



# THE Nigeria Standard



FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 683

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

N200

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**T**HE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Monday put its members on alert over a likely hike in pump price.

It has commenced mobilisation to shut down the economy, should the Federal Government proceed with its proposed increase of the Premium Motor Spirit from N162 to

## Labour to shut down Nigeria over fuel price hike

N340 by next year, 2022.

The Congress warned that Organised Labour would not fold its hands and watch the Federal Government push more Nigerians below the poverty line.

It said any attempt to increase the price of petrol would affect every Nigerian

regardless of their status.

The Federal Government last month hinted at a possible fuel hike given the heavy burden of subsidy on the government.

Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) Group Managing Director/Chief Executive

Officer Mele Kyari said petrol will sell between N320 and N340 per litre from February.

He said Nigeria would be out of the subsidy regime in the first quarter of 2022, but that the Federal Government plans to give N5,000 each to 40 million

citizens to cushion the effects.

NLC President, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, who spoke at the 17th NLC Harmattan School in Ilorin, Kwara State, insisted that contrary to some views by seasoned labour unionist Chief Frank

Kokori, the Congress was out to empower its members to be better equipped in tackling unfavourable policies that would further impoverish Nigerians.

He said: "The concept of accepting deregulation hook, line and sinker anchored on import-driven

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# Travel ban discriminatory, punitive

**T**he Federal Government Monday rejected the travel ban on travellers from Nigeria by the United Kingdom (UK) over the spread of the Omicron variant of Coronavirus.

It asked the UK authorities to "immediately" review the

ban, which it described as "kneel-jerk, apartheid, discriminatory, punitive, unfair, indefensible, and unscientific."

The government questioned the rationale for including Nigeria in the UK Red List, having been globally acknowledged for its proactive approach to the campaign against

COVID-19.

It accused the UK and other developed nations of using their "enormous resources" to mop up "promising vaccines" to the detriment of less developed ones.

The UK government, however, sought Nigeria's understanding, promising to review the policy on

December 20.

At the weekend, there were no flights from Nigeria and the other affected countries on the red alert into the UK.

Monday, Nigeria reported 12 positive cases of Omicron as against UK's 336.

Minister of Information and Culture, Lai

Mohammed spoke about Nigeria's displeasure with the ban at a news conference in Abuja.

Asked if the Federal Government would respond to the ban with similar action, Mohammed replied: "The appropriate decision will be taken by the appropriate Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19."

The minister said the "reflex responses" of the UK were driven by fear rather than science.

His words: "Britain now joins other countries, including Canada, which has taken similar action against Nigeria over Omicron.

"Let me say straight away that it's up to the PSC to respond to this action by the British Government and others, and I have no doubt that the committee will respond appropriately.

"However, as the spokesman for the Federal Government, I can say, without mincing words, that the decision by the British Government to put Nigeria on the red list, just because of less than two dozen cases of Omicron which, by the way, did not originate in Nigeria, is unjust, unfair, punitive, indefensible and discriminatory. The decision is also not driven by science.

"We sincerely hope the British Government will immediately review the decision to put Nigeria on its red list and rescind it immediately.

"Nigeria has handled the COVID-19 pandemic with utmost responsibility and

**FG**

based on science, and has rightly earned global accolades for its efforts. Nigeria does not belong on any country's Red List.

"As we speak today (Monday), nobody has been reported to have died of the Omicron variant. It

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**Buhari charges Armed Forces to be apolitical**

**D**ETERMINED to address the cases of the growing insecurity in the country squarely, President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday charged the nation's Armed Forces to be apolitical and concentrate on defending the nation's democracy from both internal and external aggressions.

Speaking while declaring open this year's Chief of Army Staff Annual Conference in Abuja, President Buhari who acknowledged the successes recorded in the recent past by the Armed Forces of Nigeria in the various theaters of operations in the war against insurgency, assured that his administration would give high priority to the welfare of the military Personnel and as well provide them with the required equipment to fight the insurgents.

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**Sen. Prof. Nora Ladi Daduut (middle) Senator Representing Plateau South accompanied by a mammoth crowd to commission projects in the Southern Zone of the State recently**

## Tambuwal: Restructuring is Nigeria's pathway to devt

**C**ONTRARY to widely held opinion that the North does not want restructuring of the federation, Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State, who is the Vice Chairman of Nigerian Governors Forum and Chairman of governors elected on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has said that

Nigeria's advancement as a nation depends on "restructuring and devolution of powers," while arguing that the Federal Government must "shed weight and devolve more powers to the sub-nationals." Addressing a team of journalists in Sokoto on the recent tour of the Revenue

Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission to get inputs from states for an impending review of the revenue allocation formula, Tambuwal asserted that no state in the federation was happy with its allocation from the federation account.

"No state is happy with where it is. Not even Lagos

or Rivers; so, if Lagos and Rivers are not happy with where they are, how do you want Sokoto and others to feel? We are all looking for money and resources. Not even the Federal Government is happy with where it is. They (Federal Government) has the lion share but they are looking

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## News

### Buhari charges Armed Forces to be apolitical

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President Buhari who was represented by the Chief of Defence Staff, CDS, Gen. Lucky Irabor while urging the members of the Armed Forces to face their constitutional duties squarely, advised them to be professional, civil and adhere strictly to the rules of engagement and to stay away from distractions so as to be able to win the war against insurgency and restore sanity to the troubled zones in the country.

"One of the key agenda of this administration is security, it is pertinent to note that for democracy to thrive and survive, there must be the security of lives and property, therefore, as the Army of our great nation, your role to protect and secure the nation is paramount. In performing this role, the required equipment is training and motivation, as a government, we are doing all that is possible within the limit of our available resources to equip the Army and indeed the Armed Forces of Nigeria to perform its official roles.

In addition to this, all efforts are being made to build our military industrial complex. We are also in talks with friendly nations to equip optimally for efficiency and effectiveness in the various operations that you are undertaking, some of the equipment are now being delivered while others will arrive within the shortest time frame.

"While performing your constitutional roles, I urge you to remain apolitical and continue to operate within the frameworks of the principles of fundamental human rights."

In his remarks, the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Farouq Yahaya who applauded President Buhari's unquantifiable support to the Nigerian Army in the quest to create the NA of the future, pledged Nigerian Army's unalloyed and absolute loyalty and avowed commitment towards the discharge of its responsibility as clearly spelt out in the Constitution.

While acknowledging that the military and indeed the Nigerian Army has witnessed enormous security challenges ranging from increased banditry activities, kidnapping for ransom, as well as Indigenous Peoples of Biafra/Eastern Security Network activities and wanton killings across the 6 geopolitical zones of the country, posited that despite all these challenges, the Nigerian Army continues to record remarkable successes in the protection of our dear country.

"As it is often said 'maintaining the peace is more challenging than winning the war'. This

assertion has been evident in our series of operations and campaigns to root out terrorism, insurgency, banditry and other violent crimes from our country. The Nigerian Army has continued to remain resolute in bringing the myriads of security challenges to a logical conclusion favourable to the nation.

"We are thus, gathered here today and throughout this week to evaluate and appraise our activities and efforts so far towards achieving the overall objective of better positioning the Nigerian Army to face the tasks ahead in the Year 2022 and beyond.

"Mr. President Sir, the Nigerian Army in the preceding quarters of 2021, faced daunting challenges that made it more robust in achieving its mandate. It is therefore the Nigerian Army's resolve to continue to discharge its constitutional roles toward ensuring peace and stability in every part of the country. I wish to assure Mr. President and the good people of Nigeria that their Army is ever ready at all times to defend our democracy and the territorial integrity of our nation.

"In fulfilment of this resolve, the Nigerian Army's performance in the conduct of operations have been greatly sustained and improved based on efficient procurement and induction of military hard and software across the theatres of operations. In the recent past, a substantial number of military wares had been

deployed especially for JTF NE Operation HADIN KAI and JTF NW Operation HADARIN DAJI to further enhance the tempo of our operations."

Major General Magashi who was represented by a Director in the Ministry, Mr. Sunday Attah observed that one major concern of the Ministry of Defence is the drive to achieve jointness and unity of effort amongst the 3 Services especially in the conduct of various ongoing operations within the country.

"I must commend the Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs for putting in place measures to achieve this. However, more synergy is still required to ensure that all operations on the ground reflect that jointness in all ramifications for greater successes."

"Accordingly, you all must shun every form of politicking in the conduct of your responsibilities and in the aid to civil authorities. Let me boldly state that the military has been the unifying factor of our nation since our independence and it must continue to be apolitical and non-tribal as a professional force.

"At this juncture, permit me once again to appreciate Mr. President for his commitment in ensuring that lasting peace and security is restored to our country. I also urge the Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs not to relent in steering the ship of your various Services. The Armed Forces of Nigeria must retain its credibility in the face of challenges in the battlefields."

### Travel ban discriminatory, punitive

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is just pure prejudice and discrimination

"How do you slam this kind of discriminatory action on a country of 200 million people? Whereas British citizens and residents are allowed to come in from Nigeria, non-residents from the same country are banned.

"The two groups are coming from the same country, but are subject to different conditions.

"Why won't Britain allow people in both categories

to come in, and be subjected to the same conditions of testing and quarantine?

"This is why this decision to ban travellers from Nigeria, who are neither citizens nor residents, is grossly discriminatory and punitive."

The minister insisted that Nigeria had been proactive in its approach to the Omicron variant of Coronavirus to prevent its spread.

Mohammed said the Federal Government had

*Cont'd from Page 1*

for resources. Go and ask them; they borrow money to pay salaries," he said. Continuing his justification for restructuring of the country, Tambuwal said, "It is not about Sokoto but what people have been talking about the need for restructuring and devolution of powers in the country. We must review and restructure away all those things from the centre. I said it at the PDP Retreat. It is first our pathway to stability, growth and development. The Federal Government must shed weight and devolve more powers to sub-nationals where the people are in the states and local governments. That would give less attraction to the centre. Let the Federal Government be dealing with issues of immigration and

### Tambuwal: Restructuring is Nigeria's pathway to devt

other normal issues that a federal system should be concerned about."

Answering a question on whether he will go against the resolution of Southern Governors Forum to have a President from the South in 2023, Tambuwal said he found it difficult to talk about zoning. "When you talk about what my brother governors from the South said, they are entitled to their opinion. When the Northern governors met in Kaduna, they said their own. But it is now for the political parties to sit down, look at the issues and plan how to win elections. The bottom-line for any political party is how to win elections. When you are talking about

democracy and elections, you must think about demography; where are you going to get the votes?" Stating that he will make his position on contesting the presidency known in a few weeks, the Sokoto State Governor said, "You know that in 2018, I participated in the PDP primaries that held in Port Harcourt and I thank God that I came second. Several people are talking to me to give it a trial. At this moment, what I can tell you is that very soon, I am going to commence my consultations and whatever is the feedback I get and with prayers, I will let my position be known."

### Labour to shut down Nigeria over fuel price hike

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price model is not something that we can accept. We have said that without mincing words.

"If you are pushing through our throat to accept deregulation based on importation, basically there will be no end to a price increase.

"Saying that once you deregulate without having the capacity to refine for domestic use will bring down the price of PMS is not correct.

"When the price of crude oil was almost at a zero level, the price of two items that were deregulated never came down - diesel and kerosene. In fact, they kept going up.

"By the market fundamentals, marketers

are out there to make maximum profit and usually they will collude and that is what will happen to Nigeria if we accept that policy hook, line and sinker.

"The implication is not also on the working class because whether we like it or not, the minimum wage gain has been eroded completely.

"The major issue under contention is: how do we

stabilise the value of the naira? Once you do not stabilise the value of the naira, anything imported will affect the larger economy and the cost of goods and services.

"This is the reality, so we are calling for a revival of the refineries. Make them to work. Don't export our jobs. Let us benefit substantially from what God has given us freely."

### Buhari still consulting on Electoral Amendment Bill

**- Adesina**

at the appropriate time.

"The President is consulting, he has to consult with all the stakeholders and then arrive at a position that is best for the country.

"Part of that consultation was the communication with INEC and there are other stakeholders that have also been reached for positions and counsel on that. At the end of the day, Mr. President would aggregate all of it and what is best for the country is what he will do.

"It is a work in progress. The President still has a number of days within which he should sign the bill into law. Be rest assured that the President would do whatever is good for the country at any given time. So it is work in progress and there's still a window of days", he said.

Asked on the communication between the President and INEC, Adesina said, "You would rather get the feedback from the Independent Electoral Commission, INEC, but what I can tell Nigerians is that the President is consulting widely and he would do what is best for the country. We can't preempt him, he will do it at the appropriate time."

**FG**

on December 5 released a revised protocol on COVID-19 to reduce the risk of importation and exportation of the virus.

The minister added: "In the wake of the discovery of Omicron, the PSC reviewed its International Travel Protocol.

"The revised protocol, which came into effect on December 5, is aimed at further reducing the risk of importation and exportation of COVID-19, especially the variants of concern.

"Under the revised protocol, inbound passengers arriving in Nigeria are expected to provide evidence of tests done 48 hours before their arrival while those outbound travellers are to show PCR test results done 48 hours from the time of boarding."

He described the measures as "science-driven actions, rather than those based on emotions and other extraneous reasons."



**Buhari**



# Business & Economy



## Power supply: Between cost, availability of meters

**WITH a population of over 200 million people, Nigeria is undoubtedly one of the most populous countries in the world, accounting for half of the population of West Africa. While the country has the largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa, with agriculture being the largest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), access to electricity is faced with a myriad of challenges, including infrastructure constraints, insufficient end-user tariffs, and unstable supply, among others. MICHAEL ONUORAH writes.**

IN a bid to tackle these challenges and promote efficiency in the area of operations in the power industry, the Nigerian government unbundled the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) in 2013 and privatized the generation and distribution segments of the sector. With the privatization, 11 distribution companies (DisCos) and 6 generation companies (GenCos) were birthed, while the transmission of electricity remained under the control of the Federal Government.

While the privatization initially held promises, efficiency in the power sector is still being hamstrung by pertinent issues to dates, such as unreliable gas supply, vandalism, and insufficient metering. According to a report by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the population of electricity customers stands at 7.48 million, of which only 3.39 million are metered, leaving the unmetered population at 4.09 million customers.

One of the biggest scourges of Nigeria's electricity deficit is the estimated billing of unmetered customers, wherein consumers are charged for energy consumed based on their previous usage, without considering the actual

quantity of energy consumed. Consumers in this system are bedeviled with mandatory payments far above their monthly energy consumption, which has often led to disputes between customers and DisCos personnel.

In a bid to assuage the agitation by electricity customers to be metered so as to enable them to pay for actual power consumed, the federal government introduced the Meter Asset Provider (MAP) Regulation in 2018, which provides for the supply, installation, and maintenance of end-meter users by other parties approved by the commission. The initiative was geared towards accelerating the closure of the existing meter gap, which has stymied the development and progress of meter services in the industry.

**Read Also:** Meter manufacturers ask FG to review levies on imported finished electricity meters

More recently, in a renewed attempt to bridge the metering gap, curtail the prevalence of estimated billing and attract private investment in the provision of meters and metering services in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI), the federal government introduced the National Mass Metering Policy (NMMP) in 2020, which will be executed in two

phases, including phases 0 and 1. Phase 0, which commenced last year involves the financing of orders under the MAP programme by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), with a target of one million meters across the country while Phase 1 will provide up to 4 million meters and shall also use a similar financing mechanism as Phase 0.

Following the operational modalities of the CBN's financing support to the electricity distribution companies and local meter manufacturers in Nigeria, all unmetered customers are expected to be metered by end of 2023 under the NMMP/MAP schemes, ultimately eliminating the metering gap. With the initiatives put in place, it behooves meter manufacturers and distribution companies to make concerted efforts in ensuring the metering gap is closed, and Nigeria's leading meter manufacturer, MOJEC International has taken laudable strides in actualizing this goal.

With a production capacity of up to 1.2 million meters annually, MOJEC is indubitably Nigeria's largest meter manufacturer, boasting a presence in over 26 states across the country. Since the privatization of the power sector, the company has deployed over 1.5 million end-user smart electricity meters

across 8 distribution licensees via various national metering schemes, including Disco Mass Meter Rollout (DMMR), Credited Advance Payment for Metering Implementation (CAPMI), among others.

To bridge the metering gap, local meter manufacturers like MOJEC ostensibly have the most vital roles to play. Upon the kick-off of the Meter Asset Program (MAP) scheme, the company delivered 311,112-meter installations across 8 Discos in Nigeria, evincing its commitment to bridging the metering gap.

Affordability is one critical factor to consider in bridging Nigeria's meter gap. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, over 82 million Nigerians live on less than \$1 per day — the onus is therefore on the government and Meter Asset Providers to contrive avenues to provide affordable meters to consumers in the country.

According to Special Adviser to the President on Infrastructure, Ahmad Zakari, 750,000 prepaid meters have been installed under the CBN-funded Phase 0 of the National Mass Metering Program as of August 2021 representing 75 percent of the one million meters to be provided to Nigerians. Under this Phase, MOJEC recorded the highest number of meters among over 20 Meter Asset Providers in the

Nigeria Electricity Supply Industry (NESI), installing 234,427 meters under the scheme.

Beyond bridging the metering gap, the efficient production of meters by Meter Asset Providers can bolster local content sourcing, which will, in turn, contribute to the growth of the economy. To encourage local production, the federal government in its regulation of the NMMP had mandated that MAP source at least 30 percent of its products locally. MOJEC International currently boasts an annual production capacity of 1.2 million meters from its manufacturing company situated in Lagos, a meritorious feat and effort towards deepening meter access across the country.

With more Meter Asset Providers making unswerving efforts towards the production and installation of affordable meters, Nigeria is on a steady path towards the eradication of estimated billing of customers and closure of the metering gap. However, to truly tackle the power challenges Nigeria is faced with, there is a dire need for the federal government to implement reforms needed to bring the energy sector on par with global standards.

Onuorah is the Head, MAP & Supply Chain MOJEC International.



## Nigeria's foreign trade grew 10.43% in third quarter - NBS

NIGERIA'S foreign trade grew as imports rose significantly and showed a marginal increase in export, resulting in an unfavourable trade balance in the third quarter of 2021, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has said.

The bureau disclosed this in its Foreign Trade Goods Statistics Q3 2021 published on Monday.

The NBS said total trade increased by 10.43 per cent in the third quarter, compared to the second quarter, and 58.59 per cent compared to the third quarter of 2020.

"Nigeria trade balance in Q3 2021 amounted to a deficit of N3,023.50 billion showing an increase of 26.53 per cent year on year resulting from a continued increase in imports," it said.

Categorising the imported goods, the report said that the value of total imports stood at N8, 153.79 billion in Q3 2021 and was 17.32 per cent higher than Q2 2021 and 51.47 per cent higher than Q3 2020.

"The value of imported agricultural goods was 21.01 per cent higher than the value recorded in Q2, 2021 and 56.74 per cent higher than Q3 2020.

"The value of raw material imports was 9.08 per cent more than Q2, 2021, and 29.06 per cent more than the value in Q3 2020," it said.

The NBS said the value of solid minerals imports in Q3 2021 increased by 10.93 per cent compared to Q2 2021 and 53.42 per cent compared to Q3 2020.

"The value of energy goods imports in Q3 2021 was 408.51 per cent more than Q2 2021 and 24.14 per cent more than Q3 2020."

It added that the value of imported manufactured goods imports value was 13.98 per cent higher in Q3 2021 than the level in Q2 2021 and 42.73 per cent more than Q3 2020.

"Oil products import value was 34.60 per cent more than in Q2 2021 and 113.18 per cent higher than Q3 2020," it said.

As for exports, the statistics office said the total exports in the third quarter of 2021 were recorded at N5,130.30 billion, translating to a 1 per cent growth compared to the second quarter of the same year and a 71.38 per cent growth compared to the third quarter in 2020.

It said the agricultural goods export value in Q3, 2021 was 5.9 per cent lower than Q2 2021 but 31.0 per cent higher than Q3 2020.



Onyema

It added that the value of raw material export increased by 135.2 per cent in Q3 2021 against the level in Q2 2021 and 1,241.1 per cent higher than Q3 2020.

"Solid Minerals exports value in Q3 2021, increased by 22.7 per cent compared to Q2 2021 and 222.8 per cent compared to Q3 2020.

Also, energy goods exports value in Q3 2021 was 58 per cent lower than Q2 2021 and 34.5 per cent lower than the value in Q3 2020.

"Manufactured goods exports were 39.4 per cent more than the value in Q2 2021 and 121.6 per cent higher than Q3 2020.

"Crude oil exports in Q3 2021 were 1.3 per cent lower than the value recorded in Q2 2021 but 66 per cent higher than Q3 2020.

"Other oil products exports in Q3 2021 were 3.6 per cent more in value than in Q2 2021 and 57.8 per cent higher than Q3 2020," the report said.

According to the report, imported goods were mostly from China, India, the USA, Netherlands and Belgium.

It said China remained the top importing partner for Nigeria in Q3 2021, this was followed by India.

"Import from Africa accounted for N247.66 billion (3.04 per cent) while imports from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) accounted for N26.69 billion of the total imports value from Africa during the period under review," it said.

For export, Nigeria exported mainly mineral products, which accounted for N4,605.25 billion (89.77

per cent) of the total export value.

"This was followed by vehicles, aircraft, and parts which contributed N195.16 billion (3.80 per cent) to the total exports.

In the third quarter of 2021, Nigeria exported products mostly to Europe (N2,230.10 billion), Asia (N1,480.58 billion), Africa (N668.22 billion), and America (N625.68 billion).

Among exports to Africa, it said N346.8 billion (51.90 per cent) of the goods were exported to ECOWAS countries.

The report said export in the third quarter of 2021 was still oil-dependent.

It said crude oil exports recorded N4,026.18 billion and it remained the major product in total exports (78.48 per cent), while non-crude oil was valued at N1,104.1 billion or 21.52 per cent of total exports of which non-oil products only contributed N546.27 billion representing 10.65 per cent of total exports during the quarter under review.

In terms of country of destination, India remained the top exporting partner for Nigeria in the review period.

Export trade by country of destination showed that Nigeria exported goods mainly to India, Spain, Italy, France, and the Netherlands.

The exports to the five countries were N758.18 billion (14.78 per cent), N627.01 billion (12.22 per cent), N446.04 billion (8.69 per cent), N363.23 billion (7.08 per cent), and N242.49 billion (4.73 per cent) respectively.

THE wellbeing of host communities has been identified as a vital cause for a functional and productive relationship with corporate organisations as demonstrated recently by

Midwestern Oil and Gas Company Limited. At its 2021 five-day annual medical outreach programme flagged off in Kwale, headquarters of Ndokwa West Local Government Area of Delta State, an estimated 6,000 beneficiaries were expected to benefit from the Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) Project of the oil company.

Addressing members of its host communities at the free medical outreach in its host communities (Umusadege, Ogbani, Umusan), the external and corporate communications head of the company, Mercy Max-Ebibai, said that the outreach will feature the issuance of over 3000 free medical optical lenses and dispensing of free

## Charity must begin at home -Midwestern Oil

medications to address associated diagnosis. endeavours to reach out through the medical

"The wellbeing of our people in our host communities is paramount to us and fulfils our core values hinged on teamwork, integrity, accountability, respect and value creation especially. As a company, we at the event, including Julius Enebeli and Matthew Ossai, commended Midwestern Company and its JV partner for being responsive to their responsibilities such as the free medical outreach. Incorporated in 1999 and commenced operations in 2001, Midwestern Oil and Gas was awarded 70 percent interest in Umusadege Field located in OML 56 and is committed to building a sustainable economic environment through its CSR activities for its host communities.

Max-Ebibai said that the company and its Joint Venture (JV) partner, SunTrust Oil Company Limited, also sponsor similar health-related projects at the national level, stressing that the particular health outreach in its host community(s) echoed the fact that "charity begins at home." "Since charity begins at home, that is why Midwestern Oil and Gas

## Abuja electricity workers suspend strike

THE National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) has suspended its strike in Abuja after the Federal Government intervened in its dispute with the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company, AEDC.

The suspension of the industrial action followed a meeting between NUEE and government officials as contained in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) jointly signed by both parties.

The union had on Monday morning embarked on an industrial action, shutting down operations of Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC).

The union accused the company of not remitting the pension contributions of its members for 20 months.

The Transmission Company of Nigeria on Monday said the evacuation of bulk power from electricity substations was disrupted following a shutdown of the facilities of AEDC by the company's workers' union.

The strike led to power outages in areas under the AEDC franchise which include Abuja, Nasarawa, Kogi, parts of Edo, Niger and Kaduna States.

However, NUEE and the Federal Government reached a compromise at a meeting later Monday.

The meeting was brokered by the Minister of State for Power, Goddy Agba.

"Government intervened with the firm arrangement to ensure the payment of the outstanding entitlement of AEDC staff within 21 days counting from the day of the signing of the MoU.

"Based on the foregoing, the industrial action is suspended." Agba.

The officials of the Federal Government that signed the document are the Director-General of Bureau for Public Enterprises, Alex Okoh, Chairman of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Sanusi Garba, and the Minister of

State for Power, Goddy Jedy Agba. Alex Olebe represented the Ministry of Labour. Those who signed on behalf of the workers' union include Joe Ajaero, the General-secretary of NUEE, and Godfrey Aba, NUEE Chairman, FCT Council.



Aliyu

## NAIRA fell against the U.S. dollar

NAIRA fell slightly against the U.S. dollar on Monday at the official market, after the local unit recorded slight gains on Thursday and Friday last week.

The domestic currency which opened at N413.85 closed at N415.00 to a dollar

at the close of business on Monday, data posted on the FMDQ securities exchange windows where forex is officially traded showed.

This represents a N0.27 or 0.07 per cent devaluation from the N414.73 rate to a dollar it exchanged on Friday last week.

Naira hit an intraday high of N404.00 and a low of N459.85 before closing at N415.00 per \$1 on Monday, with \$225.94 million recorded as forex turnover at the close of business of the day's business.

At the black market in Uyo and Abuja, dealers said they exchanged the naira at N565.00 and sold between the range of N567 and N570.00 to a dollar on Monday, the same range the currency traded at the market segment last week Thursday and Friday respectively.



# Business & Economy

## Nigeria is out of recession, Nigerians in recession

**An economic recession is typically defined as a decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country for two or more consecutive quarters. It is often characterized by high inflation, business decline, lower revenue, higher unemployment, less consumer spending amongst others. TOUN OGUNBIYI writes.**

SEVERAL factors had led to the recent economic recession in Nigeria. But a key factor was the sharp and continuous decline in crude oil prices since mid-2015. This led to a fall in oil revenue and foreign exchange earnings by over 60 percent, coupled with a failure to diversify the sources of revenue and foreign exchange in the economy.

Nigeria suffered greatly from the shock of oil prices because the economy did not have any other significant source of revenue to support the decline from oil export. The challenge was further aggravated by the sabotage of oil export terminals in the Niger Delta, which further reduced government revenue and export earnings. The volume of government spending was equally constrained by lack of fiscal buffers to absorb the shock, as well as leakages of public resources due to corruption and inefficient spending in the recent past. The drop in oil prices triggered capital outflows and then a loss in value of the Naira leading to an increase in the price of imported goods and services.

The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) eventually was unveiled to save the nation from total collapse. Following a 0.11 percent increase in GDP in the year 2020, the CBN declared that Nigeria has finally exited the



Ahmed



Farouq

period of economic recession. As of the second quarter of 2021, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that the Nigerian economy has recorded a 5.01 percent growth in real GDP while the economy is projected to grow by 2.9 percent in the year 2022.

In the year 2019, the current administration decided to adopt some protectionism measures in a bid to encourage domestic production by closing the major borders of the country. Although the borders have been partially reopened, other protectionism measures such as restriction of import quotas, limited access to foreign currencies, increased trade tariff still remain at large. The policy led to an increased rate of inflation in the commodity market, as local production have not been able to meet up with the huge level of domestic demand. The average inflation rate for the year 2021 has risen to about 17 percent as against 11.02 percent prior to the period of border closure which implies that the spillover effect of the border closure still remains at large.

In the year 2020, the economic situation of the country was further aggravated by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like the rest of the world, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was greatly felt by Nigerians following a lockdown that started in March 2020. By December 2020, Nigeria entered

the second wave of the pandemic which led to a spike in the numbers of people infected. In order to curtail the spread, the government restricted social gatherings of any kind as schools and offices were closed and religious gatherings were temporarily banned. By January, 2021 various research institutions had started rolling out the vaccine they discovered to be the long awaited answer to the dreaded pandemic. Following the roll out of the vaccine in batches, Nigeria gradually eased movements and reopened its borders.

At the end of the pandemic, the Nigerian Naira was exchanged for N361 per dollar and more recently to N413 while inflation rate increased to 17 percent and the low demand for oil as a result of the restricted movement further reduced oil production and export thus consequently reducing the level of revenue generated. Various fiscal and monetary policies were introduced to cushion the effect of the pandemic. Despite all these interventions, empirical and statistical evidence still reveal that Nigeria is yet to fully recover from the economic shock of the Covid-19 pandemic which threw the nation's economy off balance.

The use of GDP as a real tool of economic measurement has remained questionable overtime.

Economists have come to a conclusion that a rising GDP does not automatically equate a better standard of living. Recently published research works and data from viable sources attests to this fact. For instance, in the aspect of food security, the Nigerian populace still largely faces severe difficulty in meeting their food needs like never before as incessant attacks by jihadists and bandits have continued to threaten the performance of the agricultural sector. For instance, a Nigeria Living Standard Survey carried out by the (NBS) revealed that in the last 3 years, many households in Nigeria have been affected by negative life events as more than 37 percent of the household sector are being exposed to the rising inflation in the food market. While 46.5percent of the populace was discovered not to have any coping strategy to curtail the effects of food inflation, 11.7percent resorted to reducing their level of food consumption.

The average inflation rate for the year 2021 has risen to about 17 percent as against 11.02percent in the year 2019. It is also projected that the persistent rise in inflation is not expected to reverse at least not in the short run as the Nigerian government recently revealed its intention to remove fuel subsidy by the year 2022. This has generated a lot of reactions by

Nigerians who see the move as an avenue to further worsen the economic situation of the country. Also, the recent discovery of the Covid-19 Omicron variant is not providing enough evidence that life will get better in Nigeria as many countries have resorted to close their borders. Depending on the rate of spread, Nigeria might also follow suit.

In the aspect of poverty reduction, there is no evidence that a rise in the growth of GDP has translated to a reduced rate of poverty reduction in Nigeria. For instance, the research report of the World Bank submitted that over 45percent of the Nigerian populace will live in extreme poverty by the year 2022 as against 38 percent in the year 2018. The World Bank has also allayed fears that by the year 2023, the pandemic and population growth would raise the level of poverty to almost 100million. While another report by Brookings Institutions, estimated that the poverty rate in Nigeria will continue to increase by 6 people every minute.

Furthermore, the upward trend of the rate of unemployment and increased rate of migration in search of greener pastures also points to the fact that Nigeria has not made much economic progress. As it stands now, Nigeria is also having its fair share of "The great resignation" a concept that explains the widespread of job resignation after the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the aspect of infrastructure, a report by "The Economist" one of the world's leading research organisations also reveals that "electricity blackouts are maddeningly frequent; roads are often poor while ports remain clogged up". For exchange rate, "The Economist" maintained that businesses are neither getting a stable currency nor are they getting access to dollars despite all the unorthodox controls.

It has been reported overtime that Nigeria's economic growth is witnessing significant turnaround but this assertion largely remains questionable as both empirical and numerical facts say otherwise. This implies that beyond face value growth, the government needs to embark on massive economic reforms by employing the best capable hands; more expansionary fiscal and monetary policies need to be put in place to attract investment and the government should be bold enough to embark on massive economic reform through fiscal federalism.

**“The use of GDP as a real tool of economic measurement has remained questionable overtime. Economists have come to a conclusion that a rising GDP does not automatically equate a better standard of living. Recently published research works and data from viable sources attests to this fact. For instance, in the aspect of food security, the Nigerian populace still largely faces severe difficulty in meeting their food needs like never before as incessant attacks by jihadists and bandits have continued to threaten the performance of the agricultural sector.”**

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## Politics

# PLHA holds valedictory session for late member

By PAULINE DALLONG

PLATEAU State House of Assembly (PLHA), has held a valedictory session in honour of the late Barr. Henry Longs, member representing Pankshin South constituency who passed away recently, with members taking turns to eulogise and pay their last respect to a departed colleague.

Also present were the Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonnie Tyoden who represented the state Governor, Barr. Simon Bako Lalong and Hon. Diket Plang, former member representing Pankshin South in the sixth assembly.

In his eulogy, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda who described the late Henry Longs as a very committed member of the Plateau State House of Assembly his demise was a huge loss to the entire state, stating that life is a journey which nobody knows when and how it will end.

On his part, the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency, Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel while reading the biography of the deceased, described death as an inevitable end that must come when it must come, urging all to be ready and prepared for it, even though nobody wants to die.

For Hon. Peter Ibrahim Gyendeng, member representing Barkin Ladi constituency who quoted the book of 1 Corinthians 1: 54-55, even though a very painful death, Henry Longs no doubt sacrificed himself to bring an end to the rancour in the ninth assembly.

According to him, the road to heaven is more important than anything else on this earth, adding that what happened to their colleague should serve as a lesson to them all because the lessons of this life are better imagined.

In his tribute, Hon. Philip Peter Dasun representing Pankshin North constituency while narrating his ordeal as one of those who deposited the deceased body at the mortuary, said whenever he remembers how lifeless his body laid, what comes to mind is that there is nothing in this life, describing death as a necessary end for all mortals.

While eulogising the deceased whom he referred to as a dear brother and friend, he said Henry was such a straight forward person, a man of few words who was always committed to whatever he does, including having the best interest of his constituents at heart.

Members in their separate tributes said that the demise



Longs

of Barr. Longs came to them as a surprise but are comforted with the fact that he is with the Lord, away from the worries and troubles of this world and would be remembered for so many things, one being that he stood for justice.

Speaking shortly after the valedictory session, the Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonnie Tyoden said the demise of Barr. Longs was

not just a loss to the House, but the state and the ruling party APC which he was so committed to.

While appealing to members of the state assembly to put away their differences for the betterment of the state, said that they should see his death as an opportunity to come together as one House.

## 'Election of Wadada will guarantee dividends of democracy'

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

AHEAD of the 2023 general elections in the country, the election of Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada a two term former member of the House of Representatives to represent the Nasarawa West constituency in the Senate has been described as the surest way of guaranteeing the people of the zone the opportunities to reap the dividends of democracy.

The immediate past secretary to the Nasarawa state government, Alhaji Aliyu Tijjani made the assertion during the launching of the Wadada Frontiers a group working for the realization of Hon. Wadada for Senate come 2023 in Keffi recently.

The former secretary who expressed confidence that Hon. Wadada has the political capacity and where-withal to give to the people of the zone the desired representation in the red Chamber given his cognate legislative experience, great passion to serve the people as well as his caring posture and trustworthy attributes.

"Given the capacity and where-withal of Hon. Wadada as well as his great passion, competence and good leadership posture

among other attributes of a good leader which Hon. Wadada possess the people of Nasarawa west zone should have no option than to give him their mandate so as to reap the dividends of democracy, the former SSG said.

He further said that it was



Wadada

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi has expressed shock and sadness over the death of the wife of the Speaker of Kogi Assembly, Mrs Esther Kolawole.

The Governor in a condolence message signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Onogwu Mohammed, said he was devastated by the news, describing it as a trying and tough moment for the state.

He described the deceased as a virtuous and God-fearing woman who stood firmly behind her husband at all times in the course of their marital journey until she was called home.

The Governor said that late Mrs Esther Kolawole has left a great vacuum that is difficult to be filled and would be seriously missed.

He maintained that the state government will rally round Rt. Hon. Matthew Kolawole and family at this trying moment.

According to the statement, Late Mrs. Esther died after a brief illness at a Lagos

# Bello mourns as Kogi Speaker loses wife



Bello

hospital, on Sunday.

It read in part, "With heavy hearts, we announce the death of the beloved wife of Rt. Hon. Matthew Kolawole, Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Mrs. Esther Kolawole, whose death occurred recently

in a Lagos Hospital, after a brief illness.

She was 50 years old and is survived by her husband, children, siblings and aged mother.

The burial arrangements will be announced later."

present occupant of the seat.

"We have confidence that this project would come out with flying colours at the end of the day as such we would collectively work together so as to make us reach the promised land for the betterment of our people" he stressed.

In his remarks at the occasion the grand patron of the group and a Former Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice in Nasarawa State, Barrister. Adamu and Hon. James Tanimu Adapson stated that the movement was a moving gear as such all its members should endeavor to exhibit the highest degree of sincerity and commitment so as to realise their ambition.

Earlier in his opening speech, the chairman of the group Malam Hamisu Sabo Abdulmumini assured that they would pursue their movement with an outmost sincerity and commitment as well as solicited support and cooperation from the people of the zone to enable them get a better and people oriented representation that would guarantee them the dividends of democracy.

Speaking through the

Director of Media and Publicity of the Frontiers Malam Idris Ojoku assured them of his determination to ensure the success of their project, especially that they have the confidence of emerging successful in view of the general and encouraging support by the people of the zone.

Also making their contributions the Executive Chairmen of Keffi and Karu local government areas Hon. Mohammed Baba Adamu and Hon. James Tanimu respectively described the clarion call on Wadada to come and make himself available for the Senate as truly in view of his good leadership qualities and experiences.

Responding, Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada expressed his surprise about the movement (Frontiers) saying that he was not aware of their intentions, but he would oblige to their request as regards the contest in 2023 and thanked them for the gesture.

"Since the clarion call is a popular demand from the people of my Senatorial zone, I have no option than to make myself available in other to serve them better," he assured.

## Politics

### Gombe APC intact- Publicity Sec

THE raging feud of supremacy in the Gombe State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), between the State Governor, Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya and a former Governor, and serving Senator, Muhammad Danjuma Goje, has been described as flexing of muscles by the two stalwarts.

The APC, Publicity Secretary, Moses Kyari stated this at a press conference to clear the air over Governor Inuwa Yahaya's involvement in the arraignment in court of one Muhammed Yayari, who was purported to have gone on social media, to broadcast that over eighty percent of local government and ward party executives in Yamaltu-Deba local government area had resigned their positions in solidarity to Senator Goje.

He said, "the orchestrated plan of the Senator (Goje) to cause disunity and unsettle the peace was hatched at the home of one of his aides, Alhaji Babayo Danjuma, who is presently at large. Executives of the APC in Yamaltu-Deba were clandestinely coerced to a meeting in the residence of Babayo, where they solicited for the cooperation and loyalty of the executives to Senator Goje. "No issue of resignation of office was raised or adopted, but to our utter dismay, one Muhammed Yayari, went on social media to broadcast outright lies.

"The APC Local Government executives of Yamaltu-Deba wrote a formal complaint against the duo of Babayo Danjuma and Mohammed Yayari to which in my interview of the ill fated day, I made reference to which action was accordingly taken", he explained.

According to Kyari, the State Executives of the party took up the matter and wrote a petition to the Police where, after investigation, Yayari was arrested and subsequently charged to court.

He said, "It is a great disservice for anybody to insinuate that His Excellency, Alhaji Muhammed Inuwa Yahaya, has any kind of involvement in the self inflicted travails of the rumour monger and his backers".

While acknowledging the cracks between Governor Inuwa and Senator Goje, Kyari went on to say that there is no crisis in Gombe APC but the flexing of muscles between the two

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe



Yahaya

APC stalwarts.

"Senator Goje doesn't want to agree that he is not the leader of the party in Gombe State but Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya. APC is fully on ground and we are assiduously working for success in the 2023 election. We are forging ahead in spite of the little skirmishes".

It would be recalled that soon before the APC ward and local Government congresses, governor Inuwa Yahaya and Senator Goje fell apart politically, due to moves by both to have control over the party structures at all levels in the State.

However, the situation got worse in early November

when supporters of both politicians clashed, resulting in the loss of a life during Senator Goje's visit to the State.

### Adams expresses confidence in LG Chairman

THE immediate past Nasarawa State Commissioner for Youths and Sports Hon. Othman Bala Adams has expressed confidence that the present Keffi local government Chairman Hon. Muhammad Baba Shehu would live up to the expectations of the people in the area.

Speaking with newsmen after paying a courtesy visit on the Chairman in his office recently, the former Commissioner stated that he was elated with the

SPEAKER of the Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), Rt. Hon. Yakubu Jackson Sanda is felicitating with the House Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency, Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel over his election as National Secretary, Nigeria Majority Leaders Forum of state Houses of Assembly.

The message was contained in a press statement by the speaker's Press Secretary, Sabastian Hommuk and made available to **The NIGERIA STANDARD**.

The speaker who described his election as an attestation of his outstanding qualities and understanding of legislative business, noted that the zeal, drive and commitment of the majority leader earned him the position.

He encouraged the majority leader to use his wealth of experience in uniting members of the forum in order to promote and entrench democratic

### Sanda felicitates with majority leader

By PAULINE DALLONG

values in their respective state assemblies.

While commending the forum under the new leadership of Hon. Sanai Oyeniran of the Lagos

State House of Assembly for a hitch free election, he urged them to bring in innovations and dynamism to make the Nigeria legislature a model for other African countries to emulate.



Daniel

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

developmental strides and plans of the Chairman whom he believes would be able to add value to the people of the area.

"From what we're able to see right now there are projects executed within this short period as such we have strong optimism that more value addition in terms of developmental programmes and projects would be on their way," he

observed.

The former Commissioner who commended the Chairman for what he described as his wonderful and inspiring initiatives, urged him not to relent because all the projects earmarked were capable of taking the area to the next level of peace, unity and prosperity.

Adams who assured that the people have made the best choice by electing Hon. Baba Shehu as the Chairman given his wealth

of experience in local government administration also stated that they stand a good chance of getting the best as far as provision of vital services that would enable them to reap the dividends of democracy.

Adams who is also a former member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly therefore advised the Chairman to ensure that he brings forth his wealth of experiences to bear in his administration to enable him discharge his activities dispassionately to the people in line with his campaign promises so as to add value to his leadership.

While appealing to the Chairman not to relent in his efforts to ensure meaningful developmental activities were initiated and executed for the people to reap the dividends of democracy, solicited for their continued support and co-operation to enable him succeed in the task ahead.

The former Commissioner then commended the Governor Abdullahi Sule led-administration in the State for supporting all the local government councils in the State to enable them live up to the expectations of their electorate.

He then assured that on their parts the major stakeholders, would continue to give all their maximum support and co-operations to the Chairman and his administration.

### Keffi local government to expand secretariat complex

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

KEFFI local government is planning to undertake the expansion work of its Secretariat Complex with a view to create additional space that would accommodate more staff in one place early next year.

The projects are also meant to provide a means of administrative conveniences and enhance productivity from staff of the Council.

The Executive Chairman of the Council, Hon. Muhammad Baba Shehu stated this while conducting the immediate past Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Hon. Othman Bala Adams, his staff and other personalities that visited him round the Secretariat premises to assess the developmental

needs of the Secretariat and the staff.

Shehu who assured that his administration is determined to change the face of the Secretariat by providing additional structures stated that already he has identified the major areas that need his attention.

"Already we have identified areas that need to be developed both in terms of new construction, renovation and even beautification to enable the Secretariat have a befitting look and also make the environment conducive for maximum productivity by our staff," he stated.

The Chairman who expressed delight that the reconstruction and renovation work

undertaken by his administration at the Chairman's office and that of the Secretary has made the place to be conducive, befitting.

He stated that the project would also include the construction of the Legislative Council and their various offices as well as moving out the office of the Director of Personnel Management (DPM) among other Directors to a befitting place to enable them have a conducive place to work.

On the various lands of the Secretariat that were encroached the Chairman stated that they would resolve the issue in such a way that they either be made to pay in order to take full possession of the place or any other actions as deemed fit by the Council.

While expressing his concern about the way and manner the Secretariat and other local government facilities were left to rot carelessly and undeveloped assured that he would strive to change the face of everything to the best of his ability.

The Chairman who expressed gratitude to the people of the area for giving him their mandate re-assured that he would continue to do his best in order to reciprocate their gesture by serving them better.

He however solicited for more support, prayers and co-operation for his administration and that of the State led by Governor Abdullahi Sule to enable them succeed in taking the State to the next level of peace, unity and prosperity.

IMAGES

PLATEAU STATE GOVERNOR AT LATE LONGS VALEDICTORY SESSION

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors’ Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong through his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden attended the valedictory session in honour of the member representing Pankshin South in PLHA, Barr. Henry Longs who died recently. The session was held at Plateau State House of Assembly presided over by the Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda



Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, Deputy Governor and Hon. Diket Plang, Adviser to the Governor on Public Affairs watching the proceeding



Plateau House of Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda presiding over the valedictory session



A cross section of honourable members at the valedictory in honour of one of their departed colleague



House Majority Leader, Hon. Naanlong Daniel commenting on the late departed colleague



Hon. Livinus Kwapfuan standing making some remarks



A cross section of members at the valedictory session



Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda (right) with his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong at the session



L - R: Hon. Usaini Amurudu, Hon. Wallok Goma, Hon. Peter Gyengdeng and Hon. Timothy Dantong at the session

PHOTOS: CHIEF PRESS SECRETARY PLHA JOS

## Interview

**"I will empower my people through skill acquisition"**

**Hon. Danjuma Daniel, popularly known as "Judgement Day", is in the race contesting for the House of Representatives in the forthcoming Jos-North/Bassa Federal Constituency by-election. In this interview with EZEKIELDONTINNA and NAOMI SANTOS, he speaks on his plans for the constituency. Excerpts:**

**WE understand you have interest in the forthcoming by-election. On what party platform are you contesting?**

Yes, I am contesting on the platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC), the strongest party in Nigeria and Africa.

**What informed your decision to vie for the position at this crucial time?**

I want to speak for my people, I want to stand for my people and I want to fight for the rights of my people. I want my people to send me because I have looked at the situation of my people for a long time and I discovered that Jos-North/Bassa constituency has not gotten a messenger that will speak for them, stand with them and fight for them.

So, I decided to come out as a messenger so that I will represent them, speak for them, stand up with them and also fight for their rights. That, I think is what motivated me to vie for this position.

**Why are you contesting for a by-election that would last for just a year or so?**

This is because it is the right time. One thing with politics is that when the opportunity comes, there will be no time limit because whatever positive impact you make in the lives of people is more than an unrealistic goal that never comes by in a long term.

When opportunity comes, grab it and use it, for time waits for no one. Make sure that your people benefit from what you have to offer while in that office so that the constituency would move forward.

It is unfortunate that the person occupying the position died, but we would not leave that position vacant and wait for 2023 without any representation at the National Assembly where policies that concern people are formulated.

**How satisfied are you that within this short period you will be able to solve some critical issues?**

It is not how long you stay in office that matters, but how one can utilize the small time positively and create impact as much as somebody that has been there. People will begin to wonder what magic, it is just determination. That is why I want my people to send me.

**What plans do you have?**

If you look at our situation in Jos-North/Bassa constituency, people have not had a sense of belonging. My plans are to see a situation where rich people will begin to look for the poor



Daniel

but skillful people. You see, when you are skilled in anything, rich people will look for you.

I want to empower my people through skill acquisition. This is one area that I want to put more attention on. If you look at the number of occasions that go on in Jos especially on Saturdays, you will understand that there are so many opportunities.

Every week you see people attending one occasion or the other and they must buy or sew clothes and the only way out is to look for these skillful people to make their clothes. Do you know how many tailors can be empowered when people are trained in such skills?

Do you know what it means to empower women when you motivate them to engage themselves in businesses that are gainful? Do you know why we find ourselves in trouble today? It is because everybody wants to sit-down and wait for white-collar jobs.

Let me tell a story, I send my son every day to go to my older brother's garage to learn a skill when he returns from school, because I want him to learn a skill. This is because a society without skills definitely will continue to have problems.

So, I want to put my strength in that area when elected so that I will empower people for them to contribute to the development of our State and

the Nation at large. I want a situation where people will stop depending on government but themselves.

**Your constituency is one of the constituencies that is experiencing security challenges. What are your plans in this aspect?**

This is a very good question. That was why I keep emphasizing on speaking, standing and fighting for the rights of my people. I want us to sit-down and find a way out. We keep saying prayer, prayer. Even the Bible says prayer without works is dead.

I am not in any way saying that prayer is not good. When we pray, we should work towards those things. I want to make sure that, we call all the actors. Let me borrow the words of my Boss, Rochas Okorocha, who said "Let the Ministers, Members of Senate and House of Representatives and all the civil servants, go back to their constituencies and talk about what the problems are." I think Government alone cannot solve these problems. All of us must put our hands on deck to ensure we bring lasting solution to these problems.

**What would you do for the women folk when elected since your emphasis is on women empowerment?**

Yes, they say if you empower a woman, you empower a nation. If you train one, one will

train two, two will train three and so it continues. My brother, go and do your research. A patient woman manages one naira when you give her one naira.

I will also dedicate my time to women and girl-child education and most importantly, on the aspect of skill acquisition. I want to empower them so that, they will be able to change our society.

I know of a woman who sells fish. She has built a house through that business and as I am talking to you, she has also built a hostel that students are now renting.

I also know of a woman that sells Pap and beans cake (Kosai da Koko) in the morning, she just built a beautiful house that even a civil servant cannot build in his or her 35 years of service.

People should begin to think of ways to develop themselves and stop waiting for government every time. So, I want to make sure that at least, women would be empowered. If you empower 100 women, you have empowered one thousand women because I know those 100 women will change 1000 women.

**How prepared is your party to face this election?**

APC is the strongest party as long as Africa and Nigeria is concerned. Forget about the problems that we are faced with. This problem is not only in Jos or Nigeria, it is a global issue and I believe that the APC stakeholders are on a round table and we will fix this problem, it will surely come to pass.

I know with the right thinking stakeholders, the Party will stand strong. APC is a party that thinks positive and I believe it will become stronger and stronger. Let me assure you today that APC will put a Governor on the Plateau. APC will also have a President come 2023. You will remember that on this day I mentioned this when the elections are over.

Every Political Party has its own problems, APC is facing it, PDP is also facing it, all political parties are facing one problem or the other and I know every political party will fix their problems. Do you know what the problem of this country is? We are good in name calling, so I want people to stop name calling because it has affected our consultation with God. Do you know why God does not answer our prayers? It is because we are good in calling names of individuals more than

God. Let us go back to God and God will help us fix our problems.

**You are from Jos-North Local Government and recently, the Council Chairman, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman swore-in Supervisory Councilors and Advisers. How will you describe the people appointed to serve in his administration?**

That is APC for you. That is what APC stands for, Unity. Go and do your research as a journalist. This thing has never happened in the history of Jos-North LGA, that different ethnic nationalities are represented in the Council.

Let me tell you something, so long as I cannot tell a Hausa man to leave Jos, Berom man to leave Jos, Igbo man to leave Jos, Yoruba man to leave Jos and any other tribe to leave Jos then, we need to sit down and find a lasting solution to our problems or it will not leave us. We should bring all citizens together irrespective of their religion to see how we can take advantage of this diversity and live in peace and develop our Local Government. This is one of the foundations of Peace and Unity. This is APC for you.

**What will be your call to the people of Jos North/Bassa constituency as we approach the forthcoming by-election?**

I want the people of Jos-North/Bassa constituency to support the government of the day, feel for the government of the day, and be with the government of the day and stop the name calling which is what is killing us.

When we sit down together, pray together and unite, we will live peacefully. I want to call on my people to support the government, pray for the government and live in peace and the sky would be our limit.

Let us preach peace in our churches, our mosques and tell our people to love one another and learn how to live as one people. See all the beautiful houses we have that all this while we struggled to build in Bassa and Jos-North Local Government Areas. One day, we will all die and will give account to how we lived our lives.

So, I call on everybody to unite. The Governor said that, "even if I did not achieve anything, but one Plateau, children would one day tell the story that, yes, we once lived in peace during Lalong's tenure, it would be a thing of joy to me." So, everybody should learn how to live in peace with one another and God will bless our State and the country at large. Thank you.

## News

## Insecurity: Hunters declare war on terrorists, criminals

From  
**AMEDU JOSEPH,**  
Lokoja

FOLLOWING the growing insecurity in the country and the threat to the North Central zone, Nigeria Hunters Commission, (NHC) on Saturday, declared a total war against terrorists and criminals in the North Central zone of the country.

North Central Zonal Commander of the Nigeria Hunters Commission, Alhaji Abdulhakeem Ibrahim, told newsmen in Lokoja after a marathon meeting with hunters and vigilante groups that the volunteers have resolved to face the invading marauders headlong.

He disclosed that the volunteers group has resolved to set up "counter Terrorism and crime outfits that will report to the appropriate authorities after operations.

He explained that the outfit has village, district, local government and state structures within the zone for coordinated and effective communications at all times in view of the surprises usually posed by the assailants.

The Zonal Commander also said interstate collaborations on surveillance of attackers and re enforcement of men during eventuality have been agreed upon in order to net all escaping culprits and criminals across the states in the zone and the FCT.

As part of the resolution, each state is to provide not less than 200 hunters, vigilantes and volunteers that will form the Zonal Command, while each local government is expected to send two intelligent personnel to the state command for effective administration and communication.

Alhaji Abdulhakeem Ibrahim



**Bello**

also announced that the Command is set for training of the hunters and vigilantes to meet and surpass the efficacy of the modern terrorism as introduced by the bandits, Boko Haram, ISWAP and their local collaborators.

In his remarks, the state commander of the vigilantes and Hunters Commission, Mr. Monday Paul, commended Kogi state Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, for all the efforts that has curbed insecurity in

the state.

Paul described Bello as a very active and security sensitive governor, who has given ears to the challenges faced by the people he has entrusted to ensure that peace and tranquility reign

He however, appealed to the governor to provide special fund to security agencies especially the volunteers, who will soon be hosting the North Central zonal command of hunters commission and volunteers.

## Harmonizing revenue collection will curb multiple taxation-PSRC

By **JIDAUNA DARING**

CHAIRMAN, sub-committee, Plateau State Revenue Council (PSRC), Mr. Ibrahim Puri has said that the harmonization of revenue collection would go a long in addressing issue of multiple tax collection between state and LGAs.

Mr. Puri stated this in a welcome remark via zoom during the council stakeholders' engagement meeting, held at Crispin Hotel Rayfield Road Jos, last Friday.

He intimated the chairmen of the local governments of what other states are doing to

ensure the revenue profile of the state increases which will be of immense benefit to the economic development of the local governments.

Commissioner for lands and survey, Plateau State, Hon. Yakubu Dati who was represented by Mr. Sunday B. Ndaka while giving an overview of the Property and Land Use Charge Law 2021 stated that the Law provides the Local Governments with the opportunity to take advantage of the manpower, technology and structures

From  
**DORCAS PANKYES,**  
Abuja

EXECUTIVE Secretary of the Nigerian Christian Pilgrim Commission NCPC, Rev. Yakubu Pam met with the state pilgrimage leaders and managers, comprising the state chairmen and Secretaries of State christian pilgrims welfare boards and FCT in Abuja, to chart a new course for the 2021 general pilgrimage to Israel, Jordan and Rome.

A statement by NCPC Media & Public Relations said that the Executive Secretary recently visited the State of Israel, met with Israeli Minister of Tourism as well as the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria. He informed the state pilgrimage stakeholders that the meeting was very fruitful as it centered on the forth coming 2021 pilgrimage exercise to Israel and the issue of Covid-19 protocols.

The NCPC helmsman said the Israeli Minister of Tourism was very eager to receive the Nigerian pilgrims as soon as possible but with a caveat that the intending pilgrims from Nigeria would have to receive the first and second doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. He added that Nigerian pilgrims

## NCPC meets with state pilgrimage leaders, managers



**Pam**

would also be subjected to 5-6 hour isolation until the result of the PCR test is released.

He explained that the Israeli authority had agreed to look into the possibility of procuring a 3 month group visa for Nigerian Pilgrims that would cover the pilgrimage period as against the 2 weeks visa policy.

Rev. Yakubu Pam also stressed that Nigerians visiting Israel for pilgrimage should be treated with respect and dignity like other countries.

Meanwhile, the NCPC Chief Executive also informed the pilgrimage leaders that the Israeli authorities were favorably disposed to commence direct flight from Nigeria to Tel-Aviv during pilgrimage, promising that the activation of the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) between Nigeria and the State of Israel was discussed.

He further hinted that Israel as a nation is taking the fight against the spread of Covid-19 seriously, hence it had shut its doors on 29th November, 2021 to prevent entry into Israel by foreigners, the ban according to him, "Is to prevent the spread of Covid-19 Omicron virus discovered in South Africa recently.

According to the statement the NCPC boss further informed that the Commission would embark on the State of Readiness visit to Israel and Jordan from 10th -17th January, 2022 to ascertain the level of preparedness by the host country and also to inspect facilities at the Holy Sites and Hotels.

The Executive Secretary expressed his desire to commence full sensitization visit to State Governors in order to canvass for support and sponsorship of intending Pilgrims for 2021 pilgrimage exercise.

It was unanimously agreed by the NCPC and the state pilgrimage leaders that the 2021 general pilgrimage to Israel, Jordan and Rome would commence in February, 2022.

Most of the pilgrimage leaders who spoke during the meeting commended the Executive Secretary of his positive outcome of his meeting with the Israeli authorities and promised to go back and commence strong advocacy and sensitization on the need for intending pilgrims to be fully vaccinated with the Covid-19 Vaccine.

It is instructive to state that the meeting was held with strict compliance to the Covid-19 protocols and members who could not attend participated and contributed virtually.

## FCTA engages vigilante to secure schools

WORRIED by the security challenge facing the country, the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has concluded arrangement to hire local vigilante groups to provide security to schools within the territory.

Director, Administration and Finance in the Security Services department of the territory Dr. Abdul Lateef Bello who disclosed this recently at a press briefing in Abuja said the security architecture of the territory was being over stretched.

He stated that the measure was temporary until a blue print on security is developed by

From  
**JIDAUNA YANUNG,**  
Abuja

the Federal capital Territory Administration soon.

"Plans have been concluded by the administration to hire vigilante services to provide security in the various public schools across the territory.

"We are talking of short term measures when we said we are helping public schools to facilitate the procurement of vigilantes to complement the efforts of conventional security agencies. Remember that some of the vigilantes are equally part of the neighborhood.

"They were sourced from

the neighborhood where those schools are situated, so they know better it is a way of establishing a relationship between the community and government. When the vigilantes see anything beyond them, they relate with the conventional security agencies to help out."

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

## News

# NASG assures investors on restoration of power

NASARAWA State governor, Engineer Abdullahi Sule, is wooing investors who fled Lafia, the state capital, for lack of power, to come back and invest, assuring that the Akurba 330MVA/132MVA/33MVA is ready for commissioning.

This was contained in a press release made available to **The Nigeria Standard** during the week by the media assistant to the Governor, Mr Ali Abare.

The governor made the overture shortly after witnessing the energising of the 60MVA transformers at the Akurba power substation.

According to the governor, who was visibly excited over the development, explained that his excitement is stemming from the fact that, with the Akurba substation, it provides an opportunity for those investors running away from Lafia because of the lack of steady power supply to return.

"Today, they should feel free to come and invest in Lafia because it's an opportunity grow their businesses. This is a very stable power line," he said.

Earlier on Tuesday, while the governor was away on an official engagement to Udege-Mbeki, the 150MVA transformers were energised, indicating that once the

From: MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi



Sule

contractor hands over the project, Lafia will begin to experience steady power supply.

Engineer Sule said with the substation already energised, all that remains is to schedule a date for the project to be commissioned.

He noted that, from the designs of the project, two lines were dedicated to Lafia, with the substation designed to have a total of six lines-out, one line to Doma, Akwanga, Assakio and Keana respectively.

The governor however pointed out that for now, only the two lines going into Lafia are ready, with the rest to be completed as

soon as the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) takes over the project.

Engineer Sule used the opportunity of the visit to thank the owners of the project, the Niger Delta Power Holding Company, AKAI, the main contractors of the project, who have remained constantly on the project site, as well as the Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP) in Abuja, for taking lots of pressure while he pursued for the importation of conductors and the lines-in-lines-out.

"Now we will be talking about a date for commissioning. As far as power is concerned, the transformers have been

## FAcE-PaM set to empower women, children in Jigawa

THE Forward In Action for Education, Poverty and Malnutrition (FAcE-PaM), a Non-Governmental Organisation in Bauchi State is set for Jigawa State today as part of its empowerment Programme to impact on the lives of children, women and less privileged person.

The Executive Director of FAcE-PaM, Mr Ado Solomon, disclosed this yesterday while in an interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD in his office in Bauchi ahead of the occasion which would engage stakeholders of Jigawa State.

The Executive Director said that the organization's

By  
EZEKIEL DONTINNA,  
Bauchi

major objective was to empower the people at the grassroots especially the marginalized, women and children whose livelihood have not been favorable to them.

He said, "we essentially concentrate on educating the young people and adolescent girls and women. We are also interested in ensuring that the poverty level of people at that level is eradicated through empowerment to be self-sufficient and reliance and use the little resources at

their disposal to improve their lives.

"In the area of nutrition, our people especially those in the rural areas are used to just one type of food, so we want to improve their nutritional status using the local things they have at hand by encouraging them to make vegetables, gardens and eat chickens and eggs they rear at home.

"We are going to implement this Programme in six States: Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Kano, Sokoto and Yobe States. By tomorrow, we shall be going to Jigawa State where we shall have stakeholders meeting with the members of the communities that we are going to implement this Programme", he highlighted.

Solomon, however, expressed concern that one of the major challenges they have as an organisation was the issue of lean resources as they wish to expand same to other States of the Federation, because government has not looked into such issues seriously.

He, therefore, called on spirited individuals, organisations and donors to extend their hands to this course to help these categories of people and save our society from avoidable outbreaks that may lead to the death of poor Nigerians.



Solomon



## Resetting the psyche of young people

LATELY there have been a lot of reported cases of secondary school children bullying junior students and exposing them to dehumanizing and sometimes harrowing situations. The recent bullying and subsequent death of Sylvester Oromoni of Downen College, Lekki Lagos highlights the danger posed by this unfortunate practice in our schools. That our secondary schools have become training grounds for cultism speaks volumes of the kind of education our children receive in our schools these days.

In the past, it was unthought of to hear about secondary school students joining cult groups. These days, however, cultism has not only crawled into our institutions of learning but is threatening to take over our streets. The unfortunate experiences in Jos lately attest to the danger posed by the activities of these groups and re-emphasises the need for stakeholders to deal with this looming danger as best as it can. Young people who hardly understand what life is all about have through the activities of these dangerous groups turned blood thirsty and are unleashing serious harm on the society.

The earlier something is done to nip in the bud this festering wound that has eaten deep into the fabric of the society, the better for it. Whether in or out of schools, our children are threatened by the activities of these blood thirsty miscreants who do not see value in human lives. But at what point did we lose it as a society and how can we retrace our steps to rediscover and clean up our society?

This malfeasance that is creating havoc and threatening the total destruction of the society needs not only the attention of operators of our education system but that of all stakeholders. Whether we like it or not we all are responsible for

creating the monster that has been let loose on our society. We have failed both as parents and teachers in doing our bits and therefore, are paying the price. How have we paid heed to the needs of our children? Have we, as parents created time for and listened to them?

Has our pursuit for money and the so called good things of life not robbed these set of the needed parental guidance that these unfortunate generation yearn for and have been denied? And to fill in this yawning gap, this unfortunate

**"The earlier something is done to nip in the bud this festering wound that has eaten deep into the fabric of the society, the better for it. Whether in or out of schools, our children are threatened by the activities of these blood thirsty miscreants who do not see value in human lives. But at what point did we lose it as a society and how can we retrace our steps to rediscover and clean up our society?"**

generation has turned to the social media to learn what ordinarily should have been taught them by their parents or guardians. Sadly, this exposure has led a lot of these innocent people into the waiting arms of criminal minded people who have taken advantage of the space created by the absence of home mentoring to unleash their evil deeds on the impressionable minds of our young ones.

We must work hard to earn a living so as to take

care of our families but in doing so, we must strike a balance and give some attention to the nurturing of our children and leaders of tomorrow. If we do not create time to mentor them, then we should be ready to face the monsters that the new media would create on our behalf and throw on the society.

Schools must change their curriculum too. They must device creative ways of dealing with the increasingly complex children of these days who are exposed to so many things at their very impressionable ages. It is unfortunate that as soon as mothers wean their children they take them to schools at very tender ages. These children are bombarded with too much at this early stages that some of them are forced to reach their threshold very early in life. And having been exposed very early, they might lose interest in those things they consider not stimulating at all. Teachers and school administrators must thus find ways and means of sustaining the interest by challenging the intellect of this fast lane generation.

In attempting to rediscover ourselves as a people, we must all work at ensuring that our moral standards as a society must be upheld. We can not be taking shortcuts and expects things to work for us. Inculcating the attitude of hard work is the only sure recipe for success and development. And we must let the young ones know that hard work pays. That they should not expect manna to fall from heaven.

Government too must do everything within its power to fix the economy. A situation where some people steal what is due the people is unacceptable and such people should be condemned and punished. When our institutions are developed and given the powers to do their jobs then we can reward or punish those who run foul of our laws.

## News

### Intelligence gathering described as catalyst in winning war

From  
**DORCAS PANKYES,**  
Abuja

INTELLIGENCE gathering and synergy among security agencies have been described as major catalysts in winning the war against terrorism and other security challenges in the country.

This was disclosed by the President Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, while declaring open the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Annual Conference 2021, held at the Army Headquarters Command Officers' Mess, Asokoro, Abuja.

The President stated that actionable intelligence and synergy among security agencies is vital in the conduct and success of operations. He charged the military to do more in information gathering to comprehensively defeat all forms of security challenges in the country.

The President, who was represented by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Lucky Irabor acknowledged the successes so far achieved by the Nigerian Army (NA) and other security agencies in the North East and other theatres of operations across the country. He noted that the Army is a key element of national power and diplomacy.

President Buhari, who commended the COAS for his sterling and exemplary leadership of the NA, also expressed satisfaction in the progressive restructuring of the NA to a value oriented professional Army, adding that the invigoration will enable the NA function more efficiently.

The President maintained that for democracy to thrive, there must be adequate security of lives and property. He stated further, that his administration is doing its best to equip the Armed Forces to optimally perform its constitutional roles.

He charged the NA to remain apolitical and continue to operate within the framework of the principles of fundamental human rights and strict adherence to rules of engagement in its operations.

He assured the Armed Forces and all security agencies of adequate and prompt provision for their welfare and entitlements.

In his remarks at the conference, the Honorable Minister of Defence, Major General Bashir Magashi (rtd) represented by the Director, Army in the Ministry, Mr Sunday Attah, appreciated the President for his unflinching support for



**Buhari**

ongoing operations across the country, assuring that all resources will be judiciously utilized.

He expressed optimism that decisions taken during the conference will generate new strategies for enhancing security and assist in charting a better course for the NA in 2022.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya stated that the conference is an annual event of the NA, in line with his vision to have a "Professional Nigerian Army, ready to accomplish all Assigned Mission, within a Joint Environment in Defence of Nigeria".

General Yahaya pointed out that year 2021 was full of activities for the NA, adding that the NA was confronted with enormous security challenges across the country. He vowed that the NA will not relent in its efforts to root out terrorism, banditry and other crimes in the country, adding that the conference will provide opportunity to evaluate efforts on ongoing operations, towards

achieving overall national defence and security objectives and chart the way forward for better performance in the year 2022 and beyond.

He added that 2021 COAS Annual Conference comes with two features, viz., indigenous research and development exhibition and valedictory dinner in honor of retiring personnel of the NA, to appreciate them for their sacrifices and meritorious service to the nation.

A major highlight of the Conference was the Research and Development Exhibition organised by the Department of Army Transformation and Innovation (DATI).

Dignitaries who graced the occasion include former defence and army Chiefs, members of the National Assembly, Service Chiefs, Inspector General of Police, Heads of security and paramilitary agencies, top brass of the NA, National President Nigerian Army Officers' Wives Association, (NAOWA), principal staff officers from Defence and services Headquarters among several others.

### 2023: Group drums support for Bello

A Group under the auspices of Former Kogi State Forum of Political Office Holders have endorsed the Governor of the state, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, to contest and run for the office of President of Nigeria come 2023 general elections.

The Forum, through its representative, Dr Abdulsalami Dangana said it decided to support the governor's presidential ambition "to move this country to greater and enviable heights."

"We have decided to

pass a vote of confidence on His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello, the Executive of Kogi State for the giant strides he has so far achieved in many facets of human endeavours.

The body urged well meaning Nigerians, particularly Kogites at home and in diaspora, to rally round Bello, to enable him achieve "this laudable aspiration".

Answering question from one of the Correspondents at the occasion, one of the members of the Forum, Arch. Ahmed Adamu, commended the

APC Executive Committee recently met with its members of the Plateau State House of Assembly at the Ewarewah party Secretariat.

The meeting which had all the APC members of the house in attendance except the former Speaker of the House, Honourable Ayuba Abok Nuhu, was led by the Speaker, Rt Honourable Yakubu Sanda.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Sylvanus Namang, APC State Publicity Secretary and made available to **The Nigeria Standard** in Jos.

In his address, the State Chairman of the APC, Honourable Rufus Bature, who was a member of the House of Assembly, expressed delight over their honouring the invitation to the meeting.

He said he was happy that peace has fully been restored in the House of Assembly after the change of its Speaker two months ago.

He urged them to remain focused and united as a force in order to be able to make laws for the common good of the state and its people.

In his words, "your unity is your integrity, that is why you are called Honourable members. who should be seen to be honourable at all times".

Honourable Rufus Bature added that they cannot be in the same party and be

### APC executive meet PLHA members

By **NAOMI SANTOS**

castigating each other. He commended the members for their quick passage of the 2022 budget by a majority of the members who sat yesterday.

He expressed happiness that the House has come back strong and advised them to work in synergy with the governor of the state in order to provide the dividends of democracy to the people at the grassroots.

Speaking further, the APC Chairman said the party strongly believes in dialogue as a means of resolving disputes.

He said it would engage all

disenchanted parties in a heart-to-heart dialogue as he believes in the restoration of total unity in the party.

He said the party would not tolerate acts of indiscipline or anti-party activities of any kind from its members.

Honourable Bature revealed that the APC in the state, believes in reward system and would introduce competition among the wards especially with regards to membership registration.

He also revealed that the state exco would soon embark on a tour of all the 17 local government areas to get a first hand view of their challenges.



**Sanda**

### Former legislators create forum

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG,**  
Abuja

FORMER lawmakers under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) have formed a group known as Ex. Legislators forum to help identify and share ideas among themselves in order to remain use and impactful.

The National coordinator of the forum Hon. Sa'ad

Tahir while speaking at the inauguration meeting of the forum in Abuja said the forum was a child of both necessity and circumstance.

He said the rapid turnover rate of members of

the legislators of all levels occasioned by lack of understanding of the expectations from members of the Nigeria public from the legislature in a democracy was rather unfortunate.

He regretted that "the informed public's expectations from any serving members of the legislature whether at the state, local or national level is rather out of context while the primary aimed of the legislators should be on concentrating more on law making rather than giving out financial incentives or executing projects.

"Where a person's limit cannot satisfy the demands of the electorate finally such a lawmaker is easily tagged an enemy of the people or persona non grata hence voted unceremoniously during the next elections.

"This has been the lot of ex-legislators in Nigeria hence the huge turnover rate of great talents, experience and expertise capacity". He emphasized.



**Bello**

## Foreign News

### Rohingya sue Facebook for fueling Myanmar hate speech



A military-backed campaign that the United Nations said amounted to genocide saw hundreds of thousands of Rohingya driven across the border into Bangladesh in 2017.

Rohingya refugees have sued the social media giant Facebook for \$150bn over claims the social network is failing to stem hate speech on its platform, exacerbating violence against the vulnerable Myanmar minority.

The complaint, lodged in a California court, said the algorithms that power the US-based company promote disinformation and extreme thought that translates into real-world violence.

"Facebook is like a robot programmed with a singular mission: to grow," the court document states.

"The undeniable reality is that Facebook's growth, fueled by hate, division, and misinformation, has left hundreds of thousands of devastated Rohingya lives in its wake."

The mainly Muslim group faces widespread discrimination in Myanmar, where they are despised as interlopers despite having lived in the country for generations.

A military-backed campaign that the United Nations said amounted to genocide saw hundreds of thousands of Rohingya driven across the border into Bangladesh in 2017, where they have been living in sprawling refugee camps ever since.

Many others remain in Myanmar, where they are not permitted citizenship and are subject to communal violence, as well as official discrimination by the military that seized power in February.

The legal complaint argues that Facebook's algorithms drive susceptible users to join ever-more extreme groups, a situation that is

"open to exploitation by autocratic politicians and regimes".

In 2018, UN human rights investigators also said the use of Facebook had played a key role in spreading hate speech that fueled the violence. A Reuters investigation that year, cited in the US complaint, found more than 1,000 examples of posts, comments and images attacking the Rohingya and other Muslims on Facebook.

The International Criminal Court has opened a case into the accusations of crimes in the region. In September, a U.S. federal judge ordered Facebook to release records of accounts connected to anti-Rohingya violence in Myanmar that the social media giant had shut down.

Facebook has previously promised to step up its efforts to fight hate speech in Myanmar, hiring dozens of people who speak the country's language.

But rights groups have long charged that the social media giant is not doing enough to prevent the spread of disinformation and misinformation online.

Critics say even when alerted to hate speech on its platform, the company fails to act.

They charge that the social media giant allows falsehoods to proliferate, affecting the lives of minorities and skewing elections in democracies such as the United States, where unfounded charges of fraud circulate and intensify among like-minded friends.

Facebook has yet to respond to the complaint filed against the company.

This year, a huge leak by a company insider sparked articles arguing Facebook, whose parent company is now called Meta, knew its sites could harm some of their billions of users – but executives chose growth over safety.

Whistleblower Frances

Haugen told the US Congress in October that Facebook is "fanning ethnic violence" in some countries.

Under US law, Facebook is largely protected from liability over content posted by its users.

The Rohingya lawsuit, anticipating this defence, argues that where applicable, the law of Myanmar – which has no such protections – should prevail in the case.

Facebook has been under pressure in the US and Europe to clamp down on false information, particularly over elections and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company has forged partnerships with several media companies, including Agence France-Presse news agency, to verify online posts and remove those that are untrue.

But despite the partnership, hate speech and misinformation continue to spread on the site.

### Several killed as blast rocks Iraqi city

SEVERAL people have been killed in an explosion that rocked the centre of Iraq's southern city of Basra, the Iraqi military said.

In a statement on Tuesday, the military said a motorcycle rigged with explosives was the cause of the blast, which sent a column of black smoke into the sky.

The military said forensic experts were still at the scene to determine further details.

At least 20 others were wounded in the blast, police and health sources told the news agency Reuters.

In a statement, a senior security source told the Rudaw media network that the explosion took place opposite al-Jumhuri Hospital in the city centre.

THE United States Justice Department has said it is ending a reopened investigation into the 1955 lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi.

Till was abducted, tortured and killed while visiting the state from his home in Chicago. His mother's decision to have an open-casket funeral showing her son's mutilated body helped to galvanise the US civil rights movement. No one has been convicted of the killing.

The Justice Department had most recently reopened the investigation in 2018, a year after a 2017 book quoted Carolyn Bryant Donham as saying she lied when she claimed that 14-year-old Till grabbed her, whistled and made sexual advances while she was working in a store in the small community of Money.

Relatives have publicly denied that Donham, who is in her 80s, recanted her allegations about Till.

"In closing this matter without prosecution, the government does not take the position that the state court testimony the woman gave in 1955 was truthful or accurate," the Justice Department said in a statement on Monday.

"There remains considerable doubt as to the credibility of her version of events, which is contradicted by others who were with Till at the time, including the account of a living witness."

Till's cousin, Reverend Wheeler Parker Jr, said during a news conference

### US Justice Dept closes case without charges

on Monday that "Today is a day we will never forget".

"For 66 years we have suffered pain," he said. "I suffered tremendously."

Days after Till was killed, his body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, where he had been tossed after he was shot and weighted down with a cotton gin fan.

Two white men, Roy Bryant and his half-brother JW Milam were tried on murder charges about a month after Till was killed, but an all-white Mississippi jury acquitted them.

Months later, they confessed in a paid interview with Look magazine. Bryant was married to Donham in 1955. Bryant died in 1994 and Milam died in 1981.

The Justice Department had in 2004 opened an investigation looking into whether others were involved in the killing. As federal civil rights crimes related to the incident had passed the statute of limitations, the FBI worked with state authorities to determine if state charges could be brought.

In February 2007, a Mississippi grand jury declined to indict anyone, and the Justice Department announced it was closing the case.

The author of the 2017 book *The Blood of Emmett Till*, which recounted the

accuser's recantation, said he provided details of his interviews with Donham to federal investigators.

Emmitt Till's mother's decision to have an open-casket funeral showing her son's mutilated body helped to galvanise the US civil rights movement [File: AP Photo]

In a statement provided to the Associated Press news agency, Timothy B Tyson noted that the only crime Donham admitted to – perjury – would have been "beyond prosecution since the fall of 1957" due to the statute of limitations.

The FBI said that Donham had denied to them that she had recanted her initial testimony to Tyson. Authorities said the author did not have recordings or transcripts of the interview to prove Donham was lying to the federal investigators.

On Monday, Till's cousin, Thelma Wright Edwards, 90, said she was "not surprised" that the case had been closed but her "heart is broken."

"I have no hate in my heart but I had hoped we could get an apology," she said at a press conference. "That didn't happen. The case is closed and we have to go on from here."

explosion," the source said.

Explosions have been rare in Basra in recent years, particularly since

the defeat of the Islamic State group in 2017.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion.



## News

## FG faults ECOWAS report on ISWAP

NFIU Chief Media Analyst, Ahmed Dikko

The Federal Government has refuted parts of a report by the Inter-governmental Action Group on Money Laundering in West Africa.

The group was established by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to help prevent and control money laundering and terrorist financing in the region.

The ECOWAS agency had in its report said that N18 billion was being laundered through the nation's financial system annually by a terrorist group, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP).

The report also said that the nation's law



Dikko

enforcement agencies lacked adequate insight into Boko Haram and ISWAP's international reach, noting that the law enforcement agencies

did not prioritise money laundering investigations.

But the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) disputed the report, describing it as untrue.

NFIU Chief Media Analyst, Ahmed Dikko, in a statement on Monday, claimed Nigeria's counter-terrorism financing efforts "have practically moved forward since then", adding that the story is "totally outdated and was based on a 2019 country evaluation report which is literally stale and irrelevant today".

According to Dikko, "It is to the knowledge of the international community, our populace and the formal media organisations that several arrests were made through the ongoing Operation Service Wide

approved by President Muhammadu Buhari at the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA).

"In addition all funding of violence from all sections of the country are being evidently analysed and reported to all relevant authorities according to law.

"It's true that recently Nigeria fell victim to illicit financial flows but overt and far reaching efforts are being executed by the government to stem the bad practice."

The ECOWAS body released its report to justify putting Nigeria's

Financial System under enhanced review process alongside other countries in the Sahel.

"We had formally faulted the report to the ECOWAS body while agreeing to partner with them to carry out further review processes to jointly attain global best practices on all counter measures against local and cross border violent crimes disturbing the entire West Africa presently," Dikko said.

"All our neighbours have proofs of our exchange of terrorist financial intelligence with them real time", he added.

## Three students in police net over Sylvester Oromoni's death

THREE students of Dowe College, Lekki where a 12-year-old student, Sylvester Oromoni was allegedly bullied to death for refusing to join a cult group are in the custody of the state police command.

The state commissioner of police, Hakeem Odumosu confirmed this during a tv show on Tuesday and described the students in custody and two others as 'prime suspects.'

It was however still unclear, while the two other students did not appear for the police investigations on Monday.

The Nigeria Standard gathered that the police invited the management of the school and the



IGP, Alkali

five students, who were mentioned by the deceased Sylvester for questioning on Monday.

The police boss also stated that the command

is working with its counterpart in Delta to conduct a post mortem on the body of the deceased student.

## Why UK added Nigeria to travel red list

THE British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Catriona Laing, has explained why the United Kingdom (UK) added Nigeria to the travel red list amid concerns over the Omicron variant.

Laing said the UK took the decision to protect the public health of its people while the government tries to understand the new variant.

Despite the travel ban, the British envoy explained that the government would work

closely with the Nigerian authorities as the world grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic.

She noted that the decision will be reviewed at the three-week review point on December 20.

"This decision is a precautionary measure to protect public health in the UK, whilst we try to understand this new variant.

"I know that this decision will have a significant impact on people in both

– High Commissioner our countries, particularly at this time of year.

"We continue to work very closely with the Nigerian authorities in tackling the pandemic and commend their ongoing work," the envoy was quoted as saying in a statement issued by Ndidiamaka Eze, Press and Public Affairs Officer, British High Commission.

The red list which comes to effect on December 6 means that Nigerians who do not have UK citizenship or residence permit can no longer travel to the country until the advisory is revised.

The Nigerian government has faulted the decision by the UK government, describing it as unjust and discriminatory.

The Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, who spoke during a press conference on Monday called on the UK government to rescind its decision immediately.

Also, the two chambers of the National Assembly on Tuesday urged the UK authorities to rescind its decision.



Catriona Laing

## Change of Name

### KHAMIS

I, formerly known as **HAMISU UMAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KHAMIS UMAR MALLAM**. Correct date of birth is 2/1/1995. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

### JOHN

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

### PONFA

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## Feature

# Education: A case of no money or interest?

***The lives of millions of children, but guarantee a better future for all. My conclusion is that the problem with Nigeria's education sector goes beyond lack of money; it is simply a case of lack of interest in the sector by the political elite! Write OLABISI DEJI-FOLUTILE***

WHEN American billionaire and businessman, Bill Gates, criticised the Nigerian government's Economic Recovery & Growth Plan for "prioritising physical capital over human capital" during his visit to the country in 2018, his comments were taken with a pinch of salt. Gates had faulted the Federal Government's decision to anchor Nigeria's long term economic growth on investments in infrastructure, saying investments in people must go hand-in-hand. To him, "people without roads, ports and factories can't flourish. And roads, ports and factories without skilled workers to build and manage them can't sustain an economy." Logical, isn't it?

The co-chair of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had advised the Nigerian government to focus more on human capital development to save the horde of the youth population facing poverty and other social malaise. But instead of taking this advice in good faith, the federal government went on the defensive. We probably know better now that bandits and other criminal elements prevent people from moving freely on many popular Nigerian roads. After all, we all see pictures of road users abandoning their cars on highways due to kidnappers' attacks. Just a few days back, Kaduna-Abuja bound passengers were forced off the road as bandits took over the highway, kidnapping dozens of passengers.

Gates had also advised Nigeria to channel more investment towards health, family planning and education as a means of human development to alleviate poverty on the continent. According to him, Nigeria is one of the most dangerous places in the world to give birth, with the fourth worst maternal mortality rate in the world ahead of only Sierra Leone, Central African Republic and Chad.

Sadly, we haven't seen much difference in the level of attention given to human capital development in Nigeria since Bill Gates offered his unsolicited advice. If there is anything, the level of poverty has deepened; more Nigerian children are now out of school with the number of youth engaging in banditry, kidnapping and all sorts of crimes increasing daily. While the Nigerian government put the figure of out of school children at 6.9million as of January 2021, an analytical statistics organisation, SBMorgan Intelligence, says the figure as of August 2021 stood at 12,320,529. According to the body, Bauchi State had the highest number with 1,239,759 out-of-school children, followed by Katsina with 873,633 and Kano with 837,479. It further stated that Edo State had the lowest number with 79,446.

In the South-West, the report said Oyo State had the highest with 463,280, Osun State 260,222 and Lagos State 229,264. In the South-South, Rivers State has the highest number of 196,581 and in the South-East; Ebonyi State has the highest with 151,000. The analytical body clarified that it didn't manufacture these figures,



Adamu

stating that it got them from the Federal Ministry of Education. The truth is Nigerians know who to believe between the analytical body and the Federal Government. They see the army of kid beggars and child labourers on their streets. They see the child criminals among bandits and Boko Haram insurgents not to mention the ones involved in ritual killings, cultism, etc. They know that the population of these kid criminals are increasing - a proof that the number of out of school children is increasing. So, the Federal Government can continue to downplay the problem, but Nigerians are not deceived.

Just last week, former President, Olusegun Obasanjo, warned that the dreadful Boko Haram insurgents will soon target out-of-school children and recruit them as fighters. He said the solution to security and poverty should start from education. Addressing participants at the presidential youth mentorship retreat held at his Presidential Library, he blamed security challenges in the country for the increasing rate of out-of-school children. According to him, "A situation today where we have 14 million children that should be in school that are not in school, does anybody need to be an oracle to say that 10 years or 15 years from now, those will be where you will recruit pure Boko Haram."

Well, it's a vicious circle. Nigeria is already reaping the reward of what was sown in the past years. The kids have already been recruited as bandits and fighters. Perhaps, what the ex-President meant was that the situation would grow worse which in any case is a no-brainer. As far back as January, 2020, I wrote an article titled, 'On Masari and child bandits in Katsina forest.' As of that time, Governor Aminu Masari

of Katsina State painted a vivid picture of the horrors locked in the Northern forest, where anyone could get hundreds of armed men almost for free. He said that the children abandoned in the forest across the north were coming back to fight the society as bandits. He didn't stop there. He warned that unless the education of children in this region was addressed, the situation might become worse.

In the governor's words: "We have problems now with the forest people because they have no education of any kind. They do not have Islamic education and they do not have western education because they have been abandoned in the forest and forgotten. So these are the kind of children who have come up today, fighting us, fighting the society... since the children are not educated, they only know one pleasure-the pleasure of the flesh, so they keep on producing children in large numbers." The governor rightly analysed the problem. But, what has he done to reverse the trend in his state? It's amazing how our leaders are good at analysing our problems without corresponding action in proffering solutions. Otherwise, Katsina shouldn't today be listed as the state with the second highest number of out-of-school children in Nigeria.

In September 2019, I had written an article on 'Nigeria breeding children of anger every day, where I emphasised that as long as the law of sowing and reaping subsisted, what we were currently witnessing in the country today in terms of security challenges would be child's play when compared with what would happen in future if we continued to ignore these children's education. Although our leaders may hate to hear this, we can't help

but make it clear to them that investment in human capital is vital to building a successful economy.

That is why smart countries make deliberate and intentional investments into their educational sector. Nigeria has many examples to follow across the world. So, this is not a case of anyone reinventing the wheel. Sweden spends \$ 11, 400 per student from primary to tertiary education and devotes 7.3% of its GDP to education. This funding goes to both public and private educational institutions. No wonder the country enjoys 81.5% employment rate for all levels of education. In the same vein, South Africa spent R246 billion or 16.7 per cent of total government resources on basic education programmes in 2018/19. Overall, the country spends more than 20 per cent of its resources on basic and higher education and its combined education spending is more than 6 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Now, we come to the crux of the matter. I know some people will argue that comparing Nigeria with Sweden is like comparing an orange with an apple. I agree. Nigeria is lagging far behind the developed nations in terms of resources committed to education. But I have also come to realise that the situation in our country is not as bad as the picture being painted. As I pointed out some weeks back, Nigeria currently imposes a two per cent education tax on the profit of all registered companies operating in Nigeria which goes into funding education at the tertiary level. How are we spending this huge money? It is very easy to jump on the bandwagon and regurgitate the common narrative that our education sector is in a mess because government is not committing enough resources into the sector and conveniently overlook how we are managing what is available. It is high time we began to ask questions as regards what we do with the resources allocated to the education of Nigerian children!

Let's take a look at our basic education for example. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme was introduced in 1999 to provide greater access to quality basic education throughout the country. The Federal Government sets aside two per cent of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for equal distribution to all the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), to support basic education.

This is how it works. The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) provides a sum of N500million to each state per annum to improve infrastructure at the basic education level. But, to access this fund, states are expected to provide a counterpart funding of N500million. The assumption is that there would be at least a minimum of N1bn intervention fund to every state per annum to improve on their basic education. The money is strictly for basic education, so projects are monitored to ensure they are in line with the objectives of the

programme. Imagine what would have happened if our states have been investing this money in basic education in the last 22 years! One would have expected the state governments to grab this opportunity. But that has not been the case. Rather, UBEC has always been the one pleading with them to come and access their money.

As at March 2021, UBEC said about N41.06 billion matching grant was still with the commission because the states and the FCT failed to access the fund. According to its Executive Secretary, Dr Hamid Bobboyi, only 30 states and the FCT implemented the 2018 (matching grant projects). Six states namely; Anambra, Imo, Kaduna, Kwara, Ogun, and Plateau are yet to implement. For 2019, only eight states implemented the matching grants projects, 28 states and FCT are yet to implement. In 2020, no state implemented the matching grants projects. As we speak Ogun State is yet to access its 2018 allocations. Likewise, Niger, Enugu, Anambra, Ebonyi, Imo and Edo states are yet to provide matching grants for 2019.

The governors are more interested in how they can be collecting the money without providing the necessary counterpart funding. Yet, these are states contending with serious issues of decay in their primary and junior schools. Clearly this is not a case of lack of fund but that of misplaced priorities. The governors would have accessed the money if there was no law forcing them to spend it on education. Since they are not allowed to spend the money as they like, they don't mind leaving it with the Federal Government. The money as it were is useless to them. Should this be the case if we are truly serious about our education sector?

UNICEF worked hard towards mopping out over 500,000 out-of-school children in four northern states namely Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara states in its 2020 Educate a Child (EAC) programme. It paid to educate 31,000 pupils in Kebbi State alone where parents got N8, 000 on each child per term to encourage them to be in school. These world bodies are making these investments in our country because they know that for the world to enjoy peace, the army of burgeoning out-of-school children in Nigeria must be minimised. If not, these children will grow to become a terror to the whole world.

Meanwhile our state governors are foot-dragging in accessing available funds that will not only make a difference in the lives of millions of children, but guarantee a better future for all. My conclusion is that the problem with Nigeria's education sector goes beyond lack of money; it is simply a case of lack of interest in the sector by the political elite!

***Olabisi Deji-Folutile (PhD) is the editor in chief, Franktalknow.com and member, Nigerian Guild of Editors. Email besideji@yahoo.co.uk***

# EVE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Living

# Signs of relationship abuse and how to help

VIOLENCE against women is a human rights violation that takes place every single day around the world. Globally, one in three women experiences physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. While domestic violence and abuse are sometimes hidden, if we know the signs of an abusive relationship, we may be able to recognize it better and seek or offer help.

### What are some common signs of abuse?

- Your partner keeps track of everything you do. They monitor where you are and whom you are with at all times. They prevent or discourage you from seeing friends, family, or going to work or school.

- Your partner insists that you reply right away to their texts, emails, and calls, and demands to know your passwords to social media sites, email, and other accounts.

- An abusive partner may act jealous, including constantly accusing you of cheating. They may attempt to control how you spend money and your use of medications or birth control. They may make everyday decisions for you, such as what you wear or eat.

- They may be demeaning. They may put you down by insulting your appearance, intelligence, or interests. They may try to humiliate you in front of others and attempt to destroy your property or things that you care about.

- An abusive partner may act angry or have a quick or unpredictable temper, so you never know what might cause a problem. They may blame you for their violent outbursts and physically harm or threaten to harm you, themselves, and members of your household, including children they may hurt you physically, such as hitting, beating, pushing, shoving, punching, slapping, kicking, or biting. They may use, or threaten to use, a weapon against you.

- They may be sexually abusive, including rape or other forced sexual activity. They may incorrectly assume that consent for a sex act in the past means that you must participate in the same acts in the future. They may also incorrectly assume that

consent for one activity means consent for increased levels of intimacy. For example, an abuser may assume that a kiss should lead to sex every time.

- An abusive partner may threaten to turn you in to authorities for illegal activity if you report the abuse, or if you resist.

You can talk with someone who has been trained to help by calling a local helpline.

### What are some safety tips if I am experiencing abuse?

- If you think you are being abused, seek help.** These tips provide guidance on how to find safety and support.

- Consider sharing your concerns with a trusted friend, family member, or neighbor.** Work with them to develop a plan for when you need help. This plan may include, for instance, creating a secret code or multiple code words, sentences, or emojis that would help you communicate more safely with them.

- Develop an escape strategy,** such as saying you need to go to the pharmacy or

grocery store and, once there, asking to use the phone to call for help. Think through several plausible reasons for leaving home at different times of the day or night in case you need to escape.

- If possible, **keep a telephone always charged** and accessible and know which numbers to call for help: a friend, a family member, or the police. If your life is in danger, call the police if you believe it is safe to do so.

- Try to **identify patterns** in your partner's use and level of violence. This can help you to predict when abuse may escalate.

You can **talk with someone who has been trained to help** by calling a local helpline.

What can I do to help someone I know who is experiencing abuse?

If you are concerned about a friend who may be experiencing domestic violence or abuse or feels unsafe around someone, review these tips on how to help them find safety and support.

- If you are worried about**

**a friend's safety, stay in touch and be creative.** Avoid making the abuser suspicious so that communication lines can stay open. If you both have children, for example, you can suggest joint calls between both yourselves and the kids. You can create secret code words to use in conversations that can help you communicate more safely.

- Ask your friend how they prefer to connect.** It is important to establish a safe communication channel since they will be, in many instances, physically close to the abuser who might be monitoring conversations. Ask them if they prefer an instant message or text over a call, and if there is a specific platform or app they prefer to use.

- Be supportive and believe them.** Reassure them that they are not alone and that help and support are available. Recognize that it may be difficult for them to talk about the abuse. If they want to talk, listen carefully and be empathetic.

- Respect their right to**

**consent.** Unless you strongly believe that your friend's life is in danger, avoid taking actions without their consent. They know the safety risks best, and, therefore, they should be driving any decisions related to the abuse they are experiencing.

- Respect their privacy.** Because of safety issues, stigma, feelings of shame, and victim-blaming that survivors often face, it is critical that their experiences and identity remain confidential, unless they give explicit consent to reveal them.

- Offer practical assistance and share resources.** Let your friend know that you want to help. If you are able, offer them a safe place to stay, transportation, or other forms of support that may increase their safety.

- Let your friend know they can talk with someone who has been trained to help.** Provide them with information about local services and helplines.

**Source: The Virtual Knowledge Centre.**



THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

# Signs of being sneaky in a relationship

By **RACHAEL PACE**

LYING had an important place in the evolution of our cognition. The complexity of social interactions could be one of the factors we need to thank for our large brains, as the social intelligence hypothesis states.

When we recognize that our partner is being sneaky in a relationship, our instinctive reaction would be one of concern.

**What does being sneaky in a relationship mean?**

When we talk about sneaky behavior in adults, we are referring to someone who is trying to get away with something they know they shouldn't be doing.

The meaning of a sneaky person can be interpreted through their behavior. Any form of keeping secrets that the person sees as forbidden because they know it can harm the other or the relationship itself can be considered as being sneaky in a relationship.

However, not all secret-keeping is wrong, and not all lies need to be sanctioned.

Sneakiness is usually because the person is trying to keep certain facts hidden from their partner.

When the lies are used as a way to cover up something that could hurt or deteriorate the relationship, of course, this means that for each couple, this could mean something else as each partnership has its own set of boundaries on what is forbidden and allowed.

**5 Sneaky signs your partner might be lying**

When trying to interpret someone's behavior, always have a baseline to compare the new, sneaky behavior.

Before you jump to a negative conclusion, take some time to think about what it could be.



- 1. There is a noticeable change in them**  
Unusual body language can signify many things, among other attempts to be sly and deceive you in some way. It could be that they are going through a lot of stress, dealing with anxiety or something else is preoccupying and worrying them.  
Don't jump to conclusions as soon as you notice a change. Try to think of alternative reasons, and communicate with your partner without accusations.
- 2. They are being secretive**  
Are they not answering the phone in front of you, going to the other

room to speak, or hiding their phone? There might be something there, and this could be a sign of being sneaky in a relationship.

- 3. They are protective of their passwords**  
Have you had access to their devices, and suddenly you don't? This is one of the red flags that indicate clearly they are being sneaky in a relationship. However, you don't know yet why that is.  
Addressing the change that has happened can clear the air and help you be more at peace. When you decide to talk to them, approach them with an open mind, and observe how they react. This leads

us to the next sign of being sneaky in a relationship – protectiveness.

- 4. They are defensive**  
Do they overreact to your questions on their whereabouts or deprive you of the information they once shared willingly?  
Pay attention to what they say and observe their body language when they are discussing this with you.  
Twitchy eyes, lip movements, fidgeting, and too much hand gesturing, could indicate further lies and **sneaky behaviors that are actually unhealthy.**
- 5. They are withdrawing**  
One of the ways a sneaky person handles not getting caught is by being as neutral and withdrawn as possible. The less they share, the less chance they will say something that can get them in trouble.  
Therefore, if you notice them showing any of the above signs or withdrawing suddenly without being able to attribute it to something else, you should consider addressing this behavior.
- Is it bad to be sneaky?**  
None of the above signs of being sneaky in a relationship sound good. However, that doesn't necessarily mean something negative is happening.  
Whether something is up and whether it is bad depends on your criteria of what is acceptable behavior. What are your boundaries of the number of secrets you can take, and how much openness do you need?  
If their secretive and sneaky behavior is bothering you, that is bad for the relationships.

**What should you do if your partner is a little sneaky?**

When you feel your partner's behavior is off, there are things you can do in dealing with sneaky people.

**Recognize the signs**

If you dismiss the signs to mean that they are just stressed or tired, you are postponing solving the problem. The issue won't disappear on its own.

If you notice some of the signs, keep them in mind, but don't jump to conclusions. There are many reasons why this could be happening.

**Keep an open mind**

What are alternative reasons that they could be acting this way? Make a list of all the reasons and keep an open mind.

Some people act sneaky more often than others. It could be that they learned this is the best and only way to provide for their needs, they could be afraid of being seen as bad, so they are not upfront and seem dishonest, or they are not strong to stand up to others.

However, if this is a novel behavior, there might be something happening you are not aware of.

**Address the issue**

How should you be dealing with lying in a relationship? If you approach them head-on, they might deny it, so what do you do then?

Come from a loving place and say you noticed reactions you are not sure how to understand. Ask them to share with you what is happening, so you don't worry and become suspicious.

**Be observant, not suspicious**

At first, they will probably try to justify their behavior or deny anything actually being out of order. They might not yet be ready to face it and have the conversation.

You may want to give them some time, try to be patient and observant. Giving space doesn't mean you are being naive or waiting for things to go away on their own. In fact, you are strategizing and trying to collect some more information in the meantime.

**How to deal with sneaky people?**

Any disagreement is an opportunity to grow.

Our instincts often tell us something before we consciously know it. Since they can be wrong, we should take them as assumptions, not as conclusions.

If you notice the signs of being sneaky in a relationship in your partner's behavior, don't jump to think it must mean they are lying or cheating. Allow for the possibility that it could be something else, and address it carefully.

Use any opportunity as a chance to grow as a couple, and it will improve your relationship for sure. All those small steps will amount to big success.

We all have to confront our partners about the issue time and again. If you think sneakiness is creeping into the relationship, make sure you do the following things:

- Ignore things they say when they are acting confused. Confusion and randomness are often used as a bait by sneaky people.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel it in your heart that something is fishy about the situation, don't be swept by their words.



## Dowen: A sad tragedy

**NIGERIA was recently thrown into a state of sadness with yet another story of the death of a student in the hands of his fellow school mates for his refusal to join a group of alleged cultist operating within their school. The death of Sylvester Oromoni 12 year old student of Dowen College, Lekki Lagos after being assaulted by some senior students of this once respected institution has again exposed how deep our youths are involved in cultism.**

**SUCH incident are however not new in Nigeria. In 2021, Don Davies, a student of Deeper Life High School in Oyo narrowly escaped death when his mother drew the attention of the public to the plight of her child over an alleged sodomy in the school. Also in June Karen Huppuch Akpagher of Premier's Academy, Lugbe Abuja was not that lucky as she died as a result of sexual molestation in the school.**

**THIS recent unpleasant developments in our institutions of learning has further exposed the formally hidden evil activities of this younger generation. The painful aspect of it is that the institution initially denied it despite evidence to support the crime. This shows how irresponsible the management of the school is regarding the welfare of the children kept under their care.**

**FRANKLY, this latest incident and others in the past have exposed the attitude of proprietors and management of private schools about their response to matters that affect students their institutions. And it has also exposed their lack of proper monitoring and suspension of students despite charging parents lots of money in the name of school fees. Public response and the role the media played is commendable as that will help to change the way these so called private schools and even the public schools will stand up to their responsibilities. The media should not relent in its effort to expose cases of this nature and others that are making our society dangerous especially to the vulnerables.**

**STAKEHOLDERS in the education sector should now exploit this unfortunate development to make a radical changes aimed at addressing the rot in our institutions of learning that are expected to mould future leaders of this country. The way operational license are issued to those who want to establish schools should be looked at so that these unpleasant developments are curtailed.**

**PARENTS on their parts have a responsibility of monitoring their children at home to avoid being consumed by peer group influence that can lead them to exposure to cultism and other illicit activities.**

**WE advocate full investigations into this Lagos school incident and others that took place in the past. Searchlight should also be focused on activities of not only private schools but government owned ones and any person involved in these disgraceful acts, no matter how highly placed, should be made to face the wrath of the law. The death of this promising Nigerian and others who died in our institutions of learning should not go in vain to avoid discouraging other young ones from attending school.**

**WE also called on the media not to relent in its role as the mouthpiece of the public to investigate and expose some of the abuses that are taking place but unreported in our institutions.**

THE daily congestion around the Jos city centre now suggests that a permanent solution is required to take care of both human and vehicular movement around the jam-packed Ahmadu Bello way, Old Bukuru Park, Murtala Mohammed way, Bauchi road, Rwang Pam street, Langtang and church streets down to West of Mines which have become beehive of businesses and relaxation.

The town based on historical facts was a modest city during the colonial era with a small population, fewer cars and few shops just around the railway station and other adjoining streets that served as markets or residential houses and so on.

Today, that has changed. Jos city has now grown to a full blown cosmopolitan city serving as both a transit and business hub for people from all walks of life. Indeed the heart of the city which used to accommodate a few traders and buyers, the once peaceful atmosphere has been overtaken by noise pollution, human activities as well as the heavy traffic of vehicles competing for parking space or driving through a tight narrow two lane road that runs across the popular Ahmadu Bello way, whose pavements have been converted by traders to second hand clothes market and other goods.

Worrisome is the fact that the burnt Jos main market which used to provide both business shelter to traders as well as parking space for shoppers no longer operational thereby putting so much pressure mostly on Ahmadu Bello way and other streets within the terminus area.

Perhaps now is the time to act by bringing sanity to the

city centre which is not only the heart of the state capital, but the tourist attraction of the sub-saharan region. This then means the Plateau state government needs to think out of the box by massively investing in parking space, or better still, acquire and convert the present location of the old Jos

## PLSG create parking space around Jos Terminus

University Teaching Hospital [JUTH] location by demolishing it and building a modern parking zone as it is done in big cities like Lagos, Ibadan or PortHarcourt.

A parking space within the terminus area can be a money spinner for the state

especially in boosting its revenue sources. But if this is not done within the shortest possible time, it may reach a point the terminus area may be a no go area where banks, shopping centers may either relocate outside Jos or businesses may get to a saturation point and also seek exits to safer and more conducive environments and we may be in the nearest future be calling the present terminus "Old Jos." A stitch in time saves nine, **BERTH CHOJI, writes from Apata, Jos.**

## Nigerian Police Force should intensify yuletide patrol

LET me use this medium of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** newspaper to appeal to the Plateau State police command to kindly intensify yuletide patrol within trouble hot spots such as; G a d a - b i y u , TudunWada, Apata, Jenta, Tina junction especially during the forthcoming Christmas festivities.

These are areas where at this period of the year, there are often reported cases of crime among the youth such as robbery, cultism, substance abuse and all forms of negative vices. This is also when drinking joints and sellers of illicit drinks and drugs record a booming business.

Therefore, it behoves on the Commissioner of police plateau state command to deploy his men by conducting regular patrol of these trouble spots with a

view to preventing any potential threat to peace and tranquility within Jos and environs,

Over the years, it had been reported that some criminal minds hide under the guise of the festivities to commit crime such actions could trigger security breach and disharmony among people of different religious adherents in the state.

I therefore wish to call on the plateau state government to sustain the order of banning the operation of keke and motorcycles during the

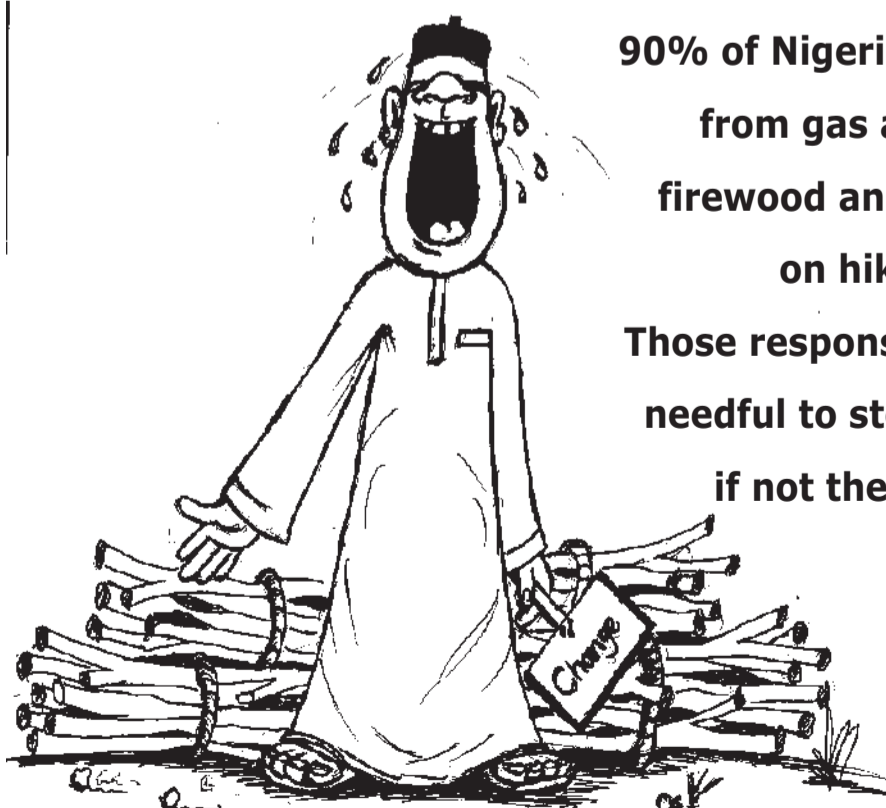
Christmas and New year celebrations, as well as banning the use of fire crackers because armed robbers can confuse the people of the neighborhood to unleash any crime without any suspicion.

The police should be proactive in gathering information and other forms of intelligence from the public and must make contingency and logistics preparation in case of any emergency situation in those areas so that residents can celebrate the yuletide in peace and happiness.

**SAMUEL KARIM, Jenta Adamu, Jos.**

**Covid-19 is still with us, please observe the protocol**

## Standard Cartoon



**90% of Nigerians are decamping from gas and kerosine to firewood and charcoal based on hike in price.**

**Those responsible should do the needful to stop the decampies, if not the party will die.**

Opinion

NYSC Camp: An experience money can't buy

By  
LAWAN BUKAR MAIGANA

I arrived in Abuja on November 20th 2021 to spend a couple of days with different categories of people whom I never communicated with in my quest to foster unity, peace, and tolerance among people from different angles of the country. We need that to end the recurring security challenges that are bedeviling the country which include Boko Haram extremism, banditry, secessionists' threats and so on.

I traveled all the way from Maiduguri, where I was born and raised to come to my beloved country's capital to contribute my quota in peacebuilding by meeting various colleagues from various institutions of learning to share experiences about our cultures, values, norms, strengths, and weaknesses.

Peace is not easily gotten and to get it one has to work for it. So I did. My journey from Kano

to Kaduna was a near suicide mission because I followed the dangerous Kaduna-Abuja road that had recently claimed many innocent lives due to incessant cases of banditry and kidnapping.

Upon arrival at the gate of the Kubwa NYSC Orientation Camp, Abuja, I saw a congregation of security men sitting and working collaboratively to ensure the safety of prospective corps members who come from various states across Nigeria to serve their fatherland. I was greeted with a question "where are your call-up letters, registration slip, and COVID-19 test letter?" I presented them and I was subsequently, thoroughly searched before I went into the camp where I saw a beautiful, committed staff of different organizations that were working tirelessly for the

betterment of corps members. No one enters the camp without taking a COVID-19 test. I had the test and tested negative before I entered the camp.

The orientation at the Kubwa NYSC camp started on November 26th, 2021. What a life to wish to live all the time! Nigeria has all it takes to build herself if only they will provide us with the necessary resources and enabling environment to thrive. My life has completely changed. I met with different people from different states of Nigeria whom I never communicated with but I've started missing them even before the orientation finishes on December 14th, 2021. Honestly, I commend the security men on duty and all other government officials working at the camp. I was given a hostel with the name 'Loyalty', given kits, and my platoon number.

A surprising evening at the

camp I had was full of good news. I was informed by my colleagues that there is delicious food for us every day from morning to evening. That gladdened me a lot and I had personally taken my time to compare the food at the Mami market at the camp and the food provided by the government and I have observed that the food provided by the government is by far more delicious than the available food in the camp. However, some corps members prefer to buy food and eat because of reasons known to them. Perhaps, they want to show their colleagues that they are "big girls and boys". Every prospective corp member gets bread, butter, and tea as breakfast, jollof rice and chicken as lunch, white yam, porridge, and fried fish as dinner. This arrangement is not constant because there are changes every day. Corps members get other food such as

Amala/tuwon massara, ogbono/okro/beef, boiled egg, rice/stew/beans/beef, and akara/pap. Honestly, everyone will miss these services.

The camp's toilets are good and clean and there is sustainable water supply and the rates of the water are so nice that everyone will like to drink it forever. That's is a great achievement for our country.

Those who do their youth service at home will miss a lot of experience that they are supposed to get now in their lives as growing patriotic Nigerians, in whose hands the country's future lies. Honestly, there are many things to learn from each other at the camp. You can make good friends, meet different characters from different states, and many good things.

**Lawan Bukar Maigana is a graduate of mass Comm, University of Maiduguri and writes from abuja**

TETFund's invaluable contribution to scholarship

By  
RAHMA OLAMIDE OLADOSU

THE importance of books in literacy development is unquantifiable. The level of development of a nation can be strictly attached to its standards of education which good books stimulate.

To this end, it is apt to assert that book publishing plays a significant role in the growth of a nation.

Historically, book publishing has come a long way in Nigeria. To be precise, it commenced about 162 years ago.

Regrettably, the industry has been bedevilled by various challenges, despite its growing size and structure.

But with the intervention of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TETFund, the days of teething challenges stalling the growth of academic publishing, most especially, are now numbered.

Though the project was first executed in six federal universities across the country, sometimes last year, TETFUND recently

inaugurated an ultra-modern Academy Publishing Center, APC, at the Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto, UDUS.

This is for the production of academic textbooks and research works from higher institutions within the Northwest states.

TETFUND Executive Secretary, Prof. Elias Suleiman Bogoro, during the visitation and assessment of the center at UDUS, said the visit was to look for a roadmap and engage the academic community in the Northwest geo-political zone on how to make the Center operational, successfully managed and sustained for the benefit of all the Tertiary institutions within the zone.

He added that the Fund's intervention is targeted at creating the capacity for academic publishing through the establishment of Academic Publishing Centers with state-of-the-art facilities in tertiary institutions located across the six geo-political zones in the country.

"Over the time, the publication of indigenous academic texts are done outside

the shores of Nigeria. We have our books being published in U.K, India, USA with the attendant consequences of the pressure in the demand for foreign currency," he said.

He described as worrisome the quality of most academic publications in the country, adding that the publishing Center, will not only ensure the availability of relevant books in the diverse subject areas but also safeguard national pride and reduce the demand for foreign exchange.

Also speaking, the Chairman, TETFUND Board of Trustees, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, commended President Muhammadu Buhari for his consistent support to the Fund in his efforts to restore, rehabilitate and consolidate on educational activities in Nigeria.

He assured that TETFUND will continue to deliver responsive intervention programs and will be at the forefront in promoting creative and innovative approaches to educational learning as well as championing new literacy enhancing areas.

In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lawal Suleman Bilbis, thanked the TETFUND leadership for giving more attention to research and publication, especially considering their cardinal roles in academic community.

He assured of total commitment to the successful operation, management and sustainability of the Center.

Perhaps, TETFund knows that the fundamental purpose of book publishing is basically to extend the frontiers of knowledge from one generation to the other, thereby bring about continuous intellectual development. And that is why it is floating these APCs in Nigerian public universities.

I have no doubt that the APC in UDUS, like others that were previously established, will achieve the aforementioned objectives and even surpass expectations.

**Rahma Olamide Oladosu is a Staff Writer with the Economic Confidential**

Need for investments

By  
AYO AKERELE

It really has to do with values.

Your greatest investment in life are people. First is your family; next are the other people in your circle of influence; and then the larger society.

The culture of enjoyment or waste!

Whether it is angels or human beings that are building houses in Nigeria, I don't know. Ah! Nigerians can build houses. The last time I visited Nigeria, a friend drove me around some places in Lagos, some parts of Lekki or Banana Island, and I could not believe my eyes. I was turning my neck in every direction in awe. It was like I just came from a village, as I kept asking him, "Are these houses? Houses like presidential mansions with unbelievable aesthetics and ambience. But the truth is, there is an endemic culture of waste in Nigeria. And that is what has multiplied poverty across the land. The culture is, "To be respected, it must be expensive". "To be respected, it

must be the biggest".

The life of accumulation versus impartation

Recently, I took stock of some of the clothes I bought and I discovered that for the past 10 years, I have not spent 1 per cent more than what I traditionally spend on clothes. Thankfully, it's my wife who buys all of my clothes, and she is extremely good at making the best choice at the least cost. As long as it is good, I don't want to know how cheap it is. You won't know the price anyway. Thank God for this society where very good things cost so little to acquire. Why? I don't derive value in the price of my shoe or of my clothes. My greatest joy comes when my life blesses and impacts people and puts smiles on their faces.

Don't wear your wealth, invest in what can raise others too

The money rich Nigerians sink into properties can turn the nation into China in 10 years! Rather than multiplying wealth and value by establishing industries and employing more people, as soon as corrupt politicians secure a political position, the next thing is to build N5 billion, N10 billion mansions. Sincerely, it is a culture of waste in the same nation where tens of millions of people are wallowing in poverty. And this culture of waste is deeply rooted across all strata of the society. When I was in South Africa, South Africans used to say, "If you want to know a Nigerian, check whoever has 2, 3, 4 mobile phones". No nation develops when wastage is an endemic culture.

There is a difference between decent enjoyment and waste!

When Robert Mugabe died, it took some minutes for a car to drive across the perimeter of his mansion. Did you get that? You have to drive a car for some minutes to exhaust the length of the perimeter of the fence of his house. Where is Mugabe today? And did they bury the house with him? That is the sad reality of life, and why we must not waste money on mundane things. Yes, of course, you should enjoy your money with your family and give yourself and family very good treats. Go on vacations. Eat well, dress well and live in good houses. But don't waste money. There is a difference between decent enjoyment and waste!

Do you use material things to measure your real worth?

It really has to do with your values. If your worth is measured by how much money you spend on

shoes, bags, cars, and houses, then you will spend fortunes to acquire all of these. But if your worth is rooted in your personality, impact, and influence on others, you will not waste fortunes on mundane things. The real measure of value and influence is in how much life you touch. Sincerely, there is nothing wrong in giving yourself a good treat if you have the means. But, spending N20 billion to build a presidential mansion when all the people in your life are very poor is acute foolishness. You are a very poor man. And that is the brand name of many of these corrupt people in Nigeria, who waste fortunes on houses all across the country and even beyond.

Your greatest investment in life are people. First is your family; next are the other people in your circle of influence; and then the larger society. **Ayoakerele2012@gmail.com.**

Change of Name

<b>BONGFA</b> I, formerly known as <b>BONGFA KAPNAN JOB</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BONGFA PONTIP JOB</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>AMALLAM</b> I, formerly known as <b>YAKUBU HELEN AMALLAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMALLAM HELEN JAMES</b> . Correct date of birth is 13TH/8/1999. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>AKITIKA</b> I, formerly known as <b>AKITIKA SARAH EYA IMIL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AKITIKA SARAH EYA</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>MUHAMMED</b> I, formerly known as <b>MUHD RABIU ISAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMED RABIU ISAH</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>BOWOFADE</b> I, formerly known as <b>OLANIYAN JOSHUA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BOWOFADE JOSHUA ADEWALE</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>HARUNA</b> I, formerly known as <b>HARUNA ADAMU, HARUNA DAHIRU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HARUNA ALQUASIM ADAMU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>DIKAHAR</b> I, formerly known as <b>RAMSEY KILOBAS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DIKAHAR TONGPAN KILOBAS</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>IBRAHIM</b> I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM LAWAL SA'EED</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM LAWAL</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>ANNA</b> I, formerly known as <b>ANNA SYLVESTER YAKUBU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANNA SHANGNA YAKUBU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>NANYA</b> I, formerly known as <b>NANYA BUTZHI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANYA BUTZHI ZWALDAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>LAWAL</b> I, formerly known as <b>LAWAL FADIMA ADAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LAWAL FADIMATU ADAM</b> . Date of birth, wrongly captured 25/2/1990. Correct date 25/2/1997. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>NANJI</b> I, formerly known as <b>NANCY JOHN CHIRDAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANJI JOHN CHIRDAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>ANTHONY</b> I, formerly known as <b>EZEOFOR ROSEMARY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANTHONY ROSEMARY</b> . Date of birth is 20/06/1968. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>AYUBA</b> I, formerly known as <b>ATUZA OJANKO ABIGAIL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AYUBA OJANKO ABIGAIL</b> . Date of birth 9/9/1993. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>ETU</b> I, formerly known as <b>MISS MBE JUSTINA OKO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. ETU JUSTINA JUSTICE</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>TAHIRU</b> I, formerly known as <b>TALHIRU TAHIRU ALHASSAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAHIRU TAHIRU ALHASSAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>AISHA</b> I, formerly known as <b>ALI VICTORIA GYANG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AISHA SALEH</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>DUNG</b> I, formerly known as <b>PAUL ASABE DADUNG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DUNG ASABE PAUL</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>JIBO</b> I, formerly known as <b>DALYOP LYDIA VICTORIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JIBO LYDIA</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>DACHUNG</b> I, formerly known as <b>BWODE DACHUNG SAMUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DACHUNG SAMUEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>DAKOP</b> I, formerly known as <b>BULUS REUBEN MAPAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAKOP REUBEN BULUS</b> . Date of birth is 2-2-1992. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>TAJUDEEN</b> I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF ABDULAZIZ LAWAL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAJUDEEN LAWAL ABDULAZIZ</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>PAM</b> I, formerly known as <b>PAM DUNG SIMEON VOU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PAM VOU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>GIDEON</b> I, formerly known as <b>GIDEON RONDONG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GIDEON DACHUNG RONDONG</b> . My correct date of birth is 06-01-1996. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>LUKA</b> I, formerly known as <b>KANGYANG DUNG JANE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LUKA KANGYANG JANE</b> . DOB 20/06/1968. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>DA'AM</b> I, formerly known as <b>DAWAR MARY LUKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DA'AM MARY PHILIBUS</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>OGUH</b> I, formerly known as <b>OGUH SABASTINE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OGUH SABASTINE EZEALA</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>MUHAMMED</b> I, formerly known as <b>JADE NUHU LUKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMED, NUHU LUKA</b> . Date of birth 5th May, 1969. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>JOY</b> I, formerly known as <b>JOY NKECHI OKAFOR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOY ONYEBUCHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>DAPER</b> I, formerly known as <b>DAPER LONGTANG LOVELYN NATHANIEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAPER LONGTANG LOVELYN</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>IBRAHIM</b> I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM GANGA DANLADI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM GANGA ABDULLAHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>APEH</b> I, formerly known as <b>OKORONKWO KATE CHINAZA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>APEH KATE CHINAZA</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>AHMAD</b> I, formerly known as <b>AMADU ZAINAB ABDULLAHI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AHMAD ZAINAB ABDULLAHI</b> . Correct date of birth 28-5-1990. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>ISO</b> I, formerly known as <b>JOY OTO ASIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISO JOY OTO</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>BALI</b> I, formerly known as <b>ALAMBA SAMUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BALI SAMUEL ALAMBA</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>JOHN</b> I, formerly known as <b>JOHN MENSHACK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN ROTMWAN MENSHACK</b> . Date of birth 5-7-2001. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>RAHAB</b> I, formerly known as <b>RAHAB DUNG PAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RAHAB DUNG RWANG</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>MATHEW</b> I, formerly known as <b>MAKUSHIM BENNI MATTHEW</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MATHEW, BENNI MAKUSHIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>FAITH</b> I, formerly known as <b>OCHE FAITH ENOCHE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FAITH TISHI PETER AUDU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>ESTHER</b> I, formerly known as <b>ESTHER CHUNG TOK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ESTHER PANAN GWAISON</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>CHOJI</b> I, formerly known as <b>LYDIA PAM NASH, NASH LYNDA PAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHOJI LYDIA PAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>DUNG</b> I, formerly known as <b>WILLIAMS DUNG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DUNG PAM GWOM</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>ELIZABETH</b> I, formerly known as <b>ELIZABETH HONGHAI DABI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. ELIZABETH HONGHAI PAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>SALE</b> I, formerly known as <b>SALEH VERONICA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALE VERONICA TALATU</b> . Date of birth 12/04/1967. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>KABIRU</b> I, formerly known as <b>KABIRU UBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KABIRU MUHAMMED</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>MAIMUNA</b> I, formerly known as <b>MAIMUNA SABITA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAIMUNA SABITU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>BASHIR</b> I, formerly known as <b>BASHIR HURUNA SALIS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BASHIR HARUNA SALIHU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>AHMADU</b> I, formerly known as <b>AMADU NURU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AHMADU NURU ADAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>WAKILI</b> I, formerly known as <b>YARO FWANGSHAK SHEHU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WAKILI FWANGSHAK YARO</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>ORJIAKOBI</b> I, formerly known as <b>ADAOBI OJIAKOBI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ORJIAKOBI UGONWA VIRGINNIA</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>OKOYE</b> I, formerly known as <b>BLESSING NGOZI OKOYE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OKOYE BLESSING</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>IBRAHIM</b> I, formerly known as <b>ALIYU YAHUZA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM YAHUZA ALIYU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>GODIT</b> I, formerly known as <b>JIKHITDA JULIUS YILFUK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GODIT JULIUS YILFUK</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>YILKIDAH</b> I, formerly known as <b>VICTOR ISHAKU FWANGLE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YILKIDAH ISHAKU FWANGLE</b> . Date of birth 27/05/1999. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>JOHN</b> I, formerly known as <b>HANNATU JOHN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN HANATU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>GADZAMA</b> I, formerly known as <b>SAMAILA YAKUBU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GADZAMA SAMAILA YAKUBU</b> . Correct date of birth is 9/2/1971. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>WETPUS</b> I, formerly known as <b>DANLAMI AMINU MUSA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WETPUS AMINU DANLAMI</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>PANKYES</b> I, formerly known as <b>YAMSAT PANKYES</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PANKYES RIJIN YAMSAT</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>DAVID</b> I, formerly known as <b>DAVID ABEL GOFER</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAVID ABEL KYAKUN</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>NIMMYEL</b> I, formerly known as <b>DANIEL LIRNAN GWAKZING</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NIMMYEL NANKPAK GWAKZING</b> . Date of birth 5/5/2002. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.
<b>TAKDUM</b> I, formerly known as <b>PONZHI EMMANUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAKDUM EMMANUEL PONZHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>NANBOL</b> I, formerly known as <b>NANBOL INUWA KARNAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANBOL INUWA</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>LOHMIKAT</b> I, formerly known as <b>LOHMCKAT NIMCHAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LOHMIKAT SIADU</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>MANKAT</b> I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF MANKAT</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MANKAT BATURE</b> . All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>TALATU</b> I, formerly known as <b>TALATU MERCY ANTHONY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TALATU JOEL ZWALTUR</b> . Date of birth 9/9/1977. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.	<b>MAGDALENE</b> I, formerly known as <b>MAGDALENE JOHN ACHINGE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAGDALENE AUDU ACHINGE</b> . Correct date of birth is March 28, 1997 not March 28, 1989. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please note.

## News

# VC Uni Ilorin, others win most respected CEO awards

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Sulyman Abdulkareem and the Vice President of Silverbird Group, Guy Murray-Bruce were amongst other recipients of the maiden edition of Nigeria Most Respected CEO's Awards.

30 personalities receive awards in different categories as the most Respected CEOs in various sectors of the economy which held in Abuja on the 3rd of December 2021.

Baroness Paulette Kporo, CEO, The Nigeria Business Executive Ltd. explained that the awards ceremony was conceptualized to identify and publicly recognize the CEOs in each sector of business and industry who are the most highly regarded and appreciated by various stakeholders.

"We realised a vacuum in the reward system in the corporate community of the country.

"We then reckoned that there were many chief executive officers in Nigeria who had achieved alot in the various sectors in which they operated but who were not well celebrated," she said.

The winners in each category were chosen by the general public, adding that selection process was very

comprehensive.

The recipients expressed joy for being recognized as the best amongst an elite group of other outstanding CEOs in the country.

Patience Madlion, CEO, Shedrack Madlion's Foundation said her zeal to become the best in her field was borne out of the passion of her late husband.

"Shedrack Madlion was my husband. I unfortunately lost him in 2018 to kidnappers along Abuja-Kaduna expressway.

"While he was alive, he was the voice of agriculture. He championed the course of replacing aging farmers with young farmers.

"So, when he passed, I felt I should take up the challenge and I have been able to empower over 22,000 women across the world through my NGO," she said.

Halifa Rabi, CEO, Halba Plastic and Recycling Company Ltd. said it was a great and exciting feeling for young CEOs like himself to be recognized.

"It is good to know that there are people who see and appreciate our little contribution to the growth and development of the country.

"I work really hard and have plans to take this recycling business to the next level in Nigeria.

"We plan to export Nigeria's waste abroad, both to the U. S. as well as other European



Adamu

countries in the near future," he said.

Obinna Onungwa, CEO, Cargoworth Alliance Logistics Ltd. said the award was testament to his hard work in the industry, stressing that his watchword was perseverance and integrity.

"We are into freight forwarding, cargo and logistics and so we don't take lightly the trust of our customers bestow on us to deliver.

"The business can be quite challenging though and most times it is the government policies that affect the industry.

"But we are coping and hopeful that the economy will keep improving so that our business can continue to grow," he said.

Government to honour its promises to the Union on the immediate taking off of the University Staff Salary in full, mainstreaming of the agreed EAA of its members, payment of the arrears of the EAA that has accumulated into years, among others.

He further lamented that the university management has for over four (4) years now, mainstreamed the excess workload of other sister unions within the same University leaving out the of ASUU, as such the Union therefore, condemns in strong terms this unjust treatment unleashed on its members.

Alu stated that other demands of the union that government must address as a matter of urgency include: poor funding of the University, domestication and implementation of compulsory retirement age (70 years) of academic staff (professional cadre) as well as the Downward review of the high tax regime.

He also calls for the commencement of Government's NUPEMCO contributions to the scheme as stipulated by the Pension Act (The Amendment of

THE Internal Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria, Kogi state branch, yesterday embarked on sensitisation and awareness campaign on curbing domestic violence and sexual harassment against women and children.

The Chairperson of FIDA, Kogi State branch, Mrs Lilian Ajuma Okolo, during the sensitisation campaign at Ganaja junction in Lokoja, told newsmen that FIDA remained committed to raising the standard of women and children's rights in the state.

Okolo said the sensitisation was organised by FIDA Kogi to commemorate this year's '16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence', from Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, 2021, tagged: 'Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!'

She urged the people to join FIDA and other stakeholders to unite and collectively stand against any form of domestic violence against women and children, and report cases to FIDA office.

"There is urgency in the matter to stop every form

## FIDA raises awareness on domestic violence

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

of violence against women; we must end violence against women now. Our law makers must pass laws that are gender sensitive.

"In this light, we have come out today to sensitise the general public and to call on all

women a level playing ground in the state, while appealing to him to assent the Violence Against Persons and Prohibition Bill and passed it into law.

"We thank the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Kogi State, Ibrahim Sani Muhammad SAN, for his support which has made



Agbaje FIDA President

stakeholders to help in the campaign to stop violence against women", she said..

She thanked His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello, for giving

this year a laudable one for us in Kogi FIDA, and all the stakeholders in the justice sector including the Chief Judge", Okolo said.

She stressed that FIDA's goal is to ensure that vulnerable groups are protected, and providing channels devoid of obstacles using their professional skills to support them.

Members of FIDA Kogi during the sensitisation campaign, carried placards with various inscriptions, such as "Domestic Violence is Insane", Children Are Not Sex Objects, Stop Sexual Molestation".

Others were: "Domestic Violence is Never a Solution", "End Sexual Harassment Now", "Domestic Violence is a Leading Cause of Homeless for Women", "Every Mother is a Working Mother", "Respect Women, The Best Choice", among others.

**Covid-19 still present and is ravaging humanity, please observe the non medical protocols and continue to wear your masks**

# ASUU decries poor funding of institutions

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Nasarawa State University Keffi branch under the Abuja Zone which comprises of the Federal University, Lafia, Federal University of Technology, Minna; Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai and University of Abuja has expressed its deep concern over the poor funding of the institution and called for an immediate upward review of the financial support to the institution.

Addressing a press conference at the Assembly Hall of the university on Friday, the chairman of the

ASUU, Comr. Dr. Samuel E. Alu stated that the Union has signed a Memorandum of Action (MOA) with the Nasarawa State Government and Council of the University leading to the suspension of the 2016 strike action in June 2016 and the recently agreed Earned Academic Allowance (EAA). But lamented that over 5 years on, the Government of Nasarawa State has reneged on its promises to the Union.

Based on that, ASUU NSUK is calling on the



Sule

Decree 11 of 1993 and the Pension Act of 2004 that increased the retirement age of the Professional Cadre from 65 to 70 years)

The ASUU Chairman further stressed the need for the passage into law and subsequent establishment of Nasarawa State Tertiary Agency (NASTEAT) in order to cater for non-capital project needs of all State-owned Tertiary institutions in the State (Nasarawa State University, Keffi; Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia; College of Agriculture, Lafia; College of Education, Akwanga; School of Nursing, Lafia and College of Health Technology, Keffi among others).

"There is a clear evidence, from the foregoing, that the Government of Nasarawa State is precipitating yet another round of industrial crisis in Nasarawa State University, Keffi by the non-release of outstanding EAA, and Mainstreaming of the EAA to our salary as it is the case in other sister unions on campus. By the ongoing attitude of Government to the MoAs and MoUs, ASUU NSUK can no longer guarantee industrial

harmony if the situations do not improve" he observed.

"It is worthy of mention and to put straight on record that within 20 years of Nasarawa State University, Keffi existence, ASUU NSUK had only one unfortunate Industrial Action in 2016. This indicates that the Union in the branch has demonstrated enough maturity, commitment and patience which should not be taken for a weakness" he further stated.

The ASUU Chairman therefore alerted the general populace especially, stakeholders, parents and students of NSUK should hold the Government and University Administration responsible for the consequences that may arise from the non-implementation of the MoA. Meanwhile, the ASUU Chairman has during questions and answers stated that the Union would be left with no option than to embark on industrial action by February next year if the government and the Council of the University fails to adhere to their demands which he said are longer than necessary.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CHRISTLIGHT UNITED INTERNATIONAL DELIVERANCE PRAYER ALTAR

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part “C” of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**THE TRUSTEES ARE:**

1. Mr. Michael Mancha Dalyop

- Chairman

2. Mr. Balang Dung Balang

- Secretary

3. Mrs. Helen Sunday Musa

- Member

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- To Preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- To cater for the needy and the less privilege

- Training through skill aquisition for national development.

Any objection to this registration 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:

Secretary

### CORRECTION OF STATE OF ORIGIN

I, **TITUS PAMELA AYUBA** wish to state that my correct and authentic state of origin is Bauchi State and not Plateau State as wrongly captured on my National Identity card. NIMC and the general public to please take note.

## SPACE FOR SALE

### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The public is notified of the lost of Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) No BA/15143 in the name of **ABDULQADIR BAPPAH BELLO**, of No 208 Gombe Road Bauchi, Bauchi State, as a result of relocation. All concerned authorities and the general public to take note

Signed

**ABDULQADIR B. BELLO**


## CAVEAT

**The Registrar, High Court of Justice Plateau State.**

Let no grant be sealed in the Estate of **ALHAJI YUNUSA SALIHU**, Late, of Jos, deceased who died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 1993 at Magnus Specialist Hospital, Rikkos, Jos without notice to his four widows and all his 24 children who are the beneficiaries of House located at opposite Deeper Life church, Angwan Rimi, Jos, Plateau State, Jos North LGA, and which house was the last place of residence of Late **Alhaji Yunusa Salihu** and which house is part of the subject matter of suit No. PLD/J511/2018 between **Abubakr Yunusa** and **Hasheem Abdul Kareem**, now pending at the High Court of Plateau State, Jos, before Honourable Justice I. Kunda.

Dated this 27 Day of November, 2021.

**C.S. Molokwu, Esq., solicitors to caveat or, whose address for services is, Onyekwere & Co., Old Bukuru park, by the fresh fish market, Jos, Plateau State.**



\*\*\***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

<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Mallam Audu late of Kano State died on the 15th June 2021 at Riruwai Kano State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Abdullahi Idris of Yelwa Shendam, Shendam LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Gumap Gabriel Gulok late of Plateau State died on the 17th March 2020 at General Hospital, Bokkos LGA Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Ngumap Emmanuel Gabriel of Deidei FCT Abuja. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Nnok Dauda Nuhu late of Plateau State died on the 5th January 2021 at mangu, LGA Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Nnok Wisdom Dauda of Near COCIN Church LCC Anguld Zawan, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Philemon Nimfak late of Plateau State died on the 7th June 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Nanyak Philemon Nimfak of No. 11 mission Road Hwolshe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Agnes Daniel Oyigwe (AKA) Oyigwe Agnes Ochonwe late of Plateau State died on the 24th August 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Ochonwe Enyi Friday of Tetengi Estate Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Kande Ali Aruvu also known as Kande Ali late of Plateau State died on the 25th June 2021 at Rukuba Road, Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Joshua Ali Inchiko of ECWA Gospel Church Kabong Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Garba Mohammed late of Plateau State died on the 10th February 2015 at Gwamlar, Kanam LGA Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Auwal Haruna Muhammed of Magaman Gumau, Toro LGA Bauchi State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Samuel Alhaji Omali late of Plateau State died on the 29th December 2019 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Benjamin Samuel Omali & Joy Omali. All of NESCO Quarters Anguldi Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> SGT. Luka Akusuk late of Plateau State died on the 16th November 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Tabitha Luka of Bassa LGA, Police Barrack Jos Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.

<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Umar Sadiq Abubakar late of Plateau State died on the 19th August 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Ummi Rabi'atu Ibrahim of Behind Yelwa Club Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sister of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Kubua Florence Boyi late of Plateau State died on the 18th March 2020 at Bassa LGA Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Kubua Thomas Asu & Ruth Ijudai Kubua. All of Farin Gada Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful Husband/daughter of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> James Shinun Ga'a (Shuwa) late of Plateau State died on the 7th December 2019 at Pankshin LGA Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Zingak James Danjuma of High Court of Justice Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Gokas Dakum David late of Plateau State died on the 19th February 2021 at General Hospital Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Gokas Female Dakum of COCIN Church Tambes Mile 4 Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Iliya Anyatong Alesh late of Plateau State died on the 30th May 2018 at Cottage Hospital Bokkos LGA Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Iliya Samuel Alesh of Near COCIN CC Maboh Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Mercy Anthony Lumalas late of Plateau State died on the 28th February 2019 at ABU Teaching Hospital, Zaria.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Anthony Duryumsu Lumalas of Opposite Jos Foods. Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Mohammed Lawal late of Plateau State died on the 27th November 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Tukur Muhammad Lawal of No. 114/7 Audi Line Jos Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Tahiru Jummai Inuwa late of Plateau State died on the 14th June 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Tahiru Samuel Tamara of No.3 Kasuwan Ali, Pumbush Gindiri, Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

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

<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Ifebuzor Alex late of Plateau State died on the 31st October 2018. At military Hospital Port-Harcourt.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Ifebuzor Chinedu Collins & Ifebuzor Adaobi Precious of No.4 Chief Emenike Close Opposite Base Hotel, Mgbouba Road, Port-Harcourt. Lawful son/Daughter of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> John Sauna late of Plateau State died on the 1st December 2020 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> John Jummai No.41 Behind Angwan Dauji Angwan Rukuba Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Hyacinth Dabit late of Plateau State died on the 16th June 2015 at Kwalla, Qua'an-Pan LGA Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Hycenth Kangsuk Dabit of Kwalla Qua'an-Pan LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Al-Mustapha Nura late of Plateau State died on the 27th September 2018 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Abdulrasheed Al-Mustapha of Talata Mafara LGA Zamfara State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Moses Oludele Adeniyi late of Plateau State died on the 22nd November 2018 at Pankshin LGA.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Samuel Youmbam Emmanuel As Gaudian to Adeniyi Olusegun Emmanuel. The lawful brother/son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Yabak Shahalkyes late of Plateau State died on the 24th May 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Oliver Alfred Dapya Dapiya Kingsley of New Abuja Dadin Kowa Jos Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Joshua John late of Adamawa State died on the 3rd October 2020 at P.M.F.Mubi Adamawa State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Sunday Joshua of Ribina Toro LGA, Bauchi State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b><u>NAME OF DECEASED PER-</u></b> Saidu Nimota Ajobi late of Plateau State died on the 6th August 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	<b><u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT FOR GRANTS</u></b> Mojisola Asmau Kola Ojo of No.4 Rest House Road GRA Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.



By YVONNE ISHOLA

ONE of the main hurdles to education around the globe is bullying. In layman's definition, it is any form of intimidation perpetrated by one who is older or stronger and or more powerful than the victim. Bullies engage in this form of intimidation to make a statement, take authority, and put fear in their victims, due to inferiority or superiority complex and many other reasons.

Some of the reasons advanced for bullying according to verywellfamily include the following: power, pleasure, problems at home, popularity and payback.

In Nigeria, bullying in secondary schools has become part and parcel of secondary school life. There is no gainsaying, it has been accepted. One could remove bullying and secondary education would lose its uniqueness (as a school of

thought claims).

A young man shared with me why he lost interest in school. He said he had gained admission into one of the best government schools in Jos, some 20 years ago. And his proud father decided to drop him on the resumption date.

His first cousin had just graduated from the same school and he was very mean to some students. They decided that it was payback time when they saw his first cousin. For about a month after he resumed, he knelt down by one of the boys' beds at night -



## Bullying in schools and consequences

Feeling so excited that he was now a student, after his father left, he went back into his dormitory to get a few biscuits. What this fresher didn't know was that there were rules. Not the ones set by the school authority but the ones set by senior students from time immemorial.

The ignorant fresher just pushed the door and entered the dormitory. Unknown to him, he made a senior student who was taking his garri in peace, jump in fear thinking somebody was coming to discover him and join him. And because of that, he got a very mighty stick which he used to beat the living daylight out of poor fresher. One of the senior's friends was passing, and concluding that his friend had been disrespected, just got his cane and joined the party. It was after he looked very well at the boy rolling on the floor that he discovered that it was the same boy whose father just entrusted in his care. He ended up interceding for the fresher.

A parent shared her son's story in whose case; his only misfortune was his surname.

out till about 11pm or 12 when he would be released to go and sleep on bare springs because one of the boys had seized his mattress and added to his.

While he was suffering all this, he was also the one fetching their bathing water and washing their clothes. After a while, this fresher fell very ill. His mother came for her son but the unhappy face that greeted her was all bones and the shadow of her son. It took so much prompting before her son opened up to her. She took action and changed school for her son and left the school to handle the wicked boys.

The worst case scenario was the one that was covered in so much secrecy. According to the person who supplied the information, some seniors were on the case of a certain student and ended up locking him up in the wardrobe. Unfortunately, it was vacation day. Everybody left for home except that boy. Some days later when the boy's parents raised their voices, it was thoroughly investigated and discovered the student was forgotten locked up in a

wardrobe in the dormitory. Sadly, he was found dead and the students faced the full wrath of the law.

The cases of bullying are endless. Even as one is writing, more are being committed. It could be perpetrated in subtle ways like forcing students to give up their piece of meat for you because you are superior or forcefully collecting your junior's food. If you are making life miserable for a junior student or using your position to make other students miserable, for no reason, then you are a bully.

The recent case of 12 year old Sylvester Oromoni of Downen College Lekki, Lagos State who was alleged to have been beaten to death by some students, is a wake-up call for Nigeria and Nigerians to arise against bullying. The circle of silence that surrounds it has to be dealt with headlong. Perpetrators of bullying must face the full wrath of the law to serve as a deterrent. And any school that handles bullying with kid gloves should share in the perpetrators' punishment.

Let's teach our children the meaning of love and tolerance and also the golden rule: Do unto others what you want others to do to you.

“

***The worst case scenario was the one that was covered in so much secrecy. According to the person who supplied the information, some seniors were on the case of a certain student and ended up locking him up in the wardrobe. Unfortunately, it was vacation day. Everybody left for home except that boy. Some days later when the boy's parents raised their voices, it was thoroughly investigated and discovered the student was forgotten locked up in a wardrobe in the dormitory. Sadly, he was found dead and the students faced the full wrath of the law.***

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By NAOMI SANTOS

SOME years ago when I was younger, my parents used to tell me stories about things that happened when they were growing up back in their days, when things were moving smoothly.

They were brought up in the primordial ways where they nurtured them with what decency, love and respect is all about.

Back then, elders conducted their affairs with high sense of dignity and it was forbidden for a lady to get pregnant in her father's house not to talk of committing an abortion.

They trusted one another and lived in peace and harmony. They were always ready to fight and protect the interest of each other. In those days,

## Cultism: Unleashing the beast in us

there was no Islamic nor Christianity as a religion, they only believed in idols worship, which they referred as gods.

They abided by the rules and anyone who failed to abide by the rules would be severely punished by the gods. They got little but they were contented with what they had, and were their brothers' keepers.

Years later, the full of peace, love, harmony and happiness changed into pain, greed, corruption and hatred.

How are we going to get peace in the land, since our children that are in boarding schools are threatening each other in the name of cultism? A good example is what happened in Downen College in Lekki, Lagos of recent, where senior students of the college beat up a 12 year old boy which led to his death and the school authority were indignant of the circumstances.

The 12 year old student was alleged to have been attacked by some senior students for refusing to join their cult group.

According to Vanguard newspaper, dated December 4, 2021, the student's father, who bears the same name as his

son also claimed that his son was fed with a liquid substance and intimidated into keeping quiet over what transpired. But the school had earlier dismissed the claim, alleging that the deceased only sustained injuries while playing football with his school mates.

The Lagos State government issued a statement ordering the indefinite closure of the college, pending the outcome

“***Those in power that are supposed to protect the interest of the people are doing nothing to help the masses. Leaders no longer get punished when they disobey the rules and regulations governing the country. Death and hatred spread like a virus, destroying the peace of our beloved country. We really need a savior to come and save us from the hardship that has infected our beloved country.***”

”

of an investigation on the death of Sylvester Oromoni Jr. Also, the Commissioner for Education, Lagos State, Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo announced the closure after a meeting with the school management and staff. The commissioner called for calm, saying no effort will be spared in getting to the root of the incident.

Even though reactions have trailed the incident, Government should begin to take cultism seriously. This is becoming common. Threat to life should not be taken lightly.

For goodness sake, those that are supposed to defend our children in school are denying the truth of what happened, then where is the peace we are looking for in this country of ours?

You cannot dispute what Chinua Achebe, the eminent novelist and critic, pointed out in one of his books, The Trouble with Nigeria. In his opinion "the only trouble with Nigeria is simple and squarely a failure of leadership". Because with good leadership Nigeria could resolve its current problems such as nepotism, tribalism; lack of patriotism; social injustice and the cult of

mediocrity; indiscipline and corruption.

He challenged Nigerians not to be nonchallant but be inspired them to reject old habits which inhibit Nigeria from becoming a modern and attractive country.

Those in power that are supposed to protect the interest of the people are doing nothing to help the masses. Leaders no longer get punished when they disobey the rules and regulations governing the country.

Death and hatred spread like a virus, destroying the peace of our beloved country. We really need a savior to come and save us from the hardship that has infected our beloved country.

The only thing that can bring peace to our beloved country is only when we come together as one and stop being too religious. Our tribes might be different but in brotherhood we stand.

We must work together to make our country a better place because it is our fatherland. Together we can make this country great again. We all can work together to make Nigeria what we want it to be by doing our best, so that the labour of our heroes will never be in vain.

IT is an established fact that one in every three women in Nigeria suffer some form of sexual or physical violence. This development has evidently added to the pains women go through in this our contemporary society.

In the past few decades however, various Non - Governmental Organisations have employed various strategies aimed at creating awareness on the need to change this unpleasant narratives to help create an enabling environment for the integration of the women in the country.

So far, many women are gradually beginning to find their footings and voice out concern on this issue of depreciating status of the women folks and its resultant effects on social growth. This concerns herald this year's public discourse on prevention and elimination of violence against women organized by women for women International held at the Steffan Hotel and Suit, Rayfield Jos the Plateau state capital last Thursday.

With the theme: Orange the World and End Violence Against Women Now, the Country Director, women for Women International, Mrs. Bukola Onyishi noted that "Women for Women International in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) and International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) held the one day roundtable with relevant stakeholders on prevention and elimination of violence against women in Plateau State."

Onyishi implores all to join the WFWI #ItsNotOk digital campaign on social media handles on facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 16 days out of 365 days have been dedicated to creating awareness on eliminating violence against women worldwide.

She added that WFWI and her partners, NHRC, NAWOJ, FIDA and the entire women on the Plateau were identified as agents of change. You are here because we need you to lend your voice as critical stakeholders to speak out against gender-based violence. We need your commitment to ensuring that violence against women stops now!

In their separate contributions, chairperson FIDA, Barr. Mary Abba Izam said that the issue of disinheritance which is overwhelming among the cases currently lingering. The fact is that there is a particular case on ground right now, where a woman put her resources together with her husband and built an apartment and just recently they have issues with the man, he went and married another woman and brought her into the house they built with the first wife which she contributed 95% of the resources.

Izam said that; "these are the kind of issues that are harmful against women that we are here to kick against. That a lot of people are hiding under traditional customs to

take advantage of vulnerable women, especially in the area of disinheritance."

Chairperson of NAWOJ, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima, highlighted the prevalent cases that have been reported to the association, which include wife battery which leaves painful psychological and physical torture on the women. Others are violent attack of a man who used machete to hit his wife, leaving her with various degrees of injuries that also affected her pancreas.

She added that rape of minors has been frequently

violation is one we take very seriously. This year alone we have received 389 cases on violation of women alone and out of those ones there are various violations, some are inheritance, abandonment, sexual violence, physical violence, child molestation, beating of wife etc, so far we have handled some successfully but some are still pending."

She said that the significance of 16 Days of Activism actually started 30 years ago in 1991, when some women gathered and saw that the human rights



## Events, People & Places

### WFWI: As violence against women takes centre stage



L-R: Dr. Janet Plang, Prof. Patricia Lar, Justice Nafisa Lawal Musa, Mrs. Sarah Ochekepe and Mrs. Bukola Onyishi



NHRC, Barr. Grace Pam, FIDA, Barr. Mary Izam with NAWOJ, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima



District Head of Mangun, HRH Da Job Dapal Damial delivering remarks



Country Director, WFWI, Mrs. Bukola Onyishi



CD, WFWI, FIDA, NAWOJ and other participants after the roundtable

Photos: DANLADI DUK

reported, and very disturbing is incest, which involves parents and their children. NAWOJ has provided the platform for women at all levels to speak on their bitter experiences so as to bring an end to some of these excesses.

On her part, State Coordinator Human Rights, Mrs. Grace Pam said that the National Human Rights Commission handles issues of human rights generally. "Issues against women

violation against women was on the increase and there was a need to see how it can be stopped.

This is to inform and advocate the public and stakeholders to ensure that, they do everything possible to stop or eradicate violence against women. "If you notice, we usually wear orange which is a very bright color and it is just to indicate that we want a bright future for the women."

"We are worried that is why

the women are saying in a theme; "End Violence Against Women Now". So, we want it now because we are becoming annoyed. For 30 years, we have waited so long and we think, it is time the number of violations begin to go down so that, the women should have a say to the development of our society."

Some of the challenges faced mostly are the women themselves, they are not economically empowered, when they bring such

complain to you and you want to prosecute or take up the case and handle it, they will come back begging saying, "I don't want my husband to be punished because if he leaves me who will take care of me and the children?", they will later withdraw the case, all they want you to do is probably talk to the husband to take care of them by providing food for the family.

Advocacy coordinator, of Change Agents, Zainab Gbobaniyi said that change

agent is a programme to equip women with skills and resources to earn and save money, learn about their health and human rights, regain their confidence and actively participate in their communities.

Some of the change agents from Pankshin, Mrs. Nankyer Andrew, Jos East, Mrs. Lydia Adado and Mrs. Margaret Davou Gyang from Riyom, Local Government Areas of Plateau State appreciated the awareness given to them in their various LGAs to give knowledge to other rural women on the issues of Rape, denial of inheritance, denial of girl child education, early marriage/force marriage and wife beating, is a huge success story by all of them.

The event witnessed questions and answers from prominent guests, chief judge of Plateau state, represented by Justice Nafisat Lawal Musa, Mrs. Sarah Ochekepe, Dr. Mrs. Janet Plang of Unijos with Prof. Patricia Lar.

IMAGES

SEN. GYANG COMMISSIONS PROJECT

Distinguished Senator Istifanus Gyang, Senator representing Plateau North at the National Assembly, Abuja renovated some projects at Zabolo and was commissioned by the ECWA President



Rev. Dr. Stephen Panya Baba, ECWA President represented by Rev. Stephen Sunday Ajishe, ECWA Vice President commissioning the renovated classrooms assisted by Sen. ID Gyang and PDP stakeholders



One of the renovated classroom blocks by Sen. ID Gyang commissioned by the ECWA President



Sen. Istifanus Gyang, Senator representing Plateau North delivering his speech at the commissioning ceremony of some renovated classrooms at ECWA Theological College Zabolo, Bassa LGA



A cross section of PDP elected members in the State Assembly at the commissioning ceremony

HON. MWADKON COMMISSIONS PROJECT

Honourable member, Prince Simon Mwadkon Fwet PhD, member representing Barkin Ladi Riyom Federal Constituency in Abuja, recently commissioned projects in Barkin Ladi LGA. The projects were commissioned by the outgoing COCIN President, Rev. Prof. Dachollom Datiri



Rev. Prof. Dachollom Datiri, COCIN outgoing president (middle) flanked by Hon. Simon Mwadkon Fwet PhD, member representing Barkin Ladi/Riyom and other clergymen advancing to commission the project



Rev. Prof. Dachollom Datiri, being flanked by the Honourable member, Prince Simon Mwadkon Fwet commissioning the classroom blocks



One of the renovated block of classrooms by Hon. Simon Mwadkon Fwet commissioned by the COCIN President



Classroom desks fixed by Hon. Mwadkon Fwet commissioned by Prof. Datiri, COCIN outgoing President

## Odd World

### World's expensive Christmas jumper goes on sale

AN artist has dedicated over 3,000 hours to make a Swarovski Crystal encrusted festive jumper - now he's hoping to sell the piece and donate some of the money to the NHS

If you're in the market for a new Christmas jumper, the world's most expensive festive garment could be yours - for just a mere £30,000.

Artist, Aidan Liban, 33, invested his entire life savings into creating the luxury piece in order to raise money for the NHS.

The jumper, which has cost Aidan a total of £7,000 to make, includes a bejewelled reindeer, diamond-encrusted silver stars, 24-carat gold threading and the finest Italian silk for the lining, all surrounded by thousands of Swarovski crystals.

The previous most expensive jumper cost a whopping £24,000 - made by Topsy Elves, a holiday-themed apparel company - and was encrusted in over 24,000 crystals.

Aidan says he got the idea for the glamorous garment back in 2020 when he was living alone and working part-time as a key worker at a charity.

He had hoped to add his own twist on the traditional ugly Christmas jumper.

Now following a total of 3,000 hours working on the project by hand, he is hopeful he can raise five figures from the sale of the jumper and donate a portion of cash to the NHS.

Aidan said: "It is a true piece of art. I had a vision and I made it come true.

"I wanted to create something magnificent and eye-catching - which I have done.

"I improvised a lot when making it, I just have an eye for where each element needs to go."

But the former art student has warned, whoever is lucky enough to purchase the jumper, must not wash it, due to its delicacy.

The hefty price tag certainly reflects the hours spent by Aidan on the jumper, who only had time available on the weekends to dedicate to the diamond-encrusted festive number.

Aidan spent months searching for the right materials, working late long hours on the weekends.

And despite starting in December 2020, he had only managed to finish the garment almost a whole year later in November 2021.

The luxurious 24-carat silk - which was ordered from a specialist French shop - had cost a total of £300.

He further spent £1,000 on 2000 Swarovski crystals and £200 entirely on the Italian silk lining.

And almost £5,000 was spent on 150 diamonds, which embellish the silver stars near the collar of the jumper

Aidan certainly left no expense to spare as he went all out for the well-decorated piece.

He said: "I've done pretty much all of it myself aside from a few very delicate bits.

"The main body of the jumper is made from wool and cotton, it's lined with gorgeous silk too, it's soft like a kitten.

"The diamonds have small imperfections, meaning they wouldn't suit jewellery but are perfect for the jumper."

The former Central Saint Martins student boasted of the jewels and materials featured on the jumper.

He said: "The main body of the jumper is made from wool and cotton, it's lined with gorgeous silk too, it's soft like a kitten.

"The diamonds have small imperfections, meaning they wouldn't suit jewellery but are perfect for the jumper.

"They're embedded on lovely raw silver stars.

"The reindeer even has a Swarovski gold locket round its neck."

Aidan also spoke of the story which the piece tells, declaring it to be a 'novelty piece'.

He hopes to wow people with the piece and bring some happiness to the 'doom and gloom' times many have been living in for the past few years.

**Source: The Mirror**



### Nigeria, our beloved nation is fatally bleeding

AS it is; the current global directory pertaining to the aggressive fight against hunger and deprivation is unsatisfactorily discouraging around the world. This is more so bearing in mind the foul-tasting statistics of the ever-increasing number of universal citizens being horrendously incarcerated in an absurd cobweb of destitution as a result of both humanly and naturally created abject poverty ever imagined in the annals of humanity history but for the 1929 economic depression era. Most hit are the peopling of developing nations where almost all desirable facilities including architectural framework for human survival, socio-economic and technological advancement are gone with the wind; entirely lacking or completely archaic.

Over successive years however, the selfish, greedy and fallacious manifesto and desires of our heartless leaders couple with their unrepentant acts of personal aggrandizement have stagnate and further worsen our economic well-being and developmental status leaving the common man at the receiving end. Today, we cannot distinguish between the horrendous and excruciating sufferings meted our forefathers during the brutal decades of colonial subjugation with what we are facing as a people today in a holistically perceived 'liberated' contemporary democratic nation of ours, Nigeria. If the truth should be told; our beloved nation is bleeding beyond imagination and if care is not taken it may nosedive into oblivion.

Just recently, a group of one hundred Non Governmental Organizations across the world had to join forces in an open letter calling on global leaders including other relevant stakeholders to help bring to a standstill the devastating consequences of global hunger even as new analysis has indicated that 17 percent of global population are likely to need more humanitarian aid by next year 2022.

The Global Humanitarian Overview of 2022 released by the United Nation's Office of Humanitarian Affairs this past week had strongly warned that over 274 million people could be in need of humanitarian assistance by next year, this is up to 235 million people in 2021 and 168 million people in 2020.

But again when one comes to think of this pending scenario more closely, Nigeria, our beloved nation may not survive this avoidable doom if one maybe permitted to say so. This is because, the country presently is ranked ninth on the index humanitarian crisis according to the number of people in need with about 1.1 billion dollars required salvage the 8.3 million people presently critically in need of compassionate assistance by next year.

So far, the unpalatable depreciating level of excruciating and berserk suffering of the citizens of this country cannot be overemphasized. As it is nowadays, most citizens of this nation are finding it difficult to get three square meals a day not forgetting the unpalatable pressing bills of power supply and or children's school fees hunting most homes.

Though the Federal Government has signed the new minimum wage for civil servants in the country months back, not all the state governments have kept fate with this consensus enabling their respective civil servants to enjoy it. Alternatively, many of these civil servants have been rationalized resulting in inflicting more pains and financial difficulties on innocent families and the entire citizenry.

Even though more graduates are produced by our universities year in and out, most of them are never employed but for a handful few who knows someone who knows someone in the country. No doubt, this resultant unemployment saga has continued to brew complex social vices confronting the nation this very moment.

Yet in the midst of this difficulties, it seems the leaders of this country have not found the right and more convincing positive mechanism of tackling this issue once and for all. While the entire population is wallowing in abject poverty, what is dear to our leaders and policymakers is the continuous borrowing philosophy which may at the end leave us the worse for it.

Please, don't get yours sincerely wrong, there is nothing wrong if a nation decides to borrow funds for developmental purposes, however my reservation is based on the fact that I have not seen anything tangibly done with all the mouth watering funds borrowed by Nigeria in the past. While the debts keep piling up, our entire population have been left at the mercy of an improvised system perhaps only friendly to the political elites who have kept on putting us into more of such troubles.

As if this is not enough, I recently learnt that President Mohammadu Buhari is about to borrow another humongous amount of funds; this time around, the amount had already been approved by the National Assembly. Left for me, since there has been absolutely nothing to show for it as far as the developmental status of previous collected loans are concerned; we must not go for another fund which basically would be a suicide mission.

But again, what do we have to say on the intension of the President Buhari's led government's intension of removing fuel subsidy by next year? What about the palliatives anticipated to be dished out to some of the citizens of this country to help cushion the effects of this policy? Are these mechanisms quite realistic in the face of daunting challenges we as a people have found ourselves in today?

Left to me, most of the economic policies presently implemented by this incumbent administration has left much to be desired. Even though on paper, economic experts including other stakeholders could argue that they are well intended, its implementation has not been that encouraging as the many gaps created have questioned the credibility of the process.

Unfortunately, we will sooner than later face another humanitarian crisis in this country which if care is not taken would keep us on the edge path of retrogression and or retardation. Though the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has reiterated the need for developed countries to honor the promises made in 2009 of mobilizing 100 billion dollars yearly to support climate action in developing countries including responding to a more challenging humanitarian landscape, me think much more needs to be pragmatically done to help our vulnerable masses.

Agreeably, the challenges of climate change are contributive factors to this humanitarian calamity, our leaders must also justify most of the economic policies presently implemented in the nation. Our leaders have not done enough in reducing the widening gap between the poor and the rich and or reduced the unappreciable level of administrative ingenuity inherent in many of such policies which are detrimental to our interest and corporate existence as a people.

As clearly indicated, most of these policies have consequently left the peopling of this country the worse for it and by next year if nothing is done to save the country from this humanitarian crisis, Nigeria as a developing nation may witness another massive structural and infrastructural failure ever imagined in the annals of our nation's history. In the light of this unfortunate development coupled with the intended subsidy removal, our various stakeholders and leaders of thoughts must re-channel their energy towards ensuring that the minds of the citizens of the nation are at complete rest without any anxiety particularly in the midst of these present daunting challenges.

## View Point

# Making Nigeria green again!

**"The Green Wall should be seen as a metaphor for the coordination of a variety of international projects, for economic development, environmental protection, against desertification and to support political stability in the heart of Africa". Boubacar Cissé, Africa Coordinator, UN Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat. Human pressure on ecosystems, deforestation and soil exhaustion in Africa's drylands threaten a way of life that is heavily dependent on agriculture, livestock and rainfall. writes ATANG IZANG**

THE region is also vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change including decreased rainfall and extreme weather conditions. The Great Green Wall Initiative promotes the sustainable management and use of forests, rangelands and other natural resources. It covers activities in over 20 countries supporting sustainable, income-generating land management practices.

Contrary to popular perception or what the name may suggest, the Great Green Wall for Sahel and Sahara Initiative (GGWSSI) is not about creating a wall of trees stretching from Senegal in West Africa to Djibouti in East Africa, but a metaphor to depict a mosaic of integrated interventions tackling the multiple challenges affecting the lives of people in the Sahel and Sahara areas.

Sahelian African countries have been facing several environmental challenges related to climate change and desertification. Populations in this region are among the poorest and depend heavily on the ecosystems for rain-fed agriculture, fisheries and livestock management to sustain their livelihoods. These constitute the primary sectors of employment in the region and they generate at least 40% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in most of the countries.

Since the severe droughts of the 1970s and 1980s, which caused the loss of thousands of lives and forced hundreds of thousands to migrate, much knowledge has been gained by communities and nations on strategies to cope with and mitigate environmental degradation and climate change. Although climate vulnerability is exacerbating land degradation trends, there is growing evidence across the region of successful sustainable land management innovations that protect fragile soils, improve productivity, and create income opportunities for the vast rural population.

The challenge facing Sahelian and West African countries now is to harness these modest successes by working together to expand opportunities for the rural population in the context of sustainable development and food security. By linking national level efforts across borders, countries will tackle policy, investment, and institutional barriers that exacerbate the effects of climate change and variability, leading to desertification and deterioration of environment and natural resources and the risks of conflicts between communities. This informed the decision for the development and adoption of the Great Green Wall Initiative as an integrated rural development programme to address the problem of environmental degradation in the Sahel-Saharan areas and improve the livelihoods of the affected communities. The expectation is that collaborative efforts would enhance the achievement of the common goals of arresting further degradation of soils and land



**Buhari**

resources within the affected region.

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative was launched in 2005 as a strong political response to serious challenges posed by desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, Climate Change and drought. All of these factors combine their impacts to increase food insecurity and deepen poverty and the challenges of achieving Sustainable Development. From the initial idea of a wall of trees from West Africa to East Africa, the concept of the Great Green Wall transformed into integrated rural development programme addressing the challenges of climate change, desertification and improving the livelihoods of the affected people in the drylands. The Great Green Wall Initiative therefore according to the Harmonised Regional Strategy is a set of integrated actions addressing the multisectoral problems affecting the lives of people in African Sahel – Saharan areas. These actions which are multisectoral and multidimensional, transversally address a wide range of concerns, including natural resource management, sustainability of rural production systems (agriculture, forestry, pastoral development etc.), the development of rural production and trade infrastructures, diversifying economic activities and wealth creation as well as gender and youth mainstreaming into development.

Since GGW is a comprehensive and long-term response to issues of desertification, land degradation and drought, it offers a unique opportunity to bring significant changes towards the intensification of investments and

efforts aimed at promoting food security and combating poverty through simultaneously, a strong political commitment by decision makers and innovative local interventions that strengthen good practices in local governance, agriculture, livestock farming, forestry, water resources, rural infrastructures, and rural safety nets, among others.

The overall objective of the GGW as the Harmonised Regional Strategy indicates is to improve the resilience of human and natural systems in Sahel and Saharan areas faced with climate change through healthy ecosystem management and sustainable development of natural resources (water, soil, vegetation, fauna, flora), protection of tangible and intangible rural heritage, the development of rural production and sustainable development hubs, improvement of living conditions and livelihoods of people living in these areas. The geographic scope of focus of the programme is the vulnerable areas in the Sahel and Sahara. Priority has been agreed to be given to the belt defined by isohyets lines below 400mm. In other words, interventions should focus more on areas with rainfall of below 400mm. However, countries may wish to operate outside of this zone with a view to combat land degradation and improve livelihood for poverty alleviation. The GGW core area of intervention is about 780million hectares and home to 232 million people. Therefore, if Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.3 is to be achieved by 2030, some 10 million hectares will need to be restored each year across the GGW core area. When fully developed, the GGW according to

Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is expected to achieve the following:

Contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG Target 15.3) as a result of sustainable land management and restoration of degraded land;

Increase climate resilience of local population in a region where temperatures are expected to rise by 2-50C by 2050

Mitigate the effects of climate change through carbon sequestration in soils

Ensure food security for 20 million people in the Sahel who suffer from hunger each year;

Create "Green jobs", rural jobs that protect natural capital and restore degraded land through the implementation of sustainable land management best practices and that build sustainable livelihoods for local people, especially women and young people;

Provide a response to the migration crisis, bearing in mind that the International Organization for Migration estimates that 60 million people could migrate from Sub-Saharan Africa towards North Africa and Europe by 2020;

As signatory to GGW Convention, Nigeria is committed to the implementation of the Initiative and already established the National Agency for the Great Green Wall to coordinate the implementation. Also a Strategic Action Plan has been developed to serve as the programme implementation framework.

The Strategic Action Plan is a five-year Plan with the goal of improving the well being of the affected people and reducing their vulnerability to the impact of desertification orchestrated by climate change through improved use of land and other natural resources for sustainable development and support to climate infrastructure. The development objective is to combat land degradation and desertification in Nigeria in order to protect and restore ecosystems and essential ecosystem services that are key to reducing poverty, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The key objectives of the Plan include the following:

Developing and implementing integrated approach to Sustainable Land Management (SLM) that is crucial to minimizing land degradation, rehabilitating degraded areas and ensuring the optimal use of land resources for the benefit of present and future generations;

Developing and promoting sustainable agricultural and water management practices;

Ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems, using appropriate techniques and technologies;

Improving information sharing and cooperation among stakeholders;

Strengthening systemic and institutional capacity for enhanced desertification governance and resource mobilization;

Improving scientific knowledge on desertification and drought;

Effective monitoring and evaluation for impact.

Furthermore, the Plan has identified eight main strategic pillars of intervention and these are:

Improvement of the management of land resources and their sustainable use;

Enabling policy, legal and institutional framework for sustainable land management and desertification control;

Improvement of critical infrastructure for enhanced and sustainable socio-economic development and environmental sustainability;

Enhancement of private sector investment in sustainable land management;

Sustainable financing for desertification control;

Effective communication for improved land management;

Monitoring and evaluation system; and

Eco-regional approach for improved trans-boundary sustainable land management.

Within the framework of the GGW Programme, it has been envisaged that about 22,500sqkm of degraded land in the dry region of the country will be rehabilitated for agricultural production and the livelihoods of over 25 million people will be improved by the year 2030. The Nigerian GGW programme is also expected to contribute greatly to the following:

Environmental rehabilitation /restoration of the Northeast Region of Nigeria;

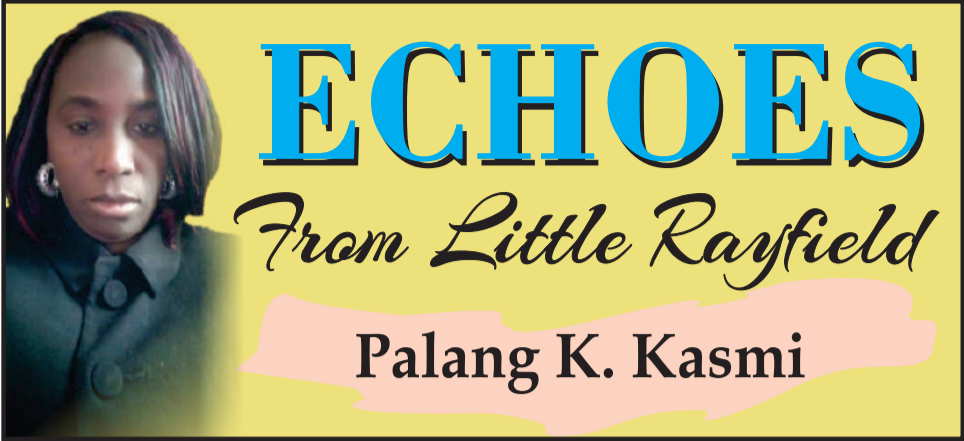
Environmental rehabilitation/restoration of the Lake Chad Basin;

Rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced People by creating job opportunities, income generation activities and rehabilitation of degraded farm lands;

Reducing Farmers – Herders Conflicts by creating grazing reserves and fodder farms in the dry land areas.

The Great Green Wall Initiative holds the key to the future of African dry lands. It is a bold initiative that has the propensity to bring back to the continent food and water security, create jobs and new economic opportunities, help in fighting climate change and allow people not to only survive but thrive. In Nigeria, the GGW programme remains the major mechanism that can be used to ensure the sustainable development of the dry lands, combat rural poverty and create hope for the affected people.

**ATANG IZANG former Diplomatic, Defence & Parliamentary Reporter, writes from Jos and can be reached through :**



# Plateau state’s policy on house numbering and street naming

1st December was traditionally a day to usher in the 2021 yuletide celebrations in Plateau state with the PRTVC Christmas tree lighting, fireworks, Christmas carols and performances by various artistes. Incidentally, it was also the day the state government came up with some far reaching decisions and policies on urban development.

Among the state governments decision, taken during its State Executive Council meeting on that day was an approval for street naming and numbering policies for the state, which would help in identifying addresses, saving lives, and improving the state Internally Generated revenue, said the State Commissioner for Information, Hon. Dan Manjang shortly after the meeting held virtually, and presided over by Governor Simon Bako Lalong.

“The government’s approval of a draft policy on street addressing and house numbering is in line with global best practices, and the advantages of the policy includes facilitation of easier location of places for tourism, security, emergency services and revenue generation”, said the state governments spokesperson Manjang. But he also said the approval of the policy will be transmitted to the Ministry of Justice to draft a bill for onward distribution to the Plateau House of Assembly.

The Governments proposed plan for the street naming is to cover areas only within the greater Jos Master Plan and a summary of inventory of existing streets given by the government includes 28 Number of streets and addressed zones, 227 streets with approved names, 194 streets with unapproved names, and 4195 streets without names. The total number of Streets identified are 4616, total number of Highways 33, number of Roads 370, number of Streets 447, number of Links 503, 2344 Closes, 36 Crescent’s, 5 Boulevards and other types which include 350 slums”.

House numbering and naming systems and policies are not new in the country or globally. Developed countries like the United kingdom, Russia, United States, Sweden and a host of others were well planned. In 2019, Nigerian government had announced a process of digitisation and standardisation of street naming and numbering across the country to move from the analog to digital system during the meeting of the National Addressing System committee. Also in 2012, Lagos government through the Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency (LASAA) flagged off a comprehensive house numbering project to cover about 1.2 Million houses.

House numbering is the system of giving a unique number to each building in a street or area, with the intention of making it easier to locate a particular building. The house number is often part of a postal address. The term describes the number of any building (residential or commercial) with a mailbox, or even a vacant lot.

House numbering schemes vary by location, and in many cases even within cities. In some areas of the world, including many remote areas, houses are named but are not assigned numbers. In many countries, the house number follows the name of the street; but in anglophone and francophone countries, the house number normally precedes the name of the street.

A well-planned community with well-grouped major uses and service facilities, and with efficient means of intercommunication is the primary concern of planners and governments. In planning

towns, experts have said major and minor streets should be laid out, with feeder streets, residential streets, highways among other issues, while street naming and numbering systems too are important for providing rationality and order in community life, apart from making communities more efficient, and convenient with ease of locating places and facilities. Other positive sides to street naming and numbering of properties is that it attracts buyers and investors, giving it a legal base for ownership. This is also a moment to honor Presidents, States, famous men and women, army and military personnel, and those who have contributed to the development of Plateau State or Nigeria outstandingly, through the street naming choices.

The Federal Capital Territory has always prided itself as the only planned city in Nigeria, having been built with strict observance, adherence and compliance to its master plan. The beauty of the city is further enhanced with the unique manner with which its districts and satellite towns are given distinguishable street names based on certain standard criteria. The Federal Capital Administration (FCTA) have also developed series of fascinating criteria for choosing Abuja street names as well as colours that help define and distinguish various districts, making Nigeria’s Capital a tourist attraction.

Coming up with a policy for house naming and numbering in Plateau state is apt and timely for the state’s urban development. If possible it should be digitised to give the process a wholesome process in line with current digital trends and systems. Since a decision has now been taken by government, designing a great street naming policy by the state Ministry of Justice who will handle the policy design and document, should be in conformity with the laid down professional and standard guidelines. This will go a long way in giving the state a better planned outlook in line with global practices. It will also positively impact on the economy and social development of the state.

## Beware of the new Omicron COVID-19 Variant

Other issues of concern to Governor Lalong, raised during the 1st December Council meeting was the emergence and upsurge of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant, described as a more deadlier form of the virus aside the former Delta Variant.

Government therefore raised safety concerns and advised Plateau citizens to observe safety protocols of the Virus including taking of the COVID-19 vaccination, as the safest practice.

Nigeria has already recorded 3 cases of the new variant said the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control in its briefing to Nigerians. Safety protocols for preventing oneself from contracting all forms of COVID-19 is to adhere to social distancing, wearing of face masks, washing of hands, use of sanitizers, and taking doses of either the Astrazeneca or Moderna vaccines, which the Plateau State Commissioner for Health, Hon. Nimkon Lar said is available in all local Government Areas of the state, for easy access to citizens.

What was of great concern to the government however was citizens lack of compliance and refusal to take the vaccination, despite its availability. “Out of the state’s about 4 Million population, only 221,000 have taken the vaccination and this is not encouraging”, lamented Hon Nimkon Lar. He however warned that those who refuse to take the vaccination are at risk of contracting the new Omicron variant.



## News

# Court sentences 24-year-old to death for killing brother

AN Ado Ekiti High Court on Monday sentenced 24-year-old Ebenezer Olorunleke to death by hanging for killing his own brother.

Justice Bamidele Omotoso said the prosecution had discharged the burden on Mr Olorunleke and established beyond reasonable doubt the defendant was guilty as charged.

“The sentence of the count upon you is that you will be hanged by the neck until dead. May the Lord have mercy on your soul,” the judge said.

Mr Olorunleke, who hails from Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State, was arraigned on a three-count charge of conspiracy, armed robbery and murder.

The offences are contrary to sections 6 (b), 1 (2) (a) of the robbery and firearms (Special

Provisions) Act, Cap R11, Vol. 14, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

They are also contrary to section 316 and punishable under section 319 (1) of the Criminal Code, Cap C16, Laws of Ekiti State 2012.

According to the charge, Mr Olorunleke and others, now at large, on August 29, 2019, at Abe Cocoa Area, Housing Estate, Oke-Ila, Ado Ekiti, conspired to rob his blood brother, Sunday Olorunleke, of his Bajaj Motorcycle with Registration Number ADK 100 UJ and N40,000.

At the time of the robbery, Mr Olorunleke was armed with a knife and murdered Sunday. One of the prosecuting witnesses, who testified before the court, said he went to the defendants house to inform him of his brother’s death

According to him, the defendant claimed his brother was attacked by armed robbers, but he suspected the defendant was lying following the lack of coordination in his explanation. The matter was later reported at Ologede Police Station.

When the police arrived, it was discovered that Mr Olorunleke had sold all his properties and was about to escape with his brother’s motorcycle before he was arrested. He later confessed to have murdered his brother

The prosecutor, Gbemiga Adaramola, called five witnesses to prove his case and tendered the defendant’s confessional statements, photographs of the deceased, medical report, among others, as exhibits. The defendant spoke in his own defence through his counsel and did not call any witnesses.

PLATEAU State government has expressed it’s willingness to work with the Norwegian government to reduce the plight of victims of crises in the state.

Governor Simon Lalong gave this indication while receiving on a courtesy call, the Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Norwegian Refugee Council, Maureen Magi at Government, House, Plateau Rayfield, Jos, yesterday.

The governor who was represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden stressed that government was concerned about the plight of refugees was committed to tackling the issue farmers/herders clash which has been one of the sources of conflict in the state and some parts of the country.

He commended the Norwegian government for it’s intervention programme which he said will help reduce the

# PLSG partners Norwegian to reduce plight of refugees

By DUMAH RANDONG

emotional, physical and health trauma of victims of crises in the state.

The said government will soon launch the National Lifestock Transformation Programme in the state as one of the measures to tackle farmers/herders conflict once the law is passed by the Plateau House of Assembly.

According to him , government could not key into the policy without the legal backing and stressed that a law to that effect was before the house and this was not a government decision but a collective reasoning of the people of the state.

Earlier, Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Norwegian Refugee Council, Maureen Magi who spoke through the state, Area Manager of the

organization, Ibrahim Abdullahi had told the governor that they were a Humanitarian, Non Governmental Organization working on an intervention programme in education and agriculture to engage the youths inorder to building their capacity to be self reliant.

She said the program is funded by the German International corporation (GIZ) with support from the Plateau Building Agency and they were working in six LGAs in the state including, Bokkos, Bassa, Riyom, Mangu, Shendam and Wase while the programme in productive livelihood in more communities.

She appreciated the Plateau State government for collaboration which has enabled them to carry out their mandate.

## Sports

### MKO Stadium: NFF to begin CAF, FIFA certification process

THE Federal Government has urged the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, to initiate the process of getting the refurbished MKO Abiola National Stadium certified by FIFA as well as the Confederation of African Football, CAF.

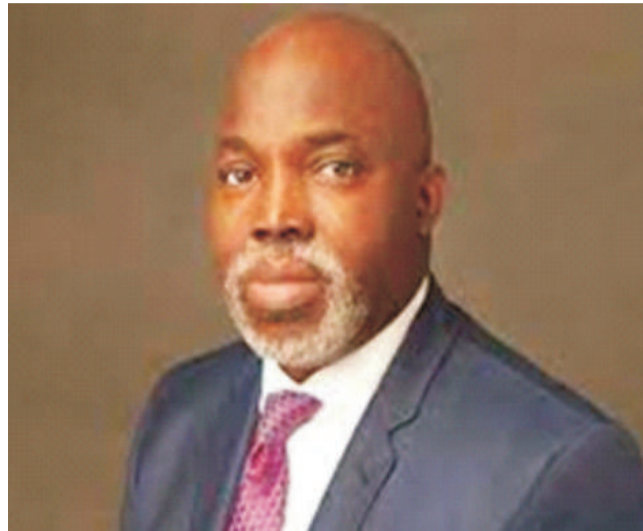
**Newsnow** said that, last Friday, the newly rehabilitated pitch of the stadium and two new digital scoreboards were handed over to the Sports Ministry by Aron Nigeria Limited, the contractors on the project, on behalf of the Dangote Industries Group.

The Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare, has reiterated his eagerness to get the MKO Abiola stadium to host international football matches.

According to top sources, Dare has also directed the Ministry to work with the NFF to facilitate the installation of the Video Assistant Refereeing (VAR) technology.

"The Minister has instructed the Department of Facilities in the Ministry to work with the NFF to get the MKO Abiola stadium certified by CAF, or even FIFA, if need be.

"He wants the VAR technology installed there as well. So we expect the NFF to write CAF, get a



Pinnick, NFF President

checklist of what needs to be done before an inspection is carried out and to begin these processes without delay," the Ministry source revealed.

On the state of other facilities in the stadium, the source told our correspondent, "I can also confirm to you that work has commenced on the training pitches while the other necessary facilities like the dressing rooms, media centre, referees' rooms, medical rooms, rest rooms and VIP Lounges are at full functionality already."

Barely two months ago, the President of the World Soccer Governing Body, FIFA, Gianni Infantino and his Vice President, who

doubles as CAF President, Dr Patrice Motsepe visited the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

They were impressed with the state of the pitch as well as the entire edifice, promising to get it to host some international matches when ready.

### Finidi's brilliant start continues as Enyimba beat Al-Ittihad

Ex-Nigeria international Finidi George maintained his perfect start to his managerial career at Enyimba after the Aba-based side beat Lybian side Al-Ittihad 2-0 in the first leg of their CAF Confederations Cup playoffs, thanks to goals from Sadiq Abubakar and Victor Mbaoma.

Aruna Quadri has recorded his first victory at the ongoing World Table Tennis (WTT) Cup championship in Singapore.

**Newsnow** said that, Quadri, who is representing Nigeria at the Championship, defeated the world number eight player, Liang Jingkun of China to 3-1 (7-11, 11-1, 14-12, 11-5) in round 16 of the men's singles event to qualify for the quarter finals.

Quadri is the first African player to get to the quarter finals at the ongoing championship, rising to become the world number 13th player.

"I kept fighting and I did not give up. I tried my best and it worked out for me in the end. I think my positive mindset also contributed to my performance.

"I am very happy and excited, I think I'm just so lucky in this match, everyone is so tired from the championships in Houston.

"I could see he was tired also, so I kept my cool, and it actually worked for me.

"I put several balls to the table and he made a lot of errors," he said.

Having lost the first game 7-11 to trail 1-0 in the game, Aruna began the second set on a high note, winning 11 straight points to swiftly even the game 11-1 for 1-1.

### Quadri shines at Singapore WTT Championship



Quadri

Unlike his Chinese opponent who had the technical support of his coach, Quadri had no technical support in his corner.

He, however, drew motivation from the support he got from Nigerian fans and others from around the world.

"This win is for all my fans and everyone back home in Nigeria and Africa.

"I always believed that If I was selected to be here that

meant I had what was needed to play.

"I was not under any kind of pressure, I just wanted to play my game and be myself," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Nigerian will face Brazil's Hugo Calderano in quarterfinal, after the Brazilian defeated China's Lin Gaoyuan 3-0 in round of 16.

### Bassey hoping to play at AFCON

RANGERS defender Calvin Bassey is hoping to represent Nigeria at the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations.

**Goal** said that, though he was born in Aosta, Italy, Bassey is eligible for the Super Eagles and accepted a call-up to their 2022 World Cup qualifying matches in October.

The 21-year-old missed out on making his senior international debut and was not called for the last block of qualifiers in November.

But this has not deterred the player from aiming to play at the AFCON in Cameroon in January and February of 2022.

"Yeah of course," Bassey replied when asked if he wanted to play at the Nations Cup, as quoted by Rangers' official website.

"It's always an honour to represent your country. Obviously, the timing's a bit hard because we've got games but right now, I'm just fully focussed at the club."

He added, "At the end of the day, if I do well here, that's what helps me get called up to Nigeria, so I'm just focussed on the club and giving my best performance, taking each day as it comes.

"Whatever happens, when

we get to that stage, we'll look at it and see what's best for me and take it from there."

The youngster isn't the only Rangers player eyeing up the continental competition, with Leon Balogun and Joe Aribo both looking to feature for the Super Eagles.

Nigeria will face Egypt, Sudan and Guinea-Bissau in Group D of the AFCON, getting their campaign underway on January 11 with a clash against the Pharaohs in Garoua.

### Shatta doubts Cameroon's ability to host Africa

A former Technical Director of the Confederation of African Football (Caf), Abdel Moneim Shatta has cast doubt over the hosting of the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

**Goal** said that, the former African body ex-official explains why the 33rd edition of the competition could be cancelled or moved to Qatar.

The 33rd edition of the tournament is scheduled to be hosted by Cameroon and is expected to take place



Enyimba

**Newsnow** said that, after seeing out Senegalese side Diambars 4-0 on aggregate in the second round of qualifiers for the group stage of the Confederations cup, the People's Elephants secured a date with the former Lybian champions Al-Ittihad who dropped to the competition after they

suffered 1-0 loss to Esperance in the Champions League.

The Lybian side play their home games in Tunisia, and the first leg was initially slated for the 28th of November, but it had to be postponed due to Enyimba's inability to make it to Tunisia because of their strict Covid-19 protocols.

However, Enyimba welcomed the Lybian side at the Enyimba

Stadium in Aba in what was supposed to be the second leg, and they put up an impressive show despite the lack of supporters in the stadium.

Despite the Lybian side's fearsome reputation, the odds were always stacked against them as Enyimba had home advantage in their favour.

The game proceeded with Enyimba seeing more of the ball and trying to cut open spaces, while the Lybians sat back, hoping to hit on the counter.

However, it was the home side's game plan that later paid off in the 21st minute as Sadiq Abubakar headed in a cross from Yakubu Bilal to put Enyimba in front.

The People's Elephants didn't relent in their efforts as they continued to push their opponents back. In the 34th minute, they found joy once more in the form of Victor Mbaoma, who slotted in a peach of a goal to give Enyimba a 2-0 lead.



Bassey

## Sports

# 'I will love to return to Ajax'

CHELSEA winger Hakim Ziyech has admitted he "would love to" return to Ajax at some point.

According to **Goal**, the Morocco international has left the door open for a transfer back to Johan Cruyff ArenA.

Ziyech completed a £36 million (\$48m) move to Chelsea from Ajax in July 2020 but has since struggled to earn a regular spot in the starting XI.

The 28-year-old has been linked with a move away from Stamford Bridge ahead of the January transfer window and has now revealed he would welcome the chance to head back to Amsterdam.

Ziyech is still under contract at Chelsea until 2025, but when asked if re-joining Ajax one day holds any appeal, the Moroccan told *Ziggo Sport*: "I would love to. I had a fantastic time there."

"It's a place where I have felt at home, and whether it will ever happen, the future will tell. If it is up to me, it will definitely happen."

"That's not up to me; I leave that to them. I just try to enjoy every day now and



**Ziyech**

do my thing.

"What the future brings, we'll see then. Like I said, I hope it happens one day. Whether it will happen is not up to me."

Ziyech established himself among the elite attackers in European football at Ajax, most notably playing a key role in their run to a domestic double and Champions League semi-final in 2018-19.

Chelsea supporters have not yet seen that kind of form from the Morocco international, as he has recorded just nine goals and eight assists in his first 54 games while struggling with niggling injuries.

Ziyech has shown signs of improvement recently, though, scoring in a 2-1 win over Watford before setting up a goal for Mason Mount in the Blues' 3-2 loss at West Ham on Saturday.

ARSENAL coach Mikel Arteta has expressed his concern about Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's lack of goals for the team.

**Goal** said that, the Gabon star is yet to find the back of the net for the Gunners since October 22.

The 32-year-old has not scored in his last five appearances and his last goal dates back to October 22, in their 3-1 victory over Aston Villa.

Despite his recent struggles, Aubameyang remains the club's top scorer with seven goals in all competitions - four in the league and three in the League Cup.

Ahead of their trip to Goodison Park to face Everton on Monday, Arteta revealed that the 2016 African Footballer of the Year is trying his best to rediscover his goalscoring form.

"You are always [concerned]

# Arteta concerned by Aubameyang's goal drought

when your main striker isn't scoring goals but he is trying his hardest," Arteta told the club's website.

"He is aware of how much we need him as a team to score goals and, at the moment, they are not coming but the rest of the things we are asking him to do, he is trying his best."

Emile Smith-Rowe, Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and Martin Odegaard have stood out for Arsenal with goals in their last four matches.

Arteta clarified his statement when he charged the senior players to step up their performances.

"What I said is that the senior players are the ones

who have to lead and the younger players are the ones who have to follow," the Spanish coach said.

"We need that balance in the performances on the pitch and as well off the field. We are getting that balance right and we have to continue not to rely too much on the rest and this is a team, it's not two teams that are split, and we need that balance and to manage those moments."

"First of all [I will] keep demanding the best from everybody and ask them for things they can do and they can do well, and do well consistently - and that's what I try to do all the time."

# NUJ holds SWAN to a 2-2 draw in football tourney

**From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

The Sports Writers Association of Nigerian (SWAN), FCT chapter were on Monday in Abuja forced to a 2-2 draw by the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), FCT Council, in a classic novelty football match to herald the 2021 FCT SWAN Week.

In what was his first official outing after

winning a reelection into office, NUJ FCT Council Chairman, Emmanuel Ogbeche showed his leadership qualities as he led the NUJ to a respectable draw against a much younger SWAN team.

The football match played at the Turf Arena, River Plate Garden Abuja, was officiated by the SA to the FCT Minister of State, Mustapha Mubdiyu and had the presence of

big wig media practitioners in the nation's capital.

A comprehensive results of the football matches played on the first day of the SWAN Week shown that, Cool Wazobia FM walked over NTA (3-0), Nigeria Info beat ITV 5-1, Vision FM walloped Love FM 3-0, while it was TSTV beat Liberty TV 3-0.

The last match of the day saw TVC played out a highly entertaining 3-3 draw with Arise TV but Arise eventually triumphed 3-1 on penalties.

# I won't rule out PSG stay - Mbappe

KYLIAN Mbappe has admitted that he cannot rule out extending his stay at Paris Saint-Germain, as the France international continues to be linked with an end-of-season move to Real Madrid.

**Goal** said that, the forward spent most of the off-season heavily tipped to move to La Liga, with the Parisian outfit knocking back two major offers for his services.

The forward spent most of the off-season heavily tipped to make the move from Ligue 1 to La Liga, with the Parisian outfit knocking back two major offers from Los Blancos for his services.

With his contract set to expire at the end of the current campaign, Mbappe has still been widely tipped to depart for Santiago Bernabeu - but now, while voicing his frustration on his failed exit, he has acknowledged that he may yet remain at Parc des Princes.

"I don't know," Mbappe stated in an Amazon Prime interview when asked about his future. "Today I have to take the time. It is not easy. Either way, I'll be playing for a big club."

"At first I was disappointed [not to leave]. But well, I am not in the third division, I am in a club that wants to win the Champions League. I am Parisian, I have my family, I feel good, I have always said it. I just wanted to discover something else."

Mbappe's desire to leave PSG coincided with the arrival of childhood hero Lionel Messi to the club, and while Mauricio Pochettino's side have stormed clear atop Ligue 1, the combined performances of Mbappe, Messi and Neymar have somewhat failed to live up to the hype.

Mbappe admitted the star trio can improve, adding: "We're aware that we need to do more. When you have three players of that level, you can't hide from it. We need to do the things that keep us together as a collective. We each have to do our bit."

Asked if he is the "boss" at PSG, Mbappe replied: "It's difficult. When you play with Neymar and Messi, it's cheeky to call yourself the boss."

"Now, I'm in a good spell, the team is doing well. We really don't care about who

the boss is. The goal is to put all three of us in the right conditions because we're

# Salah responds to Barcelona transfer speculation

MOHAMED Salah says he is "happy" to hear that Barcelona want to sign him but insists he would rather stay at Liverpool.

**Goal** said that, the Egypt international has an admirer in new Barca boss Xavi but he would rather remain in the Premier League than head to Camp Nou.

Recent reports in Spain claim that new coach Xavi is determined to bring the 29-year-old to Camp Nou as his side look to strengthen their attack.

The Egypt international is in talks to sign a contract extension at Anfield, however, with his current deal set to expire in the summer of 2023.

Although he is flattered by the interest from the Catalan team, Salah is determined to commit his future to Liverpool.

"I read what was said about Xavi's interest to sign me," he said to Egyptian broadcaster MBC.

"This is something that makes me happy that a team like Barcelona is interested in

game-changers. It's better that way."

me, but I'm happy in Liverpool and we will see what happens in the future.

"At the moment, I prefer to stay in the Premier League as it's the strongest league in the world."

Although Salah would prefer to stay in England, he has admitted that the decision may be out of his control, as he waits on the club and his agent to come to an agreement.

"I said it several times, if the decision is up to me, I want to stay in Liverpool," he added. "But the decision is in the hands of the management and they have to solve this issue."

"There is no problem but we have to reach an agreement for the contract. It's up to them."

"Your financial value shows how much the club appreciates you and that they are ready to do anything for you to stay, but the decision itself is not based on those financial matters only."

"There are things like the ambition of the team and the

coach and what he wants to do with the team and the players he wants. These are all important points when making the decision."

Salah has been in consistent form for Jurgen Klopp's team this term, scoring 19 goals and providing nine assists

from 20 appearances in all competitions.

The Reds are currently second in the Premier League and have booked their place in the knockout stages of the Champions League as confirmed Group B winners.



**Salah**

## Sports



Djokovic played for Serbia at the recent Davis Cup finals

### Djokovic named in Serbia's ATP Cup despite uncertainty

NOVAK Djokovic has been named in Serbia's team for January's ATP Cup in Sydney despite uncertainty over his vaccination status.

**BBC SPORT** said that the 34-year-old world number one has yet to reveal whether he has been vaccinated against Covid-19.

To play in Sydney without being vaccinated, the New South Wales state government would have to apply for an exemption for him.

The record nine-time Australian Open champion has yet to commit to defend his title in Melbourne after organisers confirmed that

all players would need to be vaccinated.

Last week, Djokovic's father said that his son was unlikely to play in the opening Grand Slam of the year - which runs from 17-30 January - unless rules were relaxed.

Serbia have been drawn alongside Norway, Chile and Spain in Group A for the season-opening tournament, which will feature 16 teams and be hosted across two venues at the Sydney Olympic Park from 1-9 January.

However, Rafael Nadal will not feature for Spain as he continues his return from injury.

Britain are in Group C alongside Germany, Canada and the United States while defending champions Russia, led by world number two and US Open champion Daniil Medvedev, were grouped with this year's finalists Italy, Austria and hosts Australia.

THE governing body of tennis says it has not followed the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) in suspending tournaments in China because it "does not want to punish a billion people".

**BBC SPORT** said that, the WTA has halted tournaments in the region because of continued concern for Chinese player Peng Shuai, who has accused a top government official of sexual assault.

"As the governing body of tennis, we stand in support of all women's rights," said David Haggerty, president of the International Tennis Federation.

Peng, 35, was not seen for three weeks after going public with her allegations.

"The allegations need to be looked into, and we will continue to work behind the scenes and directly to bring this to resolution," Haggerty told BBC Sport.

"But you have to remember that the ITF is the governing body of the sport worldwide, and one of the things that we are responsible for is grassroots development.

"We don't want to punish a billion people, so we will continue to run our junior events in the country and

### ITF 'does not want to punish a billion people'

our senior events that are there for the time being."

The WTA said it had "serious doubts" that Peng was "free, safe and not subject to intimidation" and that it was concerned about potential risks to players and staff if it went ahead with events in China.

In response, China has said it "opposes the politicisation of sports".

WTA chief Steve Simon has been praised by many current and former players for putting principles above pockets.

However, the ATP, which oversees men's tennis, has been criticised for not following the WTA's stance.

A statement from the ATP on Thursday said it believes "having a global presence gives us the best chance of... making an impact".

The ITF has repeatedly said that its primary concern is Peng's wellbeing.

"We will continue to analyse the situation but

we feel that growing grassroots and making tennis available is an important element," Haggerty added.

"We will continue those efforts in conjunction with the Chinese Tennis Association."

Peng has had two video calls with the International Olympic Committee, which says it will have a "personal meeting" with the former doubles number one in January.



Chinese player Peng Shuai has accused a top Chinese official of sexual assault

### Hovland shoots 66 to win in Bahamas

NORWAY'S Viktor Hovland carded a six-under final-round 66 to win the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas. According to **BBC SPORT**, the 24-year-old

shot two eagles, five birdies and three bogeys to finish on 18 under.

Scottie Scheffler also hit 66 for his final round as he finished one shot adrift of Hovland.

Fellow American Collin Morikawa led by five shots going into the final round but ended up on 14 under after a four-over-par 76.

Hovland was six shots behind Morikawa going into Sunday and one of the

highlights of his final round was a holed bunker shot for his third eagle of the week on the 14th.

"I didn't think a win was going to be very plausible but I know this golf course is tricky," said Hovland.

"You can make a lot of birdies and make up a lot of ground but it's very easy to make bogeys and doubles.

"I knew if I put a good score up there you never

know what is going to happen."

England's Justin Rose (66) and Tyrrell Hatton (70) finished on 11 under, with compatriot Matt Fitzpatrick (69) one shot back.

American Bryson DeChambeau carded a final round 74, while Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy (70) ended up on six under.

### Diack: Disgraced athletics boss dies in Senegal

THE disgraced former head of world athletics' governing body Lamine Diack has died at home in Senegal, aged 88.

**BBC SPORT** said that, Diack, who was convicted of corruption last year, was president of World Athletics (formerly the International

Association of Athletics Federations, IAAF) from 1999 to 2015.

In September 2020, he was found guilty of corruption and money-laundering, linked to the Russian doping scandal.

A French court sentenced him to four years in prison, two of them suspended.

He was never jailed and

allowed to return to Senegal, where he remained under house arrest and was later released on bail.

"He died at home of a natural death," his son, Papa Massata Diack, said.

His funeral is due to be held later on Friday.

Diack's lawyers had previously said he was in poor health and would die if sent to prison.

Despite his conviction he still enjoyed support in Senegal with Cheikh Seck, the owner of Senegalese football club Jaraaf, paying a 500,000 euro (\$565,000 or £425,000 bond earlier this year that allowed Diack to return home.

"It was really important, we never imagined he could finish his life somewhere else."

In the past Seck described Diack as: "A worthy son of the nation, an all-round remarkable citizen."



Senegal's former World Athletics president Lamine Diack during his corruption trial in France in 2020



Hovland hit three eagles on the 14th during the tournament in the Bahamas

**Quest**



**writer**

**Prof. Amb. Yohanna Yakubu Azi**

**FRAGMENT**

**Today, the coming on board of the Hunters Group in the fight against terrorism is presenting a new \_ Strategy o tackle organised Crime, focusing on the signing into law of new specific law enforcement agencies such as the Hunters Council, boosting there synegy with other new and already existing law enforcement agencies and judicial cooperation, tackling organised crime structures and high priority crimes, removing criminal profits and ensuring a modern response to technological developments. Organised crime groups continue to develop and evolve, as shown by their rapid adaptation to the coronavirus pandemic, for example through the increase in kidnaping, terror activitise, counterfeit medical products and online crime.**

**Prof. Amb. Yohanna Yakubu Azi**

# Hunters and fight against terrorism in Nigeria

**T**ERRORISM is an insidious act common and conducted daily over decades and has been responsible for the physical and or structural violence experienced by many people in Nigeria (Udama, 2013). Terrorism has suddenly become a serious challenge Nigeria has been grappling with. The contemporary Nigeria society is engulfed by terrible acts of Terrorism.

Terrorism is globally becoming a household word as there is no nation that is completely absolved from its effect (Alao, Atere and Alao, 2012) It is so pervasive that no country on earth can claim immunity from its violent acts of bombing, shooting, armed robbery, kidnapping, hostage-taking and bank-robbery. The contemporary Nigeria society is engulfed by terrible acts of terrorism. The act of terrorism and general insecurity situations in Nigeria require that solution be sought to safe-guard the nation against balkanization and the educational system from collapse.

By known facts it is clear that terrorist tactics have been in use for a very long time, terrorists' increasing use of sophisticated weaponry and the consequences in terms of increased potential for mass casualties have led scholars and security experts to place high priority on understanding the "causes" of terrorism and the means by which it might be prevented. National security is a premise for national economic growth and development of nations. This is because peaceful nations attract foreign investors while the domestic investors freely operate the economy with little or no tensions and apprehensions.

A hunter is a person who hunts wild animal for food or as a sport. ( The hunter stalks their prey eg a deer hunter)

People who are searching for things of a particular kind are often referred to as hunters. ( eg job hunters, treasure hunters) in our current case we may say Boko haram hunter, bandits hunters, kidnappers hunters and the likes.

A person who looks diligently for something can be call a hunter.

Role of Hunters Council in the Fight Against Terrorism in Nigeria Thru Crime Prevention

"Prevention is the first imperative of justice " UNS/2004/616, para. 4)

"Crime Prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes.

Crime prevention is a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, and integrated endeavour.

The introduction to the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime indicates that: "There is clear evidence that well-planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimization, but also promote community safety and contribute to sustainable development of countries. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long-term benefits in terms of reducing the costs associated with the formal criminal justice system, as well as other social costs that result from crime." (Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex), (above) .

In 2005, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in its Resolution 2008/24 Strengthening prevention of urban crime an intergrated approach, encouraged member agencies to integrate crime prevention considerations into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes in order to effectively address the conditions in which crime and violence can emerge.

Hunters Council will promotes if given the mandate more by signing and presidential accent strategies, plans, and programmes, which are multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, and which favour civil society participation. Such strategies and action plans are underpinned by the basic principles for the prevention of crime and we the Hunters Council will follow the (Guidelines for the

Prevention of Crime, ECOSOC Resolution 2002/13 (Annex) (above) :

- Government leadership at all levels is required to create and maintain an institutional framework for effective crime prevention.

- Socio-economic development and inclusion refer to the need to integrate crime prevention into relevant social and economic policies, and to focus on the social integration of at-risk communities, children, families, and youth.

- Cooperation and partnerships between government ministries and authorities, civil society organizations, the business sector, and private citizens are required given the wide-ranging nature of the causes of crime and the skills and responsibilities required to address them.

- Sustainability and accountability can only be achieved if adequate resources to establish and sustain programmes and evaluation are made available, and clear accountability for funding, implementation, evaluation and achievement of planned results is established.

- Knowledge base strategies, policies and programmes need to be based on a broad multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge, together with evidence regarding specific crime problems, their causes, and proven practices.

- Human rights/rule of law/culture of lawfulness the rule of law and those human rights which are recognized in international instruments to which Member States are parties must be respected in all aspects of crime prevention, and a culture of lawfulness actively promoted.

- Interdependency refers to the need for national crime prevention diagnoses and strategies to take into account, where appropriate, the links between local criminal problems and international organized crime.

- The principle of differentiation calls for crime prevention strategies to pay due regard to the different needs of men and women and consider the special needs of vulnerable members of society.

Today, the coming on board of the Hunters Group in the fight against terrorism is presenting a new \_ Strategy o tackle organised Crime, focusing on the signing into law of new specific law enforcement agencies such as the Hunters Council, boosting there synegy with other new and already existing law enforcement agencies and judicial cooperation, tackling organised crime structures and high priority crimes, removing criminal profits and ensuring a modern response to technological developments. Organised crime groups continue to develop and evolve, as shown by their rapid adaptation to the coronavirus pandemic, for example through the increase in kidnaping, terror activitise, counterfeit medical products and online crime.

We know today in Nigeria that Organised crime groups use their large illegal profits to infiltrate the licit economy and public institutions, including via corruption, eroding the rule of law and fundamental rights and undermining people's right to safety as well as their trust in public authorities.

While national authorities operating on the ground are on the frontline in the fight against organised crime, action of bring the Hunters Council and other needed security outfits in partnerships are paramount to ensure effective cooperation as well as information and knowledge exchange among security authorities, supported by a common criminal law framework and effective financial means.

To overcome the Fight Against Terrorism in Nigeria, the Hunters group should be empowered by law to role out a Strategy which must be sets out as tools and measures to be used in taken over from the terrorist with a program of a duration of the next 5 years to disrupt the business models and structures of criminal organisations



**Dabat**

across borders, both online and offline which can better be implimented when the Hunters Group are signed into law with a presidential accent.

We know " Criminal syndicates increasingly use new technologies and seize any opportunity to expand their illegal activities, online or offline. The recent emblematic cases like EncroChat have exposed how sophisticated these organised crime networks are. This shows how important our efforts to tackle organised crime across borders are. Today's Strategy will help hit these criminals where it hurts the most, by undermining their business model which thrives on a lack of coordination between states."

With the measures we're proposing today, we'll be moving from occasional police cooperation to permanent police partnerships, and we'll follow the?fuel and food? to catch criminals in financial investigations and there hide outs and that of their sponsors."

The Strategy aims to:

- Boost law enforcement and judicial cooperation: This can be achieved by

- Transport routes of drugs, firearms or counterfeit products span across the whole country through a nation and possible a global supply chain. Mobile organised crime groups engaged in organised property crime move quickly across multiple jurisdictions to carry out their crimes. By operating across different jurisdictions, criminal groups avoid detection and exploit the differences of the applicable national laws.

- Smooth exchange of and timely access to information-

- In an area of freedom, security and justice, where there are no internal border controls, a high level of security can be ensured through robust policing and judicial cooperation across Member States and member agencies. Timely access to information, in full respect of fundamental rights and in particular data protection, is essential for the fight against all forms of organised crime.

- Investigators working in isolation in one Member State or agency are often not able to establish the involvement of an organised crime group behind a specific crime.

- Advanced cooperation frameworks

- Member agencies have to form complemented frameworks with a complex set of bilateral and multilateral agreements. As a result, the level of cooperation between authorities is uneven, creating operational obstacles preventing effective cross border cooperation. That is the more reason why this must not be encouraged.

- The authorities will create trust and bond. This will draw on the results of an ongoing external study and will be based on a thorough consultation process, taking into account the competence of Member

authorities.

- International cooperation

- Law enforcement cooperation beyond the nation is necessary to disrupt global criminal networks and transport routes. It is essential to step up international cooperation including through the activities of the relevant justice and home affairs

- Support more effective investigations to disrupt organised crime structures and focusing on high and specific priority crimes: The Commission is also presenting today a Strategy dedicated to combatting the migration of criminals using forest and other local means.

- Stepping up efforts on tackling organised crime structures. The focus of law enforcement investigations should not stop at the seizure of illegal items or the arrest of low-level criminals, but target actors and networks which are the backbone of criminal ecosystems.

- With most criminal organisations structured around a core group or in a hierarchical way, the organised crime landscape is characterised by a networked environment where different groups and individuals systematically cooperate through 'joint ventures' within loose and fluid criminal networks.

- A tailor-made response to specific forms of crime

- Hunters Council will know with specifics of the variety of criminal activities, with most criminal groups involved either in drugs trafficking, manufacturing of arms, movement of arms, organised property crime, followed by fraud (including customs, excise and VAT fraud), migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. While some groups are specialised in a particular criminal market, others are increasingly poly-criminal, using the profits of one criminal activity to finance their expansion into other crime areas. Specific forms of crime require a dedicated response from a legislative and policy perspective.

- Reinforcing asset recovery and anti-money laundering measures, promoting financial investigations

- Having understood the fundamentally relies on the ability to launder vast amounts of criminal profits, it give The Hunters Council a fighting chance. The fight against criminal finances needs to be reinforced.

- In addition, the ability to deprive criminals from their illegally obtained assets is further hindered by the narrow scope of the confiscation legal framework in terms of assets and criminal activities covered.

- It is equally necessary to further promote a culture of early financial investigations in all Member States and to build up investigators' capacity to tackle the financial dimension of organised crime.

- Stepping up anti-corruption measures

- Corruption is a central part of the modus operandi of organised crime groups. They bribe, intimidate and use force on public officials and personnel in key entities such as ports to stay off the radar, obtain information or to facilitate their activities.

- Addressing infiltration in the economy and society

- Criminal groups invest part of their considerable earnings in legal businesses across sectors as varied as real estate and construction, transportation or hospitality. By controlling companies in those sectors, criminal organisations are able to launder the illegal assets and maximise their profits. Organised crime infiltration hurts the licit economy and distorts market rules. Due to the economic situation generated by the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a heightened risk of organised crime taking over weakened companies and infiltrating entire business sectors. There is already proof of criminal attempts to defraud the various financial mechanisms established to support economic recovery. In order to address this threat and to identify key points for intervention and awareness raising, Member States and Europol need to

build up the intelligence picture about the scale and degree of criminal investments, the infiltration methods and the sectors at risk. Local authorities should be empowered, in full respect of fundamental rights, to set up barriers that protect the economic fabric against organised crime.

The local dimension is also key to reduce the space for criminal groups to fill their ranks. Individuals raised in an organised crime environment and in socio-economically deprived areas are most vulnerable to recruitment for criminal activities. Starting from petty criminality or minor roles in the organisation, they will become the members and leaders of tomorrow's criminal organisations. Targeted actions in neighbourhoods and communities have proven successful in offering alternatives that prevent young people from joining a life of violence and crime. Moreover, crime prevention activities such as the Hunters Council, Nigerian Peace Corps and community policing to creat awareness campaigns in areas particularly affected by criminal activity are essential to raise the resilience of society against the activities of organised crime groups. The

Making law enforcement and the judiciary fit for the digital age

Access to digital leads and evidence

The search for leads and evidence, including lawful access to communications data, is the cornerstone of law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, bringing criminals to justice. As our lives and activities have moved online more than ever, footprints of crime are also digital. Organised crime is planned, executed and concealed online, marketing illegal substances and products and finding ingenious ways to launder profits, unhindered by physical borders. The scale of the problem is amplified by fast developing technologies.

Effective tools and technologies

Law enforcement authorities often do not have the means to acquire the right tools needed for conducting digital investigations. More than 80% of crimes today have a digital component; even when crimes are committed offline, almost every law enforcement officer and prosecutor needs to know the basics of how to investigate crime online. To detect and prosecute organised crime, investigators need to detect suspicious online activity, to track virtual currencies criminal transactions, to understand what they found (data can be encrypted or must be put in context with other data), to preserve the data and to use them as electronic evidence in court.

There is a pressing need to increase the capacity and capabilities of non-specialised law enforcement and prosecution services. In addition, digital investigations expertise in specific areas such as the Internet of Things forensics is lacking. Law enforcement authorities and the judiciary need to keep pace with the fast developing technologies used by criminals and their cross-border activities. This requires coordination in developing tools and trainings, among Member authorities and across sectors in areas such as digital forensics, open source intelligence, cryptocurrencies, and darkweb investigations, e.g. to gain access to, and where possible take down, forums selling illegal goods and services.

Improving access to skills, knowledge and operational expertise

While research and analysis of digital evidence is at the heart of the majority of investigations, the level of necessary skills in the field of criminal procedure, tactics and techniques for digital investigation or digital forensics is still not available in some Member authorities and needs to be broadened and deepened in most. In addition, access to cutting-edge operational expertise in specific areas such as the Internet of Things forensics remains an issue for a number of Member States.