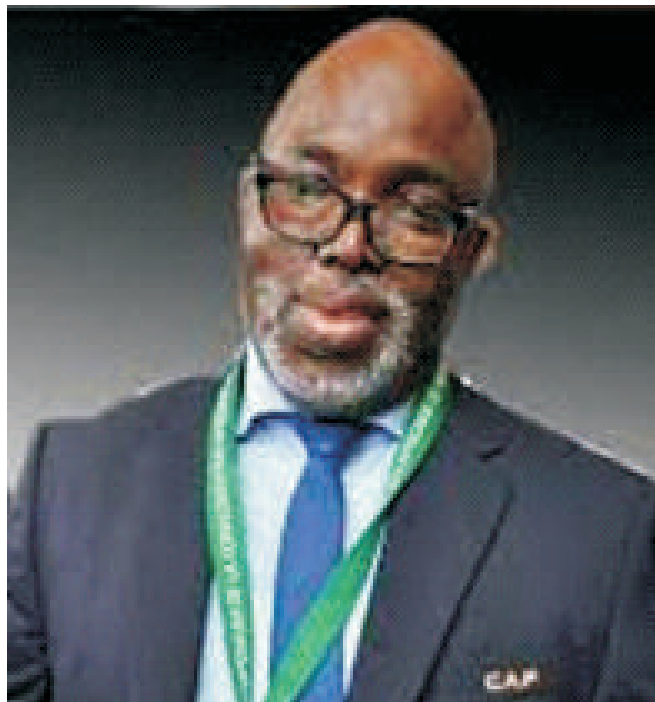
The federal government has directed the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to submit the technical report of the last phase of the 2021 World Cup qualifiers to the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development no later than Monday November 22, 2021.

NEWSNOW said that, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Alhaji Ismail Abubakar, saying the report must be on the table of the minister of youth and sports development, Mr Sunday Dare, on Monday.

"The report must be on the table of the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development on Monday, the 22nd of November, 2021," Abubakar said.

The Super Eagles have qualified for the playoff phase of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Africa but the performance of the team has left a lot to be desired with many Nigerians calling for team gaffer, Gernot Rohr to be shown the exit door.

Nigeria lost to Central Africa Republic, one of the lowest ranked teams in the world at the Teslim Balogun stadium last month, a new



low for the three times Africa Cup of Nations winners albeit they bounced back to win the reverse fixture in Cameroon barely a week later.

The laboured and uninspiring performance against Cape Verde last Tuesday in Lagos seems to be the last straw that has broken Rohr's back.

Meanwhile a top Sports Ministry source said, "The NFF knows that any plan to hire another coach must start with first briefing the Minister / Federal

Government about the Rohr issue and bringing a closure to it to avoid embarrassing Nigeria.

"Secondly. The decision to hire anybody as national coach must be discussed and undergo review.

"The Super Eagles is Nigeria's property, not a premier club."

Union Berlin manager Urs Fischer has stated they are prepared to lose striker Taiwo Awoniyi should he be named in Nigeria's squad for the Africa Cup of Nations finals set for Cameroon in January.

According to **GOAL**, the Swiss tactician explains why the club will be happy to see the 24-year-old turn out for the Super Eagles at the January competition.

The 24-year-old Nigeria international has been the star player for the Berlin-based club managing to score eight Bundesliga goals from 12 appearances so far in this campaign.

His latest goal came on Saturday as Union defeated archrivals Hertha Berlin 2-0 at Stadion An der Alten Forsterei.

Union coach Fischer has said the club will not stop Awoniyi to represent Nigeria at Afcon if he gets a call from head coach Gernot Rohr insisting they will instead, be happy for him.

"We don't worry about it and of course we have it on our radar," Fischer said as quoted by German newspaper *Berliner Kurier*.

"What could be nicer than representing your colours? Even if it doesn't help us, we would be happy for Taiwo."

Fischer also talked of how Awoniyi has developed to

'We would be happy for Taiwo'

become a deadly striker surpassing his best since joining the club.

"This week, too, graduations were on the agenda. He has learned to stay calm in the pit and can withstand the pressure better. I do believe that Taiwo has worked on itself," Fischer, who, however, still saw room for improvement in his striker, added.

"When I think of the chance in Cologne shortly before the break, it should have been 3-1."

Should Awoniyi make the Super Eagle squad for Cameroon, he will miss out on four Bundesliga matches against Bayer Leverkusen, Hoffenheim, Borussia Mönchengladbach, and Augsburg, plus the derby against Hertha in the DFB Cup.

On scoring his eighth goal against Hertha on Saturday, Awoniyi set a new personal scoring record in a league season.

He has now scored eight goals in 12 Bundesliga appearances this term,

surpassing his best scoring record in a league season which was previously at seven goals.

During the 2018-19 season, the former Liverpool striker scored seven goals in nine appearances for Royal Excel Mouscron in the Belgian First Division A and he also scored seven league goals after 27 outings for the same team in the 2017-18 season.



Awoniyi

We can't do anything about Rohr now-NFF

Contrary to insinuations that the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has formally parted ways with the Super Eagles manager

Gernot Rohr, the football house said yesterday that it can't do anything to that effect now.



Rohr

According to **NEWSNOW**, since the Super Eagles' 1-1 draw with the Blue Sharks of Cape Verde in their Qatar 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Lagos last Tuesday, there has been pressure on the NFF to sack Rohr.

Many Nigerians are of the opinion that Rohr's continuous stay as Super Eagles coach wouldn't add any meaningful impact to Nigerian football, particularly in the fast approaching Cameroon 2022 AFCON and the play-off to the World Cup in Qatar.

The rumour of Rohr's sack went viral online on Thursday morning, but the NFF quickly denied it saying that it had not asked the coach to go.

A new dimension was added to the story

yesterday, with some reports suggesting the NFF may have agreed to pay Rohr over N800 million as severance package.

Another report suggested yesterday that NFF officials have stepped up the pressure on Rohr to resign. There was also a report that a new coach, Mladen Krstajic, from Serbia, had been contacted to replace Rohr.

However, a top official of the NFF told The Guardian, yesterday, that the football house has not taken any decision on Rohr.

"We can't do anything about Rohr now," the official said. "I have read a lot of stories on social media saying that the NFF has told Rohr to go. People are just peddling all sorts of rumour, but I can tell you that we have not taken any decision to that effect. That is our position."

Meanwhile, another source revealed, yesterday, that getting rid of Rohr might cost Nigeria a severance package of around \$2million, which the NFF may not be able to afford at the moment.

The source hinted that the NFF owes Rohr about eight months salary. The coach earns a \$45,000 monthly wage.

Osimhen hospitalized with terrible injury

Nigerian star Victor Osimhen picked up a terrible injury during an Italian Serie A encounter between SSC Napoli and Inter Milan on Sunday.

NEWSNOW said that,

the highly-rated striker had to be substituted ten minutes into the second-half after suffering an eye

injury following a head-to-head collision with Inter defender Milan Skriniar.



Osimhen

Sports



Shuai

Peng Shuai: WTA says concerns remain for Chinese tennis star

The Women's Tennis Association has said that a call between Peng Shuai and the president of the International Olympic Committee does not address its concerns over the Chinese player's wellbeing.

BBC SPORT said that, an IOC statement after the call said Peng appeared to be safe and well.

Peng, 35, disappeared from the public eye for almost three weeks after she made sexual assault allegations against a senior Chinese minister.

Her absence triggered widespread international concern.

Sports stars and governments called on China to provide proof that she was safe.

The outcry over the tennis star's apparent disappearance from the public eye prompted Chinese state media to release a series of photographs and videos that appeared to show all was well.

On Sunday, the IOC released a statement after IOC President Thomas Bach held a video call with three-time Olympian.

The IOC account said Peng had "thanked the IOC for its concern about her wellbeing".

"She explained that she is safe and well, living at her home in Beijing, but would like to have her privacy respected at this time," it added.

"She prefers to spend her time with friends and family right now," it said. "Nevertheless, she will continue to be involved in

tennis." The IOC statement also included an image of the video call taking place, with Ms Peng seen smiling to the camera.

But the WTA said the recent videos "don't alleviate or address the WTA's concern about her wellbeing and ability to communicate without censorship or coercion".

Media caption, WTA chairman: We are worried about Peng's safety

"This video does not change our call for a full, fair and transparent investigation, without censorship, into her allegation of sexual assault, which is the issue that gave rise to our initial concern," it added.

The sporting rights organisation, Global Athlete, criticised what it called the IOC's "nonchalant" approach to Peng's disappearance and accused it of displaying "an abhorrent indifference to sexual violence and the wellbeing of female athletes".

Ugandan sets new half marathon world record

Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo has set a new world record for the



Kiplimo

"The release pretends that Peng never made sexual assault allegations and has not been missing for more than two weeks. The statements make the IOC complicit in the Chinese authority's malicious propaganda and lack of care for basic human rights and justice," it added.

Morikawa shines as McIlroy wilts in Dubai

What contrasting figures Collin Morikawa and Rory McIlroy cut as they departed Dubai after an enthralling finish to the European Tour season.

BBC SPORT stated that, while Morikawa was all smiles and hellbent on world domination, McIlroy was dishevelled; his shirt ripped through fierce anger at not being able to convert a winning position into a third DP

half marathon, shaving one second off the previous best time.

BBC SPORT said that, the

Korean Ko Jin-young clinched the £1.1m biggest prize in women's golf as she won the LPGA Tour Championship to secure the player of the year title.

BBC SPORT said that, Ko fired a nine-under-par 63 to finish on 23 under as she held off Japan's Nasa Hataoka by one stroke.

The duo had started the day sharing the lead with world number one Nelly Korda and France's Celine Boutier.

On a day of low scoring, Korda's 69 saw her share fifth spot as Ko pipped her for the player of the year honour.

Ireland's Leona Maguire, who started the day two off the pace following a 66 on Saturday, had to settle for a share of 12th after a closing 70 as she was unable to join the birdie fest.

Maguire got off to a bad start by dropping a shot at the first and with her first birdie not coming until the sixth, she was already effectively out of contention for a maiden LPGA title amid Ko's stunning start to her round.

The defending champion took control of the tournament by going to the turn in 30 with six birdies on her front nine.

Further birdies on the 11th and 13th kept her in control and while Hataoka birdied three of her four final holes to trim Ko's

Jin-young earns £1.1m after winning LPGA finale

advantage to one, in truth the Korean never looked like being caught as she completed her fifth LPGA victory of the season.

Ko's victory was even more impressive because of a wrist injury which has curtailed her practice in recent weeks.

"I didn't practise at all. I don't know what happened out there," she said.

"I played really well this week. This week was

amazing."

Boutier, like Maguire a member of Europe's victorious Solheim Cup team in September, shot a closing 68 to share third place on 18 under par American Mina Harigae.

England's Charley Hull shared 15th spot after her closing 64 with her compatriot Georgia Hall losing ground on the final day as a 72 saw her sharing 24th spot on 10 under.



Ko Jin-young also secured the LPGA's player of the year honour ahead of Nelly Korda by winning in Florida

the fore amid some, admittedly, appalling luck midway through the back nine of his final round.

At the same time Morikawa was showing how it should be done. The most striking aspect of his game is its ruthless efficiency; he never wastes a shot when in the hunt for a title.

And on this occasion it was golfing history that was uppermost in his mind. The US star knew that victory would ensure he became the first American to win the European circuit's order of merit.

McIlroy wilted down the stretch in alarming fashion. His woes began on the hole before his perfect looking approach to the 15th cannoned off the flag and back into a bunker guarding the front of the green.

The outstanding quality in the Northern Irishman's opening 67

holes had been his touch around then greens. But at the 68th, the 14th hole of his final round, his routine chip was a tad heavy-handed and it cost him the birdie he needed to keep out in front.

Then he failed to get up and down from that bunker at the next and, rattled, at the 16th he three putted. Three extra, wasteful shots, at precisely the wrong time.



McIlroy

"FAMILY planning is the most mis-understood, mis-represented, and misinterpreted phrase. It attracts sentiments from different stakeholders for no known reason. From the perspective of rationale, it is hoped, we may be able to appreciate it better and of course encourage and support its use. From a global perspective, there are three major rationales for family planning: namely the demographic, health and human rights rationale. These in other terms can be equated the demographic benefits, health benefits and human rights benefits to all."

Prof. Josiah Mutihir

Quest



writer

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

Nigeria: Rationale for family planning

FAMILY Planning has been defined by the World Health Organization as the ability of individuals and couples to anticipate and attain their desired number of children and the spacing and timing of their births. It is achieved through the use of contraceptive methods and the treatment of involuntary infertility. In other words, having children not too early, too frequent, too many or too late in life. This has tremendous benefits both to the mother, child, family, community, and nation at large.

FAMILY planning is the most mis-understood, mis-represented, and misinterpreted phrase. It attracts sentiments from different stakeholders for no known reason. From the perspective of rationale, it is hoped, we may be able to appreciate it better and of course encourage and support its use.

From a global perspective, there are three major rationales for family planning: namely the demographic, health and human rights rationale. These in other terms can be equated the demographic benefits, health benefits and human rights benefits to all.

These rationales have evolved separately, at different times and for different objectives, and purposes but appear connected and work in synergy!

In a United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Tehran, Iran in 1968, family planning was declared a basic human rights. Six years later, in The Bucharest Conference on World Population, 1974 in Romania, a plan of action was drawn up to achieve this with the goal that 'All couples and individuals have the basic human right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.

The first world war started in 1914 and ended in 1918 with total casualties of an estimated 10 million people killed. Twenty-one years later, the Second World War commenced in 1939 and ended in 1945. An estimated 55 million people were killed including a much higher proportion of civilians than in the First World War.

World population growth after the world wars demonstrated an average growth of about 18.9 percent in mid 1950 and rose to 22 percent in mid 1960. This was a problem as the economic, social



and developmental tolls on the countries were unbearable. Measures were then put in place to control the population growth rate to one in tandem with available resources. This included family planning and contraceptive services. By mid 1970, the annual growth rate had decreased to 20.2 percent, and 18.5 percent by mid 1980. A continued gradual decline was witnessed and got to 8.7 percent by mid 2020. This is highly commendable. This decline is the average *population growth rate* and not *gross population*. The global population has continued to witness a steady increase, and by mid 2020, the documented population was between 7.5 and 7.8 billion. There is a difference between a reduction in population growth rate and gross population!

Despite efforts at the reduction of population growth worldwide, the decline in the growth rate has been unsatisfactory in Nigeria to say the least. Between pre-independence population census, the population of less than 40 million in 1952; has grown to about 200 million, an increase of about 5-fold. This is worrisome.

Demographic rationale for family planning has been identified by our revered traditional leaders, who have now come to terms with the problems of rapid population growth. They have stated this in clear and un-ambiguous terms. The Oba of Lagos said 'Nigeria is

sitting on a time-bomb as its population keeps rising without corresponding plans for the citizens'. Similarly, the Ooni of Ife has also said 'We are having bandits in the country because Nigerians are producing too many Children' and lastly, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, the former Emir of Kano has stated in clear terms that 'Nigeria's population is a liability and not an asset'. These statements cannot be a coincidence!! The statements of these traditional leaders must be taken seriously.

The Sociodemographic indices of Nigeria as of NHDS 2018 has incriminating socio-demographic indices, which demonstrate the fact that while we parade ourselves as the giants of Africa, the country is sick on the inside. With these indices there is noway that we can develop. (Population - 200,000 million, population of persons under the age of fifteen years- 42.5%, annual growth rate - 2.6%, Total Fertility Rate - 5.3 children, Mean age at first marriage 18.1 years, Contraceptive Prevalence rate - 17.0%, Maternal mortality ratio - 512 per 100,000 live births, Poverty level - 50%, and female literacy level - 59.3%).

Nigeria has very high fertility compared with other nations, whether they are Christian or Muslim, wealthier or poorer, and larger or smaller. One main reason for high fertility in Nigeria is the low use of modern contraceptives, about 17% for both traditional and modern

methods. Only 15% of our married women of childbearing age use modern contraception, while some other countries have up to 77% of married women using modern contraception.

The effects of high fertility on education, health, agriculture and the economy are known to us all, and are definitely not positive effects.

Family planning methods, particularly the effective methods have numerous positive effects on lives of the population in various ways. Some are mentioned below:

Prevention of pregnancy-related health risks in women and adolescents

A woman's ability to choose when to become pregnant has a direct impact on her health and well-being. Family planning allows spacing of pregnancies and can delay pregnancies in young women at increased risk of health problems and death from early childbearing, and can prevent pregnancies among older women who also face increased risks. Family planning enables women who wish to limit the size of their families to do so. Evidence suggests that women who have more than four children are at increased risk of maternal mortality. By reducing rates of unintended pregnancies, family planning also reduces the need for unsafe abortion.

Reduction in infant mortality Family planning can prevent closely spaced and ill-timed pregnancies and births, which

contribute to some of the world's highest infant mortality rates. Infants of mothers who die as a result of giving birth also have a greater risk of death and poor health.

Helps to prevent HIV/AIDS

Family planning reduces the risk of unintended pregnancies among women living with HIV, resulting in fewer infected babies and orphans. In addition, male and female condoms provide dual protection against unintended pregnancies and against STIs including HIV. Family planning is therefore a key intervention in HIV settings as for prevention of mother to child transmission.

Empowers people and enhances education

Family planning enables individuals to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. It presents opportunities for women for enhanced education and participation in public life, including paid employment. Additionally, having smaller families allows parents to invest more in each child. Children with fewer siblings tend to stay in school longer than those with many siblings.

Reduces adolescent pregnancies

Pregnant adolescents are more likely to have preterm or low birth-weight babies. Babies born to adolescents have higher rates of neonatal mortality. Many adolescent girls who become pregnant have to leave school. This has long-term implications for them as individuals, their families and communities.

Slows down population growth

Family planning is key to slowing unsustainable population growth and the resulting negative impacts on the economy, environment, and national and regional development efforts.

In conclusion, the rationale for family planning is undaunting with positive effects on individual family members, the family, society, the state and the nation at large. By allowing women the freedom to manage the number and spacing of their births, women preserve their health and fertility and also contribute to improving the overall quality of their lives.

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