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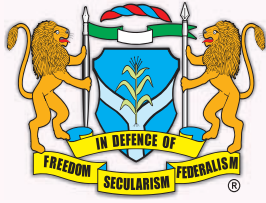
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EVE'S WORLD

Kanam, Wase massacre:

Killer bandits ransack Plateau

When the local citizens of Kukawa, Gyambawu, Dungur, Kyaram, Yelwa, Dadda, Wanka, Shuwaka, Gwammadaji and Dadin Kowa in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas of Plateau State woke up thinking they would find strategies of solving their routine contemporary challenges last Sunday, they had no premonition of the doom which would envelop them few hours later. While some within the Muslim dominated areas had gone to their farms clearing their lands in anticipation of another rainy season, others who had returned from their places of worship were relaxing within the vicinity of their homes and neighborhoods. Turn to pages 10,31



Editorial

Making Plateau the business hub of Nigeria

PRIOR to the advent of democratic governance in 1999, Plateau State had outshined many states within the Middle-Belt axis of the country as an attractive business hub. It became home to multi-national companies such as; Jos International Breweries [JIB], BARC farms, NASCO Nig. Ltd, Jos Steel Rolling Mills Ltd, DANET Holdings, Grand Cereals Ltd, Nigeria Electricity Supply Company [NESCO], Amalgamated Tin Mines Nigeria [ATMN] and a hosts of others most of which are either closed or moribund.

DURING the old good days, these companies offered the best corridors of business activities with the creating of jobs and at the same time widening the frontiers of vast opportunities for both Nigerians and foreigners in different sectors of the Nigerian economy such as; in the mining of solid minerals, agriculture, power, construction, beverages and other household products etc.

ABOVE all, these added a boost to the Direct Foreign Investment [DFI] profile of the state which had enjoyed steady progress in terms of creating clusters of other businesses like the Small and Medium Enterprises [SMEs] which had impacted on the socio-economic growth among its citizens.

TODAY, the story is quite different and shocking that the state which is blessed with a clement weather and different solid mineral deposits including varieties of well sought-after flowers and vegetables such as; tomatoes, carrots, cucumber, yellow pepper apart from other rare food produce like the Irish potatoes, hungry rice, apples, coffee and a variety of herbs scattered across the state has now suffered a major setback.

PERHAPS, the recent listing of Plateau State by the National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], as one of 24 states that attracted zero foreign investments in 2021, attests to the fact that the state government needs to do something fast to bring in foreign Investment to tap from the huge resources found in the state, for greater economic development of the state.

UNFORTUNATELY, in what looks like a common draw back for the country on a larger perspective where issues of insecurity, lack of constant power supply and government's inconsistencies in business policies and other unfriendly attitudes might be responsible for the relocation of businesses from Nigeria to other neighbouring countries.

IT is, indeed sad, that government whose primary responsibility of creating the necessary framework for the attraction of Direct Foreign Investment [DFI] has completely relinquished its mandate to individuals who are also overwhelmed by the harsh economic realities of the present day. This also explains the high level of unemployment, poverty and surge in criminal activities in the society.

THEREFORE, there is need for the Plateau state Government to change its approach by introducing reforms and remove all forms of bureaucracy in handling business partnership that would propel government ministries like that of Commerce and Industry, Tourism and Culture, Agriculture and agencies such as; the Plateau Investment and Property Company [PIPC] and the Plateau Investment and Development Agency to come up with far reaching business blue-prints that would showcase the vast business potentials of Plateau State with a view to bringing back the lost glory and build the confidence of potential investor to the state.

WE believe that once there is a will on the part of government, there will also be a way. For this reason, we urge the Plateau State Government to do the needful by walking the talk and by placing priority on the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises [SMEs] as a step that can boost the process of improving the chances for direct investment into the state.

NEWS

Lalong, security heads visit 3 invaded LGAs

By PALANG KASMI

Concerned with the recent attacks in some communities in Plateau State that have left scores dead and many casualties, Governor Simon Bako Lalong has visited the Local Governments affected. **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** had reported earlier that gun-weilding bandits attacked Kukawa, Gyanbahu, Daungur and Kerem in Kanam Local Government killing over 100 persons last week, with similar attacks meted on Ancha Bassa Local in April 2021, and Pinau community of Wase in December 2021, a situation that resulted to deaths and economic losses.

The Governor, alongside security chiefs and top officials of his cabinet in a 2-day tour from Thursday April 14 visited Bassa Local Government before culminating the condolence visits with Kanam and Wase LGA's.

Lalong said he visited the LGA's to condole with the people over the incessant killings and destruction of properties in some of their communities which are a major setback to the progress of the entire state and assured the stakeholders that relief materials from the Federal and state Government will reach Internally Displaced Persons, while more security will be deployed to confront the bandits who are said to be operating across inter-state borders.

At Miango, Bassa Local Government Area where he first visited, the Governor commended the Irigwe people for their resilience, patience and efforts to live in peace with their neighbours despite the losses they have incurred overtime from attacks by criminal elements. He praised them for their positive attitude towards peace building which led them to signing a peace pact with the Fulani with whom they have lived together peacefully for a long time.

Lalong urged them to resist the incitement and provocation by criminal elements both external and internal who seek to stop the development of the area and the prosperity of the state, assuring them that Government will follow them and ensure that they are dealt with ruthlessly.

The Bra Ngwe Irigwe HRH Rev. Ronku Aka, Chairman of the Irigwe Development Association Mr. Robert Dodo, Irigwe Youth Movement President, Mr. Ezekiel Bini asked for the quick passage of the Ranching Bill currently in the Plateau State House of Assembly in order to deal with the issue of open grazing that is at the centre of the attacks and displacement in the area, appealing to the Government to empower the vigilante groups so as to enable them provide first line of defence and intelligence against any attack.

At Kanam Local Government Area, Lalong began with a condolence visit to the Emir of Kanam, Muhammad Babangida Muazu before proceeding

to the Kanam General Hospital, Dengi to visit victims receiving treatment. The governor assured them that Government will settle their medical expenses, including those getting attention at the Jos University Teaching Hospital.

Chairman of Kanam, Local Government, Hon. Dayyabu Garga condemned the horrific killing of 106 abled- youths and people from his Local Government in the mayhem saying this is the first time such heinous killings is happening and the incident has left his people, who have been known as peaceful in a traumatic state to deal with losses of lives, properties and displacement.

The Lawmaker representing Pankshin, Kanke, Kanam Federal Constituency, Hon. Yusuf Gaggi appreciated the Governor and security agencies for sending security personnel to dominate the affected areas and for working to restore confidence and hope to the people.

During the Wase Local Government visit and Town Hall meeting, the Chairman Dr. Ado Buba told the team that the council conducted a one week joint security patrol to comb out the attackers which was successful, however two security operatives lost their lives.

The Chairman also disclosed that 14 villages have been deserted by its inhabitants and quite a number currently under threat and called for diligent prosecution of those arrested in connection to the killings and the establishment of army formations in borders which the Local Government shares with Taraba and Bauchi States.

PLSG set to access World Bank funded programme

By DUMAH RANDONG

THE Plateau State government said it will fulfill all conditions needed to enable it access from the 500 million US dollars World Bank funded Programme for the implementation of the Adolescent Girl's Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) in the state.

Governor Simon Lalong gave this indication while inaugurating a Steering Committee on monitoring and implementation of the project at Government, House, Rayfield, Jos, recently.

The five year project which is an initiative of the Federal Government and funded by the World Bank is to reduce gender gap in Secondary Education, improve completion rate and labour market transition among adolescent and girls in seven selected states including Borno, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina Kebbi and Plateau.

Represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, Lalong said the 500 million US dollar programme was anchored on three components which included safe and accessible learning, fostering an enabling environment for girls, and project management and system strengthening.

He said the state government will construct 35 Junior Secondary Schools across the 17 LGAs with facilities such as classrooms, toilets, multipurpose halls, examination halls, boreholes, Laboratories among others.

Similarly, 20 Senior Secondary Schools will be constructed in the 17 LGAs with similar facilities just as large grants would also be given to 300 SSS and JSS for rehabilitation of 100 Secondary Schools across the Local Government Areas.

Lalong said similar Digital Skills Training in 80 selected Senior Secondary Schools will be extended to adolescent girls while Conditional Cash Transfer will also be given to 111,137 adolescent girls who cannot continue school as a result of financial challenges.

He said the high value programme will assist the state take a giant leap in improving secondary education in the state.

Governor Lalong stressed that as steering committee, they have a huge task of ensuring that the goals of the

government were achieved and components of the programme implemented to the latter.

The governor urged them to give their best as they were selected based on their competence and track record of service noting that government depends on them to make the dream of providing quality education especially to the indigent ones possible.

The thirteen member Steering Committee has the Commissioner of Secondary Education, Mrs Elizabeth Wapmuk as Chairman.

The Committee has the following terms of reference: To track performance progressively using approved key performance, address critical issues that could hinder the implementation of the project, ensure effective communication and access information and monitor feedback and

grievance redress.

Others were monitoring of the project implementation and outcome achievement and review the implementation of the state project and forward the analysis and conclusion to the state project unit among others.

Responding, Chairman of the Committee and Commissioner of Secondary Education, Elizabeth Wapmuk said the initiative was critical to the development of the country noting that lack of girl-child education was responsible for moral decadence and child mortality.

Wapmuk commended Governor Lalong for ensuring Plateau was among the selected states and thanked him for finding them worthy for the assignment and promised to justify the confidence reposed in them by doing their best.

Senate passes NHC bill into law

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Red Chamber of Nigeria's National Assembly, has passed into law the Nigeria Hunters Council (NHC) Bill and renamed it as the Nigeria Hunters and Forest Security Service (NHSS) with the mandate to prevent forest crime and bush forest fire.

They are to arrest, investigate and hand over to the police for further prosecution any person found committing any form of criminal activity in the forest or any other matter as directed by the Minister of Interior.

Senator Abiodun Olujimi, the former Senate Minority Leader, introduced the bill before the Senate for the first time on June 15, 2020, and it was read for the second time a few months later.

The Senate read and passed it into law with the new name Nigeria Hunters and Forest Security Service (NHSS), affiliated to the Federal Ministry of Interior, after it had gone through all of the legislative processes.

The Chairman Senate Committee on Interior, Senator Ibrahim Kazeem Shettima, while presenting the report of the public hearing and total submission to the Senate, said: "having considered recent developments in Nigeria's security sector, seeing how armed bandits, Fulani herdsmen, Boko Haram,

kidnappers, and other criminals have turned Nigeria's forest into their own estate and used it to terrorize good citizens because there is no adequate governmental mechanism in place to address this aspect of our national life, We cannot, as a nation, remain passive and allow things to continue as they are.

By signing this bill into law, we will be taking a big stride forward. Mr. President, I believe we are sitting on gun powder if we don't take the bull by the horns right now and do what needs to be done. Most of the gains documented in terms of internal security during my stint as Governor of Borno State were as a result of my Administration's ability to understand and maximize the inbuilt and embedded experiences of the Hunters in Borno. So I submit," he explained.

Furthermore, shortly after the bill was passed, Senate President Dr. Ahmed Lawan, urged the Federal Executive Council, led by President Muhammad Buhari GCFR, to sign the bill into law as soon as possible to save Nigeria and Nigerians from the threat of insecurity, citing the recent breach in Kaduna, where some people suspected to be armed bandits invaded the airport, grounded an already boarded plane, and attacked the Kaduna-Abuja train, killing and maiming passengers.



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum**
On Sunday

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"The women occupy a prime position in the consideration of political parties. Whether that is true or not remains to be seen about how they are treated when it comes to political positions. Often time, and generally in the history of Nigeria, for years without apologies, they are considered good for the kitchen and procreation."

FROM all indications, it appears there are no women politicians on the Plateau. Or so it seems; going by what is currently on ground, we are tempted to think that the men have 'warned' them to stay off the political terrain. What could be the obvious reason if not that the women have chicken out for the men?

Whatever is responsible for their silence, methinks, there is more to it than meets the eye. Without sounding knowledgeable of the caliber of women in these parts, more is expected of their showing than just being mere spectators in the political game.

The women occupy a prime position in the consideration of political parties. Whether that is true or not remains to be seen about how they are treated when it comes to political positions. Often time, and generally in the history of Nigeria, for years without apologies, they are considered good for the kitchen and procreation.

Many who have seen them perform can testify that there is more to it than we have ever imagined. They have proven themselves and even more in more areas than one that they have the capacity to deliver than most men.

I have been worried, so are many others, that since the beginning of political activities in this part, what we have seen the women done is to serve as mere appendages-as support group of the many men, who are today angling to become Plateau's number one citizen.

I may be wrong in my observation, but pray tell me what may not be right about my observation and wish for women that they should also dominate the political space by offering leadership. You are aware as many that there are a number of inhibiting factors that seem to work against women politicians.

The men are easily on the winning side than the women. Whether it is customary or traditional to imagine that women are not born leaders, we have been proven wrong on many occasions that the men could disappoint when it matters most.

There are hindrances for even educated women in politics. Apart from the fact that they 'encounter gender stereotypes that assign leadership to men, sexual assault, pay gaps and unpaid labour, including child care and housework, placing them at a disadvantage'. But if there is anything that is more disturbing, it is the lack of political will and action by government that will drive the process of giving space to women; however, this can be remedied through a level playing ground.

The question to ask is why are there few women that want to be in leadership positions? There are multiple factors, which have to do with the high cost of politics standing in the way of women gunning for positions. Truth is, 'often women don't have enough money to pay for the mandatory expression of interest and nomination forms required by political parties to run for positions

Where are the women politicians?



Tallen

on their platforms'.

In these parts, raising money to take care of campaign costs is exorbitant and mostly cannot be afforded by women politicians, therefore, even on account of the outright discrimination by men, they are likely to find it difficult going through the process of getting leadership positions in states and at the national level.

Above all, 'cultural or religious norms surrounding marriage, indigeneship - a concept that recognizes only ethnic groups native to a particular state - and the structures that portray women as subordinate to men', have not helped matters. No wonder, most women suffer going through all these impediments over the years.

The more educated one is, the higher the degree of opposition for her candidacy. Those stereotypes are the more encouraged as the men lay claim to leadership; even as it is apparent that the women are disadvantage as a result of child care, housework and lack of the war chest to prosecute the process to a conclusion.

I am aware as many that the media do not sufficiently give them access to coverage. Everyone, even media men and women think that they should not be given a chance as political positions are traditionally men's. Perhaps, as a Reporter who has repeatedly required women politicians for interviews over the years, I am tempted to think that sometimes they are not confident. I do not

demean them; I have great respect for them. I have been frustrated on several occasions 'chasing' after some of them for months to speak to; at best they ignore my calls and treat me as if I am a nuisance.

There have been some, I keep 'cajoling' for weeks running. When they eventually do, they discover that my insistence was harmful after all; had they known they would have given in, as they found out that they were largely going to be promoted. They need to be healed of such strong holds that place them at disadvantage when reporters are looking for newsmakers. The reporters do not wait for ages to get their sources sorted out before the editors come breathing on their necks.

Someone wrote, and if you believe me, I stand with the writer: What used to be in our consideration of women has since changed. If the women are united, they can swallow their spaces, for 'over the years, I've witnessed a rise in the number of women serving in elected and appointed political position, the world over. But that is not the case for Nigerian women'. It is for this reason that I am worried that there is yet to be done by Nigerian women political office seekers.

I am aware that the participation of women in politics will help 'to bring attention to issues that uniquely affect them, and to change attitudes towards gender'. Indeed women issues have ggle,

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Repeatedly, we have been told the women are their current problem; and except they work on it, for long shall they continue to play the second fiddle. Whatever that means, I know for a fact that the power of organization has not left them; they have only failed to utilize same for their good. While we wait, we can only imagine how things would have been had the women kept the discussion on the front burner.

become a means for the struggle, arguing 'that women should be given a chance to compete equally with men. These polarising schools of thought limit the efficiency of protocols, conventions and quota systems as ways to get women into leadership'.

In Africa, particularly in South Africa and Rwanda, the role of women is not taken for granted, that is why their voices are not drown in those of the men. 'In Rwanda, over 50 per cent of political positions are held by women. Affirmative action or a quota system provides role models. Seeing women in positions of power can encourage others to confidently aspire to leadership positions.

'Affirmative action also promotes diversity and increases opportunities for a disadvantaged group. It can decrease the potential for conflict as members of society begin to find themselves at the same level, politically, economically and socially'.

There are a number of things that can be done by the women. It has been noted elsewhere that 'first, training is crucial. Women need training in the fundamentals of politics. They need to understand grassroots politics and start from there. When people are unknown at the grassroots, they aren't successful.

'Another way is networking and mentoring. Women also need to see that politics is not all dirty. They need to see governance as what affects every member of a society.

'Legislative changes are needed too and that is where affirmative action comes in. A quota system that reserves a fraction of electoral positions for women can be legislated.

'Financial support is crucial. Some women can't afford to buy party forms. And when payment for forms is waived for women, they are often made to step down

for the man who has paid. Women need financial support that will not impede on their rights to participate or vie for positions.

'Women must also ensure that only women who are efficient and have the capacity to lead are encouraged to vie for positions.

'The media must change their attitude towards political coverage of women. They sometimes project women in ways that are not relevant to leadership, politics or election. The media must help educate people of the dangers of cultural norms and harmful gender stereotypes, and monitor fairness in elections. There are cases where election violence has badly and specifically affected women. The media have to report these and hold perpetrators accountable.

'Advocating for affirmative action at the state and political party level is also important. Political parties have been known to tell a woman to step down from the electoral process. This must stop'.

I have gone round and round, however, essentially, it was meant for those who know Plateau State and the abundance of women to ask certain questions on where they stand regarding their place in the political calculations of governance.

To be frank, I am aware of the caliber of women that Plateau has, as many other states; which may want to showcase its potentials. My worry is sincerely premised on the fact that the issues raised above daily affect them.

There is need to know what they are thinking. Except they are ready to spring a surprise before long, we may face no woman political office seeker for the office of the governor. It is high time they got their acts together if they want to make any headway.

Repeatedly, we have been told the women are their current problem; and except they work on it, for long shall they continue to play the second fiddle. Whatever that means, I know for a fact that the power of organization has not left them; they have only failed to utilize same for their good. While we wait, we can only imagine how things would have been had the women kept the discussion on the front burner.

We have to keep asking questions as to how the South African and Rwandan women achieved their current status. They didn't go to war; they only kept the debate on the front burner and as civilized and people who understand current moves, today it is history that they are a reference point. It will be interesting to have women voices in all arms of governance. They have made marks any time they are given the opportunity to serve in whatever capacity.

If this is anything to go by, it must be stated: The political space will appear drab if they are left out of the calculations. Except if they decide not to be part of the game, for reasons that are best known to them, we can then excuse them and wish them well.



The many faces of domestic violence

In my formative years, it was an accepted norm for a man to beat his wife. There was nothing like woman battery. I have witnessed my grandfather beating my grandmothers for an offence as little as answering back as he was scolding them. Or calling any name close to his first or second name. It was a no go area for them. These women were married the traditional way and accepted that their husbands could beat them if they went over the line. But even at that time, our male folk were sensible enough to know that every discipline should take place within the boundary of love. One can not beat up a human being as if he is beating an animal. Even during my grandparents time, beating a woman and using your leg to kick, smash her face, her stomach etc, was not condoned. We have heard of women who sought refuge at their neighbours' house, before running for safety to their parents house. This is the right thing to do because when temper has flared, one can do what one will regret. Some years back, a Hausa young lady who got married to a butcher was always running home to tell her parents that she was dissatisfied with her husband. She married as a virgin and before she could acclimatise herself to the act of making love, her husband who used to take enhancers turned her to a sex slave. He would come back several times a day from the market to have his wife. It was not surprising she became pregnant immediately but her husband would not let off or reduce his tempo. In no time, a hatred for her husband built up. The young woman reported to her parents the situation on ground. Instead of addressing it, they dismissed her complaints by saying: 'marriage is all about patience'. One fateful day, her husband who had closed for the day, was relaxing in their sitting room when suddenly she was filled with one rage against her husband. Grapping a kitchen knife, she ran towards her husband and stabbed him in multiple places. When she realised what she had done, she cried out for help. As neighbours arrived the scene, she gave them a cock and bull story that they were attacked by armed robbers. But her story did not add up. There was no sign that anyone broke in. As the first suspect, she was taken for questioning. In the course of it, she confessed. The above case was purely

negligence on the part of parents who want to run their children's life. This case was an avoidable one if only the parents had listened to their daughter. Instead, they wanted her to live her life guided by the same rules that governed their lives. Another married woman said in her own case, the abuse she suffered was more of mental and psychology. This lady said she had a fight with her husband and after it, they kept malice. During that period, her husband developed an evil habit of taking off to Minna from where they lived in Abuja from Thursday to Sunday evening. She said her husband was quite aware of the fact that she could not sleep a hoot when she was alone. She used to lie awake, torturing herself with fearful pictures of horror figures. By the time their kids came for vacation, she was suffering high blood pressure. From every indication, most women who are being abused psychologically don't know. As far as their husband is not beating them, they believe he is not abusing them. I have seen women who are so terrorised by their husband that in his company they are jittery and not normal. One of such women said her husband likes shouting on her for no reason. For that reason, she prefers to be quiet in his company to avoid embarrassment. Similarly, another woman confided in her friends that her husband likes bringing her down. He laughed at her contributions, her dressing or anything she does. He calls her a fool and speaks to her harshly. It is no wonder that no one in his family respects her. This has affected her self esteem. She can't have friends, she avoids people because of the way her husband treats her. For the umpteenth time she is going into depression but her parents are still telling her to stay put and not bring disgrace to her family by seeking for divorce. They tell her that marriage and patience, go hand in hand. I wonder how many women will lose their lives like the popular Nigerian gospel artist that died recently as a result of beatings she received from her husband. Will we continue telling women who are abused that it is well (as stated Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen in her statement on the death of the gospel artist). Or give them a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on and advice them accordingly. Enough is enough!!!

NEWS

Plateau: WRAPA, stakeholders meet on VAPP Bill

MORE efforts are being intensified for collaboration by the Women Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) and other critical stakeholders to ensure that the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) and Gender Equal Opportunity Law laws come into effect in Plateau State. This was one of the resolutions at a one day workshop organised by Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) in Jos last Wednesday. Given its importance in the fight against violence against women, one time state chairperson of the Fideration of Women Lawyers, Barr Mary Izam emphasized that the workshop was meant to continue to encourage all relevant stakeholders on how these laws could be made to come into effect for the good of all. Mrs. Izam reiterated that the gathering was also to sensitise stakeholders on the status of the law and to give a highlight on the content of the law. In her views: "We want the public to know the content of the law and what the law has come to do, where the law is and where the law is going," she was reported as telling the participants. Plateau WRAPA Coordinator, Mrs. Jummai Madaki said to get what is workable and practicable, the programme



Tallen

engaged, legislators, ministries and non-governmental organisations because of their various efforts at making the laws to work in the state. To ensure that the laws work in the state, she said there was the need for proper synergy irrespective of political parties to implement the law. Also speaking at the event, Plateau State House of Assembly Speaker represented by Assembly woman, Esther Simi Dusu, who represents Jos North West in the Plateau House of Assembly, said that the bill "is all encompassing and it has

the interest of humanity". In Plateau State, the VAPP bill has been passed into law. However, it is awaiting assent by Governor Simon Bako Lalong. In the course of the workshop, an eleven person lobbying committee was constituted. It is to be headed by Distinguished Comrade Gad Peter Shamaki. The committee was mandated to among other things, work to get the buy in of government, House of Assembly and other critical stakeholders for the implementation of the laws in the state.

Buhari vows to punish perpetrators of Plateau massacre

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has described the killings of innocent residents of communities in Wase and Kanam Local Government Areas of Plateau State as heinous, vowing that the perpetrators must be identified and punished. This is even as the President also mourned the victims of a boat accident in Gidan Magana in Shagari Local Government area of Sokoto State. Gunmen killed at least 142 persons in fresh attacks on some communities in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas of Plateau State.

The attacks, which happened on Sunday, were carried out in Kukawa, Gyambawu, Dungur, Kyaram, Yelwa, Dadda, Wanka, Shuwaka, Gwammadaji, and Dadin Kowa communities of the state. The two local governments share boundaries but are not in the same senatorial districts. No fewer than 29 people died in the boat mishap in Sokoto State. The victims, mostly children and women, were crossing the river to fetch firewood when the boat they were on capsized, the head of the

village said. In two separate statements signed by his media aide, Garba Shehu, Mr Buhari expressed sadness over the attacks and the boat accident. Mr Buhari extended "condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the devastating incident, particularly the village head of Gidan Magana, Malam Muhammadu Auwal, who lost five of his children in the mishap." The President also directed the "Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to increase ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of riverine travel in the country.

NAF commences recruitment exercise

IN its continued effort aimed at boosting its recruitment drive to tackle various internal security challenges in the country, the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has commenced recruitment exercise for qualified candidates as Trades and Non-Trades Airmen/Airwomen for Basic Military Training Course 43/2022. This came in a statement signed by Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, Director of Public Relations & Information Nigerian Air Force HQ Abuja. The statement explained that the online registration

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja** which commenced on 11 April 2022 will end on 22 May 2022. In addition to other compulsory requirements, interested applicants must be Nigerian citizens by birth, medically and physically fit and must not have any criminal convictions by a court of law. Additionally, applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 22 for non-tradesmen/women and 18 and 25 years for tradesmen/women and must possess a minimum

academic qualification of 5 credits, including Mathematics and English Language in not more than 2 sittings in SSCE/NECO/GCE/NABTEB. Recruitment interview exercise will hold from 27 June to 28 August 2022. Applicants are to note that online registration and all other recruitment processes are FREE OF CHARGE and no payment should be made at any point throughout the Exercise. Interested applicants can apply online at www.nafrecruitment.airforce.mil.ng

POLITICS

2023: Northern youths storm Kogi to canvas support for Emeziele

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SOME youths from the northern part of Nigeria, recently, stormed Lokoja, the Kogi State capital canvassing support for the Central Bank Governor, Godwin Emeziele to contest for 2023 presidency under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The convener of the group, Mohammed Danlami, while addressing a press conference in Lokoja, maintained that Dr Emeziele remained APC's only chance to winning the 2023 presidential election.

He noted that the northern youth group was on a clarion call because they have realised that the unity of Nigeria is non negotiable. They stated that from time immemorial, Nigeria has been ruled by two blocs; the north and the south.

He decried the divisive ambition of some selfish northern politicians to disrupt the existing presidential zoning arrangement between the north and south, which had engendered the unity of Nigeria.

Danlami stressed that Nigeria as a country had passed through many challenges, and emphasized that what has been keeping us together as a country was the brotherhood we shared.

He noted that 'President Muhammadu Buhari, who is from the north would complete his eight years' tenure in 2023, and the fair thing to do is to zone presidency to the south and give them total support for the unity of Nigeria.

He said that as youths from northern Nigeria, they have consulted with 17 northern states and Kogi would be the 18th state in the series.

According to him, we have supported regular politicians long enough without tangible results. Let us try something different to support a technocrat.

"We, in the unified northern youths' forum, have realised that what Nigeria needs now is a detribalised Nigerian, who is very competent with capacity, and ready to transform all sectors of the Nigeria economy.

Also speaking, Mr Aliyu Sani, the Spokesperson of the group, reiterated that



Bello

the CBN Governor remained the APC's only chance to winning the 2023 presidential election. "The consensus card seems to be playing out well, and now that the 2023 general election approaches us, the techniques and magic of the consensus card must be employed once more for APC to retain power.

"But only that this time, one man must emerge from the consensus, a technocrat, versatile, with vast knowledge of the economy, the captain of Nigeria's apex Bank leading the

diversification of Nigeria's economy, the savior of an economy that was doomed and faith to crash unconditionally, a stabilizing force, hardworking and dedicated Gentleman, Dr Godwin Emeziele. He highlighted the tremendous achievements of the CBN Governor, adding that: "personally, Dr Godwin Emeziele is scandal free, never has there been any scandal attached to him from his days in the private sector to now in the Central Bank of Nigeria.

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) Ogori/Magongo House of Representatives aspirant, Dr. Abdullahi Sanni Ozomata has assured the people of the area that if given the nod the era of use and dump which has been the practice in the past will be brought to an end.

Dr. Ozomata gave the assurance when his campaign train stormed Ogori-Magongo Local Government Area in continuation of ward tour which began on Monday, 11th of April, and 2022.

The campaign train made a brief stopover at the All Progressives Congress (APC) Local Government Secretariat where the delegation led by Dr. Ozomata had an interface with Local Government Party Executives.

Dr. Ozomata while seeking for their support assured them of his resolve at involving the people of the area in the scheme of things if given the opportunity to serve.

"At the end of this contest, God's willing, with your support we hope to bring to an end the idea of use and dump in this constituency. We will do this by carrying all party executives along in whatever project we

Use and dump will come to an end

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

intend to execute in the local government area".

"A lot of projects had been brought to the community but most times do not pass through the right channel. In executing any project if you do not carry the people along you will not achieve the required results," he noted.

He said projects meant for the community will be properly executed by involving sons and daughters of Ogori Magongo in the project execution.

The APC aspirant noted that empowerment will be based on thorough needs assessment; hence he will keep interfacing with the people in order to address their challenges. "I have come here today to seek a relationship with the good people of Ogori-Magongo because it is only through friendship and partnership that we can build the community together. I cannot work in isolation" he reiterated.

Earlier, Ogori-Magongo APC Chairman, Hon. Ojo

Aturu appreciated Dr. Ozomata and his team for the good works he has started especially in the purchase of JAMB forms for students of the area among other projects, assuring him of total support from the area.

Hon. Aturu while assuring the aspirant of the peoples' support pleaded with party leaders to allow a level playing field for all contestants in order to come out with the best. Chairman of the Central Working Committee, Alhaji Abdulrahman Aziz Obini thanked the people for their show of love by coming out in numbers to receive Dr. Ozomata.

Alhaji Obini noted that Dr. Ozomata is a detribalized personality whose principle is premised on equity, fairness and justice.

He assured the people that the empowerment scheme embarked upon by the aspirant is just a tip of the iceberg, urging them to support Dr. Ozomata's ambition in order to enjoy more of his empowerments.

Bauchi: Muazu's son to contest for governor

THE eldest son of former Bauchi governor, Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu, has indicated interest to contest the 2023 Governorship election under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The aspirant who is called Ahmed Ahmadu Mu'azu Junior, his father's namesake has already purchased PDP nomination form and has established his campaign structure.

The Director-General of Ahmed Mu'azu Junior's campaign organisation, Dr Kabiru Garba Ilelah said that his motive for joining the contest is to create employment opportunities and accord priority to

From ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi

healthcare, education, agriculture, security, rural transformation and industrialisation in the state.

Ilelah said that one of the visions of Mu'azu junior is to employ hundreds of professionals that retired in various ministries in Bauchi State Civil Service for more than a decades without replacement.

He further said that Mu'azu will also ensure prompt payment of workers' salaries as well as to settle the backlog of gratuities and leave grants, adding that young Muazu is not contesting against the incumbent State Governor

Senator Bala Mohammed but is contesting because the Governor is now contesting for the Presidency seat.

"We noticed that Governor Bala Mohammed had already purchased the PDP nomination form to contest for the President of Nigeria in 2023. Young Mu'azu has a lot of respect for the incumbent Bauchi Governor whom he considered as his leader, elder statesman and a father".

"It is time for a generational shift in the leadership of the state where youths should brace up, take up leadership positions and demonstrate their capacity in governance. The gubernatorial aspirant Ahmed Ahmadu Mu'azu always appreciates the effort



Mu'azu

and giant strides made by former governors of the state

and the gigantic efforts, the present Governor is doing to uplift the state through roads constructions and rural transformation"

"Mu'azu will come with the agenda to create employment, settle gratuities, leave grants and industrialize the state.

The agenda of Ahmed Ahmadu Muazu is to consolidate what past leaders have done and build on it.

He wants to consolidate on people, policy and infrastructure with a view to getting Bauchi State working", he explained.

Ilelah advised the PDP to give a level playing ground to all aspirants during the primary election so that they can show their competence and capacity by convincing the people of what they have to offer to the good people of Bauchi state.

Bako emerges pioneer chairman of Nasarawa NNPP

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A Former Member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly Hon. Sidi Mohammed Bako has emerged as the pioneer Chairman of the New Nigeria Political Party (NNPP) in Nasarawa State.

Bako who emerged through a consensus arrangement along side all the State Exco or state working Committee, Zonal, Local Government and Ward ExcOs, stated that this is a good sign that

the party has began on a sound footing in the State.

Speaking with SUNDAY STANDARD via telephone interview, the NNPP Chairman expressed that satisfaction that party is making significant inroad in the state in view of the unprecedented acceptability it is recording.

"We have been accepted just like a new and beautiful bride indicating that we are on the right course as such since we

have the people we are therefore optimistic of having the needed political victory at all levels," he stated.

Bako who is also a one time Executive Chairman of Obi Local Government Council and a retired health worker further expressed delight with what he described as the significant wave the party is making not only in the state but in the country as a whole as a result of the good track records of its National leader Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso

the former Governor of Kano State.

On why he left the People's Democratic Party (PDP) where he was its factional chairman, the NNPP Chairman stated that it was due to injustice meted on him and his teeming supporters adding that all efforts to ensure a true reconciliation that would lead to placing a square-peg in square hole failed as such he was left with no option than to live to a place that would be better for him and for his teeming supporters.

SUNDAY POLITICS

APC condemns Kanam/Wase killings

THE Chairman of the All Progressives Congress in Plateau State, Hon. Rufus Bature has condemned in strong terms the killing of innocent people, mostly farmers from different communities in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas early last week.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Plateau State APC Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang.

According to the statement, the APC Chairman sees this dastardly act as a deliberate attempt by marauders to draw back the hands of the clock of the security architecture from this part of the state which had enjoyed a relative period of peace and tranquility.

Hon. Rufus Bature said these attacks are coming at a time that unsuspecting peasant farmers had gone to clear their farms preparatory to the farming season, calls for vigilance and more proactive measures by the citizens and security agencies in the state and the affected communities.

The statement added that the Chairman said his heart and those of the APC Exco in the state are with the families of those who lost



Bature

their loved ones and the entire people and management of the two local government areas and the government of Plateau state.

He call for quick recovery

for those receiving medical attention in various hospitals in the state and urged security agencies to speedily secure the release of all those abducted during these callous invasions.

... Assures network of retired teachers in politics

THE APC Chairman, Plateau State Chapter, Hon. Rufus Bature has assured the Network Of Retired Teachers In Politics (NORTIP) of his willingness to assist them in facilitating the payment of their entitlements.

Hon. Rufus Bature gave the assurance when the APC branch of the association paid him a courtesy visit at the Ewarewah House party

secretariat recently.

This was contained in a release signed by the Plateau State APC Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang.

According to the APC Chairman, he deeply feels the pains of retired teachers who have made great sacrifices in training all of us to be what we are in life.

He assured NORTIP, APC branch, that he would do

THE Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda has described the death of the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Simon Harry as a great loss to the government and people of Plateau, particularly the Pengana chieftdom.

This was contained in a condolence message by his Press Secretary, Sabastian Hommuk and made available to the **SUNDAY STANDARD**.

In his words: "Indeed, Plateau State has lost a gentleman whose track records of service and achievements within his short stay in office as Statistician General, speaks volume of his passion, commitment and honesty".

He noted that before Dr. Harry's appointment by President Muhammadu Buhari in August 2021, the deceased was among the pioneer staff who inspired and contributed to the transformation of the National Bureau of Statistics, making it one of the foremost global institutions of high repute.

While commiserating with

PLHA speaker saddened by death of Statistician General

By PAULINE DALLONG

his immediate family, staff, associates and Plateau people, he enjoined all to be consoled by his good works, calling on them to keep alive his legacies while emulating

his virtues of humility, wisdom and generosity.

The speaker also encouraged the family to accept the loss and see it as the will of God as he prayed for the soul of the departed to rest in peace with the Lord.



Sanda

... Assures network of retired teachers in politics

everything to alleviate their plight by contacting all the appropriate bodies responsible for the payment of their gratuity and pension.

Hon. Rufus Bature said he is a strong advocate of teachers' higher starting grade level in service based on the peculiarity of their job.

He commended Governor Simon Lalong for being a labour friendly governor

who has engaged some of their members at high levels of governance.

The APC Chairman enjoined the body to officially register with the party so that they would be actively involved in its future activities and promised to engage more of them in governance when the party wins again in 2023.

Earlier, the State Coordinator of NORTIP, Mr. Pam Samson Frank said they were in the office to officially inform the Chairman of the existence of the body in the state and in all the 17 local government areas.

He said NORTIP deals mainly with the grassroots and their opinion and advice are taken seriously.

According to Mr. Frank, the members are going to make great impact on the 2023 general elections as they are well coordinated and united.

He commended the state APC Chairman, Hon Rufus Bature as an astute politician who is not shaken by the wind or storms.

He appealed to the Chairman to use his office to ensure the payment of their pensions and gratuities and to also ensure uniformity in the payments.

Also contributing, a former Commissioner of Women Affairs in the state, Mrs. Rufina Gurumyen also appealed to the government to ensure the welfare of retired teachers who have trained all cadres

of people.

She praised the APC Chairman whom she said she had worked with as being as labour friendly as governor Simon Bako Lalong and appealed to Local Government Chairmen to follow in their footsteps.

Gurumyen said when the retired teachers are paid, they will speak well of government and they are well respected at the grassroots which they are close to.

In his contribution, the Chairman of the body and former Chairman of Jos South, Sir Augustine Pwakim commended Governor Simon Bako Lalong for reinstating sacked teachers by the

immediate past dispensation in the state and payment of those also affected by the unpopular no-work-no-pay policy of the same government.

He condemned the practice by some local government Chairmen who mortgaged their local governments by taking loans ostensibly to pay pension and gratuity but which they end up diverting such funds thus leaving their local governments more indebted.

Hon. Augustine Pwakim who is also the Registrar of the College of Health Technology, Zawan, praised the APC Chairman and the Governor for their transparency and assured of smooth run for the APC which has the full support of NORTIP.

PDP's irresponsible, mischievous politicisation of Plateau killings

THE All Progressives Congress, APC Plateau State Chapter has noticed with great concern and sadness the indifference of the supposed opposition Peoples Democratic Party in the state over the attacks on our people which led to the loss of unsuspecting lives and wanton destruction of property.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Plateau State APC Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang.

The statement stated that instead of joining hands with the people of the state in condemning the acts and proffering solutions to these cowardly acts, the party has always deliberately chosen to look the other way.

Known for its love for bogus figures, the party is the only one to have come out with a 300 number of people killed in the recent terrorist attacks on some peaceful communities in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas recently.

We know that every live lost in such manner is regretted and condemned as none of us can create one life.

This is not done as a demonstration of concern for

the communities but as part of its usual irresponsible and pass time blaming of such unfortunate occurrences on the Governor of Plateau State.

The recent carnage visited on our people in the two local governments were widely condemned by Nigerians across political divides but not so for the Plateau PDP which has isolated itself from happenings around the state and the nation.

It always wakes up from its slumber and throws unnecessary blames on Governor Simon Lalong who is the Chief mourner in all the killings of our people by dare devil attackers.

We call on the PDP in Plateau state to be responsible and sensitive for once and join hands with the people and government of Plateau state in stemming the tide of these attacks, killings and maiming of our people either from Irigweland the recent surprise terrorist invasion of some Kanam and Wase communities which left on its trails the loss of precious lives and displacement of many peasants.

According to the statement, what these communities

need from all of us at this solemn moment is genuine show of love and assistance to alleviate their plight and not politics and shading of belated crocodile tears.

It is not in doubt that Governor Simon Bako Lalong, since assumption of power in 2015, has done everything possible to secure the people of Plateau State and reuniting the diverse ethnic nationalities in the state.

This has attracted commendation from all except the PDP which is not happy as his efforts of uniting the people has gone against its divisive policy of causing disharmony and fractures which were part of the reasons for its being booted out of power.

The statement maintained that it did not stop its blame game on only Governor Lalong but this time around, for intended political gains it also extended the blame to the Deputy Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Honourable Idris Maje.

It mischievously claimed that the Deputy Speaker was busy celebrating Lesser Hajj in Saudi Arabia while his people were being killed.

This is a combination of

SUNDAY POLITICS

Who will succeed Sen. Adamu

Barrister Labaran Shuaibu Magaji the present Federal Prosecutor in the Federal Ministry of Justice is indeed a strong contender in the scramble to fill the vacant space created by the recent exit of Senator Abdullahi Adamu who represents Nasarawa West Senatorial Constituency and the current National Chairman of the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC). It is on this premise that Mohammed Abdullahi examined that given his pedigree and how he is making waves in the constituency it can be said without any fear of contradiction that he is the man to beat in the contest, MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, writes.

THERE'S an adage in Hausa that says "Every Friday that will be fantastic the signs start from Wednesday". The above adage is just how best political pundits from Nasarawa West often describe the steps or character of Barrister Labaran Shaibu Magaji (The Matewallen Toto) also a federal prosecutor in the office of the nation's attorney general cum minister of Justice. A decade ago, Barr. Magaji's name started ringing a bell in Nasarawa State politically during the reign of Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma of blessed memory who governed the state between 2007-2011. As he held several political appointments during the said regime.

Today, if the Late Doma were to be alive he would stand tall amongst his political contemporaries like Sen. Abdullahi Adamu and Sen. Solomon Ewuga who mentored boys to have political relevance and are acceptable in the state and the nation at large just like what now obtains from Barr. Magaji's progress in politics. Magaji who hails from Toto Local Government Area of the State and Nasarawa West Senatorial Zone where Sen. Adamu represented before being elected as the national chairman of the ruling APC.

Of recent INEC has declared Sen. Adamu's seat vacant as stipulated in the electoral act and consequent upon that, Sen. Adamu has already tendered his resignation in response to the said act which implies that a bye election would be conducted to fill the vacant seat.

With the said scenario those jostling to occupy the vacant Senate seat have already indicated interest notable amongst them are Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada a former House of Representatives member and presently the chairman of Peugeot Automobile of Nigeria PAN, Barr. Mohammed Hassan Abdullahi the current minister of Environment and Barr. Labaran Shaibu Magaji. Adages mentioned above about Magaji has no sentiment attached to it rather the premonition of many political pundits is about to take its course as regards him succeeding Sen. Adamu in the country's highest legislative body the Red Chamber.

Political permutations going on within the senatorial zone by APC stakeholders are inching towards Barr. Magaji or Barr. Abdullahi to be the likely successor of Sen. Adamu.

SUNDAY STANDARD gathered that Hon. Magaji was the first to openly declare his aspiration followed by Hon. Wadada as Barr. Mohammed is yet to follow in that regard.

Also one major reason that Magaji



Magaji



Wadada

might get Sen. Adamu's blessing in the said coming contest is simply due to the manner in which he conducted himself while Sen. Adamu was in the senate and speculations were rife that he was going to recontest in 2023 and among the aspirants it was only Magaji that came out openly to pronounce that if Adamu will go for the contest he will step down due to Adamu's pedigree in politics whom he often described as "Political Father of Nasarawa State" unlike Wadada who made his pronouncements in several fora that he was ever ready to give Adamu a good run for his money in 2023.

Barr. Mohammed may likely withdraw his ambition for the senate seat, owing to the fact that President Mohammedu Buhari has confidence in him and would want him to stay to the end of the duration of his tenure in may 2023 as he was recently elevated from state minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to a full fledge Minister of Environment by President Buhari.

It will also interest you to know that recently the Nasarawa State governor Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule issued a directive mandating all those who are his appointees and would like to contest for elective offices to tender their resignation on or before 8th of this month as a result political activities remain the talk of the town in the state, but as regards who is going to succeed Adamu remains more

supreme and the minister's posters are still flying within the nooks and crannies of the senatorial zone.

Hon. Wadada is also a politician of note, but since he lost his bid to return to the house of representatives for Keffi- Karu-Kokona Federal Constituency for a third term to Hon. Isaq Kana in 2011 he has not been having it easy to relaunch himself back to any elective office. However, in the 2017 elections he slugged it out with the then incumbent Sen. Adamu and lost, there after in 2019 he contested for the number one seat of the state alongside others including Engr. Sule who won the primaries and subsequently elected the governor of the state under the platform of APC. Wadada came second during the said party's primary election.

Political pundits within the zone revealed to SUNDAY STANDARD, that one political sin of Wadada that will make him not to get Sen. Adamu's blessing as regards the said coming contest is due to his being disloyal to the latter whom they say he brought him to political limelight in 2003 and given his unguarded utterances. When rumors filtered the air that Sen. Adamu was going to recontest in 2023 before being elected as APC National Chairman Hon. Wadada vowed to challenge him, but with the present status of Sen. Adamu as APC National Chairman will Wadada contest alongside Barr.

Magaji and probably Barr. Mohammed?

Now the point of contention is that Sen. Adamu has become the number one card carrying and policy maker of APC and one fact that can't go away is that Nigeria politics requires lobbying which implies that all the said aspirants will need Sen. Adamu's blessings due to his political status especially that all of the said aspirations comes directly from his constituency where he has significant amount of influence. Nasarawa West Senatorial Districts consist of five local government areas which include Keffi, Nasarawa, Karu, Toto and Kokona respectively.

SUNDAY STANDARD, also gathered authoritatively that since the inception of the third republic in the country it is only Toto, Karu and Kokona Local Government Areas that have not yet produced a senator as such political pundits and stakeholders are yearning that the next senator should come from the said Local Government Areas in the interest of justice, equity and fairness.

Those who held the political office in the past include Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi from Nasarawa Local Government Area between 1999-2011 and Senator Abdullahi Adamu from Keffi Local Government Area between 2011 up until his recent resignation.

Our correspondent revealed that up to the time of filling this report no politician has indicated

interest to contest the seat from Kokona and Karu LGAs and on this note Barr. Labaran Shaibu Magaji and Barr. Mohammed Hasan Abdullahi from Toto and Karu Local Government Areas deemed it imperative to throw their hats on the ring.

Our findings has it that Sen. Adamu's body language is signaling his blessings towards Barr. Magaji to succeed him based on the reasons mentioned above.

Also of recent when the campaign team of Barr. Magaji visited the governor of the state Engr. Sule to formally tell him his intention. The governor said, "I want to sincerely commend you for what you are doing. Without any ambiguity your level of experience and education has prepared you for positions even higher than this.

"There is nothing wrong with you coming forward to say you want to vie for this position. Everyone knows that Senator Abdullahi Adamu is actually our political father in this state. So, when you mentioned that you had made up your mind not to contest against him, I think that is a very strong political statement. I commend you and I am sure he will remember that". Also when the same team of Barr. Magaji visited APC stakeholders of Nasarawa Local Government Area under the leadership of Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi to solicit for their support as regards the said coming contest, Sen. Sodangi said, "In politics what matters is consultations just the way you the team of Barr. Magaji from Toto LGA have come to tell us that you want us to support Barr. Magaji to realize his dream of going to the red Chambers to represent his senatorial zone in the coming election.

"In fact, Barr. Magaji is marketable, sellable and we will endorse him here and now. I know very soon our APC leader in the state Engr. A.A Sule our governor alongside other stakeholders will call some of us to ask who among the aspirants we will want to succeed Sen. Adamu and we will tell him our minds that Barr. Magaji is marketable subject to further consultations from this zone. And it will interest the public to know that Barr. Magaji was the first and for now the only person that approached us in this regard. Maybe others will come as the time permits".

Also SUNDAY STANDARD, gathered that up to the time of filling this report no politician has indicated interest to contest the said slot from the opposition political parties.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

WASE AND KANAM ATTACKS: LALONG HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Friday last week held a Town Hall meeting in Dengi, Kanam LGA and Wase, Wase LGA over the recent attack by bandits where scores were killed and many left injured



Emir of Kanam, HRH (Dr.) Muhammad Babangida Muazu welcoming Governor Lalong to his domain



Governor Lalong (right) being received by Traditional Rulers of Wase, Ponzhi Kadarko Chiefdoms and Jukun on arrival



L - R: Deputy Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong, Reps. Member representing PKK, Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi and Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, Deputy Governor of Plateau State



DG Plateau Peace Building Agency, Joseph Lengmang (right) flanked by members of the State Security Council



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) sympathising with one of the injured victims receiving medical attention



Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, SGS (right), Hon. Noel Dongjur, Chief of Staff, Government House and others



L - R: Dr. Hosea Finangwai, Commissioner, Agric, Hon. Idris Gambo, Commissioner of Urban Development and Chief Amos Gizo during the Governor's visit



A cross section of invited personalities listening to the Governor during the Town Hall meeting

PHOTOS: OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, RAYFIELD, JOS

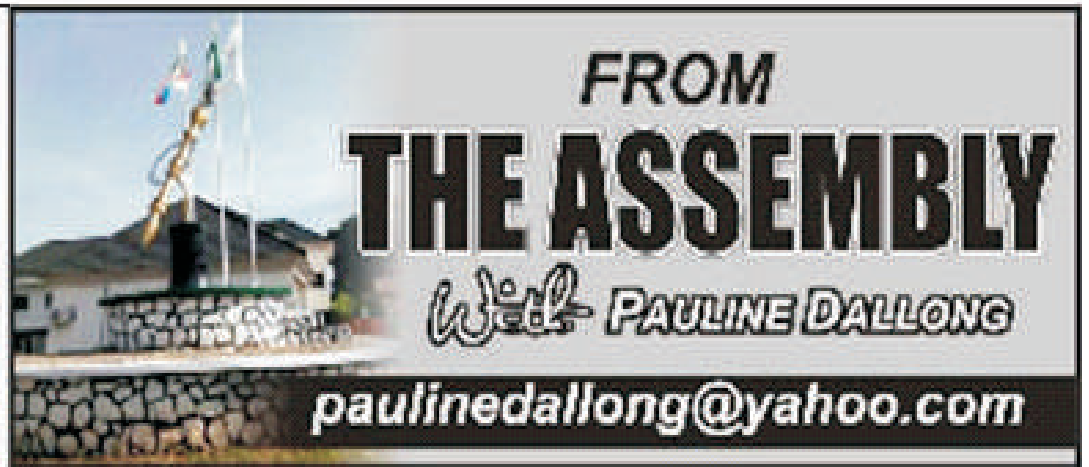
As the Senate and House of Representatives commence voting on the first set of amendments to the 1999 Constitution, one would have thought that the exercise should have begun on a good note but instead, it is already witnessing agitations from certain aggrieved members of the public. This to many, is not a good sign and has posed the question as to whether the 68 recommendations will at the end of the day reflect the views and interest of generality of Nigerians.

The current alteration of the Nigerian Constitution is the fifth since the document came into effect in 1999. Some of the key amendments requiring votes from the lawmakers include abrogating state and local government's joint accounts, financial autonomy for the judiciary and state assemblies, legislative summons, life pension for the presiding officers of the National Assembly, diaspora voting and extra seats for women in the parliament. Others are independent candidacy, mayor for Abuja, power of the legislature to summon the president or governor, immunity for the presiding officers of the legislature, timeframe for the appointment of ministers and commissioners, expanding the scope of citizenship by registration, separating the office of the attorney general from the minister of Justice and moving Value Added Tax (VAT) to the exclusive legislative list.

Out of the 68 proposed amendments to the constitution, 45 bills were passed by both the Senate and House of Representatives. While the Senate passed a total of 49 bills, 19 were however, rejected. In the House of Representatives, 52 alteration bills scaled through while 16 were rejected. However, most of the amendment bills secured the mandatory two-third votes which is 240 out of the 360 member legislature. Worthy of note is the fact that it is also mandatory that each alteration passed, receives at least two-third majority votes in the state Houses of Assembly. Again, it is only the amendments which receive such approvals that will be sent to the president for assent.

On the issue of financial autonomy, both the Senate and House of Representatives voted in favour of, granting financial

autonomy to state assemblies and the Judiciary. Both chambers also approved the proposal to abrogate the state joint local government account and provide for the distribution of allocation from the federation account directly to the local government councils. While 83 of the senators voted in support of financial autonomy for the Judiciary and state assemblies, 1 senator however, voted against. For local government financial autonomy, 92 senators voted for the proposed amendment as 2 voted



On National Assembly constitution amendments



against. Meanwhile in the House of Representatives, 286 members were in favour of financial autonomy for the state legislature and Judiciary while 1 was not.

However, the lawmakers turned down the bill for more seats for women in the National Assembly and state Houses of Assembly. The proposed amendment suffered a setback after 54 senators rejected it as against only 30 who were in support of the bill. While in the lower chamber, 208 members voted against it as only 81 others were in support of the bill. The bill seeks to reserve solely for women in each state of the federation, one senatorial seat and two seats for the House of Representatives. At the state

Houses of Assembly, one seat is to be reserved for each member of the three senatorial districts. In like manner, a proposal to include at least 35 percent of women in the political parties, including providing certain percentage of women nominees as ministers and commissioners failed to scale through in the House of Representatives. However, the senate in its magnanimity was able to approve 20 percent to be included in both federal and state cabinets.

The rejection of the gender bills is perhaps the most disappointing to many. It has generated so much outcry already, resulting in several protests by the women. Women groups in the country have

condemned the rejection, stating that women in the country are being denied the opportunity of inclusion and representation in governance. While some opined that the proposed gender bills in the 5th Constitution Alteration Bills that were rejected by the lawmakers are bills targeted at addressing the current gender imbalance across the legislative arm in the country, others are accusing the National Assembly for reinforcing discrimination and political bias against women, while also denying them their basic human rights.

Also rejected by the lawmakers during voting is the bill on pension for presiding officers of the National Assembly and state Houses of Assembly. Out of a total of 88 senators, only 34 voted in favour of the bill while 53 were against it. Both chambers also rejected the proposed amendment on immunity. While 29 senators voted for the amendment, 50 were against it. The National Assembly also rejected bills to provide for the removal of presiding officers of the legislative arm. A bill to override presidential veto in the constitution alteration was also rejected. The bill seeks to provide for the procedure for passing a constitution alteration bill where the president is without assent.

In the meantime, the lawmakers have rejected the inclusion of Value Added Tax (VAT) on the exclusive legislative list. However, 41 senators voted in support of the proposed

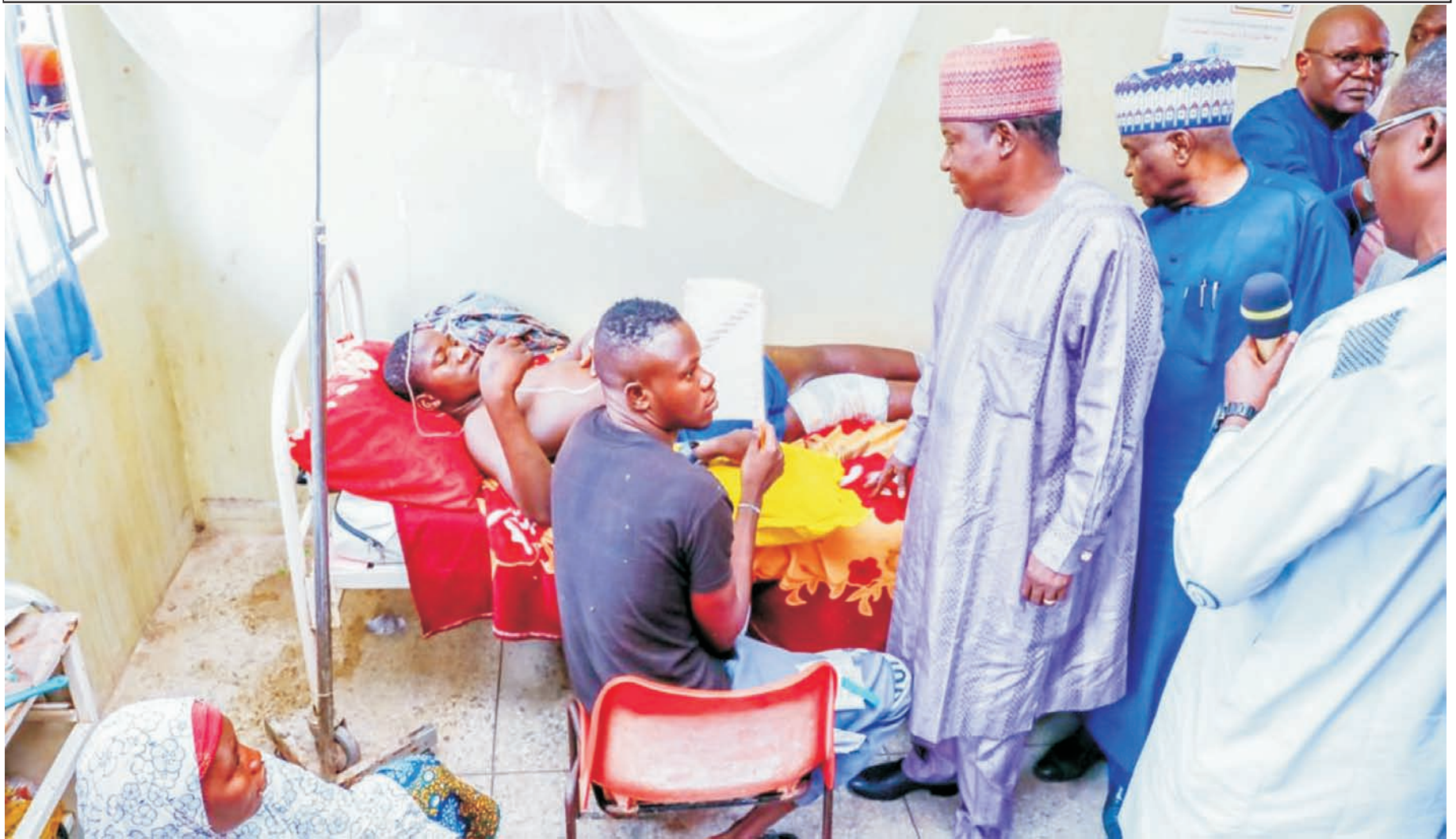
amendment but it was not enough to secure the needed two-third as 44 others were not in support of the bill. In the House of Representatives, 91 lawmakers voted in its favour while 209 voted against it. Also, the legislators in both upper and lower chamber of the National Assembly have passed a proposal allowing for state governments to generate, transmit and distribute electricity in areas covered by the national grid. The movement of railways and correctional services from the exclusive to the concurrent list was also approved.

Other bills that successfully scaled through include a bill to provide for an independent candidacy in the presidential, governorship, National Assembly and local government council elections. There is also the bill to empower the National Assembly and state assemblies to summon the president and state governors to answer questions bothering on security and the inclusion of presiding officers of the National Assembly as members of the National Security Council.

Interestingly, both the Senate and House of Representatives differed on the proposed amendments allowing for a court or tribunal proceedings to be conducted virtually. While the senate rejected the virtual court proceedings, the House approved of it. On the mayorship of Abuja, the House was in approval but the senate however, disapproves of it.

The current alteration of the Nigerian Constitution is the fifth since the document came into effect in 1999. Some of the key amendments requiring votes from the lawmakers include abrogating state and local government's joint accounts, financial autonomy for the judiciary and state assemblies, legislative summons, life pension for the presiding officers of the National Assembly, diaspora voting and extra seats for women in the parliament. Others are independent candidacy, mayor for Abuja, power of the legislature to summon the president or governor, immunity for the presiding officers of the legislature, timeframe for the appointment of ministers and commissioners, expanding the scope of citizenship by registration, separating the office of the attorney general from the minister of Justice and moving Value Added Tax (VAT) to the exclusive legislative list.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Kanam, Wase massacre: Killer bandits ransack Plateau

When the local citizens of Kukawa, Gyambawu, Dungur, Kyaram, Yelwa, Dadda, Wanka, Shuwaka, Gwammadaji and Dadin Kowa in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas of Plateau State woke up thinking of how they would find strategies of solving their routine contemporary challenges last Sunday morning, they had no premonition of the doom which would envelop them few hours later. While some within the Muslim dominated areas had gone to their farms clearing their lands in anticipation of another rainy season, others who had returned from their places of worship were relaxing within the vicinity of their homes and neighborhoods, write BULUS GAMBO.

KANAM and Wase which have of recent times never been a target by extremists and or individuals with acts of violent conduct had remained a peaceful place until that fateful day. Beyond this, people were before these dastardly acts of gruesome murder going about their normal businesses. Much later in the afternoon however, motorcycles each one of them carrying three bandits stormed these communities unleashing terror on innocent lives and property. While some of the farmers were still clearing their farms in preparation for the rainy season, these unscrupulous elements invaded these communities with sophisticated weapons which were used throughout the duration of their operation.

According to an eye witness, "we are yet to know those who are behind such atrocities as well as how many people were killed because nobody can tell exactly the number of houses razed down by fire as a result of their heartlessness."

This high death figure became uncertain as the number of yet to be gathered corpses in the bush were sketchy. However, the death figure was on the record high due to the obvious reasons that these communities were caught napping during the attack which lasted for hours. What made the deteriorating situation worse was the fact that there was no security presence near these villages attacked by these bandits.

Speaking over the incident, the Executive Chairman of Kanam Local Government Area, Dr. Dayyabu Yusuf Garga explained that history has never recorded a Kanam man attacking anyone for whatever reason.

According to him, "Since the information got to me, I have made countless phone calls and explored so many means of communicating with relevant stakeholders to have security support come to my people and reduce the carnage because the bandits were having a field day on harmless communities. As a government, security of lives and property are top most on our shelves as such; we stand by and encourage them to believe in the supremacy of the Almighty Allah."

The chairman of the local government area said, the local authority in Kanam is already doing everything possible to cater for the injured that were brought to Dengi and other hospitals as he had directed they be given immediate medical attention at the instance of the council.

Concerned about the unfortunate development, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong visited Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas, where he met the Emir of Kanam HRH. Muhammadu Babangida Mua'azu including other stakeholders.

Lalong accompanied by his Deputy Prof. Sonni Tyoden, Secretary to Government Prof. Danladi Atu, Chief of Staff, members of his cabinet, as well as heads of security agencies including the General Officer Commanding 3 Armoured Division and Commander Operation Safe Haven, Commissioner of Police said, he was devastated by the senseless massacre of innocent villagers in the affected areas.

The Governor began his visit at the Palace of the Emir of Kanam, HRH Muhammadu Babangida Muazu where he consoled with him over the unfortunate development.

The Emir thanked the Governor for the visit and said that the people have been devastated over the mass killings which had no justification because his people are peace loving and only pursuing their livelihoods, basically farming and trading. He urged the government to do more by deploying security forces to the affected areas on a permanent basis as well as see to it that intelligence given to the security agencies is acted upon expeditiously.

The Governor later visited injured survivors receiving treatment at Kanam General Hospital, Dengi where he sympathised with them and directed that all their medical expenses be settled by the government.

Later at an interactive session with stakeholders at the Kanam Town Hall Dengi the Governor said, he was in the area to get further briefing on the attacks and ascertain the situation of survivors.

He described the incident as regrettable and unfortunate, urging the people not to be dismayed as government was doing everything possible to arrest those behind the attacks and ensure that the sad incident does not occur again. He said "those who committed this heinous crime may think that they have escaped but I can assure you that we will never allow them to go free no matter how long it takes. I am sure that God will also not allow them to go unpunished for taking the precious lives of others without reason".

The Governor assured the people that the state was working with the Federal Government to find lasting solutions to insecurity on the Plateau, the North Central and entire Northern Region.

He disclosed that already, he had

briefed President Muhammadu Buhari and appealed for a coordinated approach to tackling terrorist attacks in the North Central particularly at border areas and ungoverned spaces which have become operational bases for these terrorists who criss-cross communities causing damage to lives and properties.

Chairman of Kanam Local Government Hon. Dayyabu Garga during the Governor's visit described as horrific the killing of 106 people which he said had never been witnessed in the area known for its peace, abundant mineral and agricultural resources. He said, they have remained traumatised and continue to deal with the unquantifiable losses and displacement of women and children. Member representing Pankshin, Kanke, Kanam Federal Constituency Yusuf Gagdi also thanked the Governor and the security forces for rising to the occasion to dominate the attacked areas which is gradually restoring hope to the people.

He also thanked the Governor for his efforts to mobilise humanitarian support and relief materials from both the State and Federal governments as well as non governmental organisations.

Other speakers also thanked the Governor for the visit, but emphasised the fact that because Plateau State shares borders with Bauchi, Taraba and Gombe States along vast forest areas, it makes them vulnerable to attacks by criminals who operate with impunity because of the lack of permanent presence of security forces.

When the Governor visited Wase Local Government, he met with stakeholders at the local government secretariat where he again consoled

them over the unfortunate development and assured them that government was taking steps to ensure that the terrorists are arrested and the area is made safe again.

He said, the government will not allow criminals to terrorise the people and stop them from farming and going about their legitimate businesses.

Chairman of Wase Local Government Area, Dr. Ado Abubakar Buba told the Governor that vigilante groups have continued to work with Operation Rainbow and other security agencies to gather intelligence and provide first line of action against terrorists and other criminals.

He appealed to the Government to sustain recent clearance operations which had tremendously helped to restore confidence, urging for diligent prosecution of arrested suspects.

Speaking on behalf of the heads of security agencies, GOC 3rd Armoured Division and Commander Operation Safe Haven, Maj. Gen. Ali also sympathised with the people and assured them of further deployment of troops to the general area in addition to coordinated response to address cross border attacks across the frontline states. It is well understood however that banditry violence is not new in Nigeria as according to Adedeji Ademola, the history of banditry can be traced to pre-civil war period when government deteriorated in certain parts of the western region resulting in political violence, crime and organized insurgency. Accordingly, during civilian reign, local bandits were reportedly stealing domestic animals. Recently, in the Northwest area of Nigeria,

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NEWS

DG NYSC commends collaboration with stakeholders

Stories By
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Director-General of National Youth Service Corps, Major General Shuaibu Ibrahim has commended existing collaborations with the Scheme's stakeholders.

He said collaborations have helped in actualising the objectives for which the NYSC scheme was established.

He stated this recently while declaring open, the 2022 Community Development Service and Special Projects' Stakeholders meeting held at the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters, Abuja.

Ibrahim said, the scheme would continue to chart the way forward for improved relationship to achieve the set objectives.

He said, "It is pertinent to note that we cherish having a strong affinity with our stakeholders as they play very vital roles in helping to drive the process of actualising the objectives for which the NYSC Scheme was established".

He added that on assumption of duty, he made advocacy visits to critical stakeholders like the founder of NYSC, General Yakubu Gowon, State Governors and heads of several federal government agencies for collaborations, adding that the overwhelming support from some of them yielded good results.



Ibrahim

He stated further that in 2020 he had a meeting with the Nigerian Governors' Forum, where he appreciated the State Governments' efforts in supporting the scheme and also seek more commitments on their statutory obligations with regards to NYSC camp requirements and office requisitions as spelt out in the NYSC Act.

The Director-General added that the scheme would continue to enhance the potentials of corps members to impact on the lives of their host communities. Ibrahim listed several areas of Corps

intervention whereby the Scheme has benefitted the public through Community Development Service (CDS).

"NYSC Sports and Cultural Festival has facilitated career paths for sports men and women, as well as sports analysts and promoters, some ex-Corps Members have carved some niches from this.

NYSC Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) programme has provided free quality and accessible health care for indigent rural dwellers and also a training ground for the Corps medical personnel among others", he said.

The NYSC boss used the

occasion to call on the stakeholders to support the establishment of the NYSC Trust Fund that has scaled the third reading at the House of Representatives.

"The establishment of the fund will go a long way in addressing operational challenges of the scheme and consolidate on the gains of the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme through the provision of start-up funds for trained Corps Members to start their businesses.

It will equally go a long way in tackling youth unemployment and reduce crime rate in the country", the DG added.

The Director, Community Development Service and Special Projects, Alhaji Abdulrasaq Salawu in his welcome address said the meeting was convened to appraise previous engagements and re-strategise for future assignments.

He said there was the need to engage the youths in productive ventures that would positively affect their lives and others through Community Development Service, instead of allowing them to invest their potentials in crime.

Salawu urged stakeholders at the meeting to offer new suggestions that would bring new innovations for future assignments.

Tinubu disowns Osinbajo

Not expecting one of his political mentees to challenge him to a presidential contest, former Lagos state governor and frontline presidential hopeful, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, Monday denied Vice President Yemi Osinbajo as a political son, declaring he has no son grown enough to declare for President.

But Osinbajo who announced his intention to succeed his current principal, President Muhammadu Buhari, through a short video uploaded on various social media platforms said his over seven years of working with Buhari had provided him requisite in sights to complete what the ruling All progressive Congress (APC) had started.

The announcement came as the Tinubu support Group (TSG) described Osinbajo's presidential declaration as a betrayal of trust.

However, chairman of progressive Governors' Forum (PGF) and governor of Kebbi state Atiku Bagudu, described as a welcome development the fact that Osinbajo and Tinubu were seeking to be president of Nigeria. Bagudu said it was an indication of a robust democratic contest within a party that had endeared itself to Nigerians.

ASUU: No resumption until demands are met.

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Abuja zone, on Monday, insisted that lecturers would not resume duties in public universities until renegotiated 2009 agreement is signed, implemented and the University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS) is deployed for payment of salaries of university workers.

ASUU zonal coordinator, Dr Salawu Muhammed Lawal, said this during a news conference at the University of Abuja Gwagwalada.

This development came just as the Federal Government, through the Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige, said it was set to meet with the union the same Monday in the evening, to dialogue on the contending issues.

ASUU had embarked on a four weeks warning strike on February 14

On March 14, the union extended the industrial action by another two months to allow the government meet all of its demands.

Dr Lawal, said that lecturers are ever ready to return to their duty post as soon as their demands are met by the Federal Government.

Chibok girls: eighth years after, 109 girls still in captivity

Chibok community in the southern part of Borno State on Thursday joined the rest of the country to mark the eighth year anniversary of the abduction of schoolgirls in their domain, with parents and community leaders describing the day as one of disappointment and lamentation.

It was reported that on April 14, 2014 Boko Haram insurgents invade Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS), Chibok and abducted 276 schoolgirls who were preparing for their final year examination.

Among those abducted, 164 have reportedly escaped, while 109 of the girls are still under the custody of the insurgents.

Also it was revealed that no fewer than 24 parents of the abducted schoolgirls have so far died from high blood pressure and other related ailments developed as a result of their missing daughters.

As part of the activities marking the anniversary, an interfaith denominational prayer session was held on the school premises, where the girls were carted away in 2014.

Customs intercept container load with machetes

Tin Can island command of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) on Wednesday have intercepted 145 kilogram of Colorado, 206,000 pieces of machetes and others with Duty paid value of N1.48 billion.

The Colorado was concealed in two units of Ridgeline trucks and two units of Toyota corolla Vehicles, while the machetes made in Ghana were concealed in eight containers.

Other seizures include 640 bales of used clothes 236,500 pieces of used shoes, 62,500 new pieces of lady's shoes, 1,670,400 pieces of chloroquine injections, 1,814,400 pieces Novalgine injection, 48,850 roll of cigarettes and 23,800 tins of sodium bromate and baking powder.

Dariye, Nyame, 157 others receive state pardon

National Council of state (NCS) meeting held Thursday, President Muhammadu Buhari presided the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the past Heads of State and Presidents, granted state pardon to former Governors Joshua Dariye of Plateau state and Jolly Nyame of Taraba state, who were serving jail terms for corruption.

The two former governors were among 159 convicts pardoned by the council, but the council rejected the application for prerogative of mercy for a former Managing Director of the defunct Bank PHB, Francis Atuche, who was also convicted for stealing funds.

NFF: Appoints super eagles assistant coaches

Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has announced the appointment of Salisu Yusuf, Finidi George and Usman Abdullah as first second and third assistant coaches of the Super Eagles.

The appointments followed the approval of the recommendations of the Technical and Development Sub-Committee led by Ahmed Fresh Yusuf.

A new technical adviser for the Super Eagles is expected to be announced once the process of engagement and contract signing are concluded

Compiled by Hosea Nyamlong

NNPC satisfied with progress of gas pipeline project

From
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) has expressed satisfaction with the progress of work done on the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) Gas Pipeline Project and believes that the first Quarter 2023 target for delivering it will be met.

This was made known when the GMD/CEO, Mallam Mele Kyari took the NNPC Board Members on an official tour of Segment A sites in Abaji Area Council of the FCT, on Thursday.

The GMD/CEO, who was accompanied by other members of his Management Team, stated that as a result of activities around the AKK project, the country will see over eight billion standard cubic feet (scf) of gas injected into the domestic pipeline which will improve power generation, facilitate industrial development, create thousands of job opportunities and deepen domestic gas utilisation.

Kyari, who described the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano Pipeline as "a signature project of this administration", said that it was time for Nigeria to take advantage of having the highest gas reserves in Africa.

Earlier in her remarks, the Chairman of the NNPC Board, Senator Margery Okadigbo, said that based on the magnitude of work done at the various construction sites, the projection to have first gas by the first quarter of 2023 was realisable.

She noted that the country stood the chance to leverage on the current

realities to provide solutions to the global gas supply challenge.

Chairman of Oilserve, the Company handling Segment A of the AKK project, Mr. Emeaka Okwuosa, confirmed his company's readiness to deliver the project on schedule.

He assured that the project managers and teams were

more than competent to deliver the project within record time.

The construction of the 614km AKK Pipeline project was flagged-off simultaneously in Kogi and Kaduna States by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2020 to encourage gas utilization and serve as a springboard for the

Lawmaker condemns attacks on Kanam LGC

SENATOR I. D. Gyang of Plateau North has condemned the latest terror attacks on communities of Kanam local government, saying the ugly development compounds the insecurity in Plateau State.

A statement issued by Precious K. Nyako Special Assistant on Media to Senator I. D. Gyang, Esq and made available to newsmen Thursday in Abuja said Senator Gyang who is the Deputy Chairman Senate Committee on Defense expresses concern that Kanam which was hitherto exempted from terror attacks has been visited with heart-wrenching massacre.

He however expresses his heartfelt condolences to the affected families. He says it is disheartening to witness attacks on peace-loving

citizens as terrorists invade and unleash terror on communities from one LGA to another in Plateau State.

While condemning the dastardly attack, Senator

Gyang calls on the Security Agencies to take all necessary steps to secure law-abiding citizens and ensure that those behind the various attacks in Plateau state are apprehended to face justice.



Gyang

SUNDAY FEATURE

It's time to give education resources it needs

BY

AUSTYN OGANNAH

IN 1955, the government of the Western Region introduced a free primary education programme based on the 1952 proposal by the Minister of Education in the region, Chief S. O. Awokoya, for a free, universal and compulsory education, otherwise known as the Universal Primary Education (UPE). Considered as "the boldest and perhaps the most unprecedented educational scheme in Africa South of the Sahara" by Babs Fafunwa, the inspired scheme was the forerunner of many similar education programmes that were afterwards initiated in the country. Most important, though, it highlighted the actions of a government that understood the extreme importance of education to the attainment of its collective goals and was committed to making it free and compulsory for all.

Unfortunately 67 years later, the reverse is the case. Not only is there nowhere to find a truly free and universal education, it is no longer compulsory to educate one's wards even as universities proliferate across the country. Last Wednesday, the Federal Executive Council approved the issuance of provisional licences for the establishment of 12 private universities across the country. When computed against the previous number of private universities, which, according to the 2021 data from the Statista website, is now at 79, it will bring the total number of private universities in the country up to 91.

The states are not left out in the proliferation of universities. Some of them have adopted a new means of crafting new universities from existing colleges and polytechnics as Lagos State did when it transmuted the Lagos State Polytechnic, Ikorodu into the Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUST) and did the same to the state's two colleges of education – Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education (AOCE), Otto-Ijanikin and Michael Otedola College of Primary Education (MOCPE), Naforija, Epe – into the Lagos State University of Education (LASUED). Sokoto State also got a brand new university with the approval of the Shehu Shagari University of Education last month.

When all these state universities, now 58 in all, are added to the 12, which the Goodluck Ebele Jonathan government added to the total number of Federal universities between 2010 and 2014 for the ridiculous rationale that all states should have universities, it becomes obvious that we have lost the inspired focus of education that necessitated the establishment of tertiary institutions of learning and have supplanted it with political idiosyncrasies for which we are presently reaping sour grapes.

Education, especially primary



and secondary, which ought to provide a foundation for development and the groundwork on which much of our economic and social well being is built, has been sacrificed on the altar of political expediency, such that politicians vie for the location of institutions in their constituencies, whether it is viable or not. Not long ago, a former governor of Edo State situated the Edo State University in his home village, Iyamho. This was a state that already hosted five universities, three polytechnics, two colleges of education, five schools of nursing and midwifery, one school of physical education, one Institute of construction technology and buckled under the weight of the responsibilities to the institutions that were state-owned and starved of funding, infrastructure and personnel and could not maintain accredited programmes due to a funding deficit.

In some states teachers are owed several months' unpaid salaries and allowances, while some that have retired are owed gratuities and pensions.

In a nutshell, the Edo example cuts across the country. The excuses for the proliferation of academic institutions has always been to fulfill the educational needs of a growing population of students, who will have nowhere to go without a plethora of universities to choose from, falls flat on its face when the superior argument of quality over quantity is applied. Of what use is it to have universities created out of political calculations (federal and state) and motive for profit (private), if the end product fails to fulfill the purpose of education in the first place?

The lack of proper planning for the educational needs of the country, which should inform the standard, number, location, type and model of basic school, high school and university, suggests that the proliferation of schools creates more problems than it

solves.

As a country, even with the steady, unbroken string of civilian administrations, we have not been able to reach the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO) recommendation that developing nations should give up to 15-20 per cent of their annual budget to public education. In the 2022 budget, valued at N17 trillion, only 7.2 per cent was allocated to education, even with the proliferation of universities. It means that for education to fulfill its role of increasing economic efficiency and social consistency to the point of helping to raise the poor from poverty, it will continue to suffer funding shortages that will stifle running costs, truncate research advancements, result in lack of infrastructural development, encourage further brain drain, prevent institutions from having laboratories, electricity, staff offices, libraries, students' hostels, administrative blocks, recreation centres, good road network and undoubtedly lead to more strikes as is currently the case between government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

This annual tussle between the Federal Government and ASUU has been rekindled. Unfortunately, after two years of back-and-forth, with no concrete movement on the initial 2009 agreement or the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding

between the two parties, we have come full circle now that our children have returned home. Due to the Federal Government's refusal to honour simple agreements, ASUU's original one-month warning strike has been extended to another two months. Failure on the part of the government to attend to the demands of the union and to keep its promises, whereas it moved swiftly to release the sum of \$8.5m for the evacuation of Nigerian students from war-torn Ukraine and donated \$1m to the Humanitarian Fund for Afghanistan, smacks of wanton disregard. It is worth noting that most of those students that required evacuation at such an exorbitant amount, much of which will find their way to personal pockets, may have found no need to travel out if the academic system at home was above par.

Yet, as universities in other African countries like South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda consistently outrank Nigeria in the data from the respected authority in the ranking of universities globally, Webometrics, it is expedient that action is taken to arrest the continued slide from a country that boasted one of the best educational schemes in sub-Saharan Africa to one that barely manages to register a university in the 18th position in the ranking of academic institutions on the continent. The frivolous and

reckless waste of resources in the country must be repurposed and channeled towards revamping the educational sector.

Attention must be focused at all levels of education, beginning with local and state governments at the primary education level to the Federal level.

Government must pay attention to the training of teachers, while it invests in creating a research-friendly environment to encourage innovation and augment the salary structure of teachers and lecturers with the inclusion of deserving benefits to limit brain-drain and encourage teachers to impart knowledge to students. This will necessitate a financial injection that requires the collaboration of the private and public sectors.

Furthermore, the government will need to bring the schools curricula up to date with the infusion and use of technology tailored to match international standards, coupled with the provision of adequately equipped libraries well furnished with ICT tools. Most importantly, the government will be required to synergise with ASUU for better ways of resolving any differences that may crop up without recourse to strike actions.

This is of utmost importance, if we are to reap the fruits of a proper educational system. As the saying goes, no educational system can rise above the quality of its teachers and no nation can rise above the quality of her educational system.

"Yet, as universities in other African countries like South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda consistently outrank Nigeria in the data from the respected authority in the ranking of universities globally, Webometrics, it is expedient that action is taken to arrest the continued slide from a country that boasted one of the best educational schemes in sub-Saharan Africa to one that barely manages to register a university in the 18th position in the ranking of academic institutions on the continent".

SUNDAY FEATURE

Osinachi's death: Burden of enduring incompatible marriage

The social media in Nigeria was recently overwhelmed with the news of the demise of an outstanding gospel artiste, Osinachi Nwachukwu, who was alleged to have died from complications related to domestic abuse she had suffered from her husband for years before her demise. In pains, many stakeholders, well-wishers including concerned individuals across the world are still asking as to why she had to stay quiet in such a harsh relationship without respite till death, JENNIFER YARIMA writes.



THIS sorrowful death has deprived the church of a lead vocalist who sings with passion in praise and worship at Dunamis International Gospel Centre, Abuja Nigeria, but heaven has gained a soul we are humanly sure. This talented singer who was snatched by the cold hands of death was brought to lime light in the music industry when she released one of her wider embrace songs titled: Ekwueme, Ekwueme meaning, you are the living God.

Does any woman or man deserve to die in marriage as a result of any pain being inflicted on her as such? The home front doesn't seem conducive for love relationship any more if you ask me. Many marriages are now endured and not enjoyed by greater percentage of couples. One is surprised then that some women receive beatings from their husbands even as they are forbidden to talk about it in public. Ladies need to get it straight that when a man beats you once, twice and you don't take a measure, he would subsequently do that repeatedly.

After the death of Osinachi, lots of unpleasant and unheard stories were revealed from different quarters including her children of how she had endured hardship in the hands of this bully called her husband with the hope that he would change someday. Her

hope ended abruptly without actualizing the faith she held on to that this man would change someday even when she was publicly disgraced with a slap in the studio during one of her productions as revealed by the studio manager.

Even at this, the question we must ask ourselves is, how do we eradicate domestic violence in our homes? It is sad that women stay in abusive relationships in spite of what they go through. Religion and culture have become sources of wickedness in our society today and people are afraid to leave such toxic marriages for fear of what people will say when you quit. Until you take a bold step, your suffering continues. Letting it go is the most difficult thing to do particularly when one has sacrificed a lot. It is better to survive and try again than to perish in marriage.

A lady I keenly listened to her story explained a few days ago that since she got married to her spouse with three children, she never experienced peace in that house as the man constantly bullied her. On a second thought, she asked herself what she would achieve at the end of the day and who she wants to impress by holding on. According to her, she asked herself three valid questions which she tried to proffer solution for each. She defied what people would

say if she eventually opted for divorce.

The first question she asked herself was where do I go? And the answer was nowhere. Secondly, how do I start? Anywhere and lastly, what will they say? I don't care. This was the stage she had to quit and settled for another marriage with another man that respected her dignity and gives her peace till date. She opined that if she had not taken the bull by the horn to save her life, her story would have long been forgotten. She therefore advised that no woman should wallow in self pity, but she needs to reassure herself that it is not yet over so long as one is alive.

It's disheartening to note that some churches contribute to the suffering of couples. Couples' minds have been so conditioned in such a way that religion does not permit divorce no matter the harsh situation one goes through. The popular marriage vow which says for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part has instilled fears into the minds of married couples to believe that marriage should be endured. Their perception is that any attempt for separation or divorce by either of them is unacceptable because it is ungodly. Do religious bodies make adequate arrangements for its

adherence for proper counseling? The church needs to be a bit flexible on some of its doctrines governing marriages.

A young man named Plang, who resides in Jos expressed dismay at the way issues of men's abuse are not given adequate attention as the aggressive way domestic violence on women are captured. He was open to say that most men die in silence leading to increasing number of deaths among men. "It's natural that men endure pains as most of them find it difficult to speak about the violence they go through in the hands of women for fear of being stigmatized by the society". Should they continue till death? Enough of the silence and speak out to save someone from dying. Another person who pleaded for anonymity said his neighbor goes through tough times as his wife beats him to the point that he's always afraid to come home. The solution he has adopted now is to drink to stupor and walks quietly to the room and sleep.

Therefore, it rare to find solutions to the devastating verbal abuse men suffers in the hands of their wives. It is worse because men can't discuss the agony of experiences with their wives for fear of scorn and derision. Violence of any kind is unacceptable, it should stop.

It is with a heavy heart that Bangles mourns the death of one of our own, Mrs. Osinachi Nwachukwu. It is alleged that she died as a result of domestic violence meted to her by her husband. Today's topic is the correlation between spousal killings and the stigmatization of divorce and the divorced. But before we go into the heart of it, let us look at the correlation between mental ill-health and spousal abuse in order to understand abuse.

We live in a society where divorce is seen as a taboo and a stigma and because of that, a lot of women and men stay in abusive marriages with the hope and prayer that one day, the abusive spouse will change. That is the mistake of a lifetime. Abusers do not change because of their psychological make-up. This means that prevention is the solution.

What we need to start doing as a society is to make basic psychology a part of our curriculum. A knowledge of basic psychology can tell you when someone's behaviour reflects a personality disorder or any other type of mental health. This of course, is subject to confirmation by a clinical psychologist. Let me give you an example. If your spouse takes your picture and cuts it up in anger, that is a form of violence in psychology. This is an indication of a deeper problem. If you do not know this, you will put it down to anger and think nothing of it. It could be your car or credentials or something very important to you. When a spouse starts to display this type of violence towards you, you either ask for him to get the help he or she needs or you think of how to start protecting yourself because sooner than later, the big one will happen.

First and foremost, abuse starts in the mind and as such, before we can prevent or stop abuse, we have to understand and address the mind of an abuser. Most abusers have one form of personality disorder or mental health issue that is undiagnosed. This means that if we are serious as individuals, we have to educate ourselves and our children about the possibility of these and then as a society, we have to enshrine psychological testing and profiling for intending couples and leaders, medical personnel, military and the police. The test should be part of the criteria for entry into these areas.

Psychological/psychiatric test and profiling should be critical in marriage because it is safer to end a relationship with a potential abuser than it is to die in marriage. It is also critical for our society to teach basic psychology not only in school but to young people of marriage age and married couples because there is a scientific correlation between abuse and personality disorder or mental health.

Mental ill-health is often associated with violence, and personality disorders, which closely relates to mental ill-health, are particularly sneaky because the perpetrator does not look or behave mad. He or she can live a life that seems normal and yet he or she may have a personality disorder that is violent. An understanding of personality disorders and mental health in general will help in preventing domestic violence and spousal abuse or Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), According to Forbes:

Intimate Partner Violence is defined broadly as physical, sexual, or psychological harm inflicted by a current or former romantic partner or spouse.... To better understand the risk factors associated with Intimate Partner Violence, the researchers examined 10 personality disorders defined by the DSM-5 (paranoid, schizoid, schizotypal, antisocial, borderline, histrionic, narcissistic, avoidant, dependent and obsessive-compulsive) and explored their associations with intimate partner violence. They found antisocial personalities, or people who tend to lie, break the law, act impulsively, and lack consideration for their own safety or the safety of others, and borderline personalities, or those who experience frequent feelings of instability and worthlessness and who struggle to maintain healthy relationships, were most likely to be the perpetrators or victims of intimate partner violence. "At the global IPV perpetration level, every personality disorder except for histrionic and obsessive-compulsive demonstrated significant and positive effects," say the researchers. "Perhaps unsurprisingly, the largest effect

sizes were found for antisocial and borderline, which are also the two most widely studied personality disorders in relation to IPV. To arrive at this conclusion, the researchers scoured the scientific literature for studies examining intimate partner violence and personality disorders. They identified 163 such studies with 189 individual samples.

The forgoing is from Forbes. Clearly, we can see that there is a correlation between abuse and some personality disorders. In some cases, this could be outright undiagnosed psychosis. This personality disorders and mental health disorders could stem from childhood. If an individual is suspected to have a personality disorder, it is better to convince him to see a clinical

Spousal killings and the stigmatization of divorce (I)



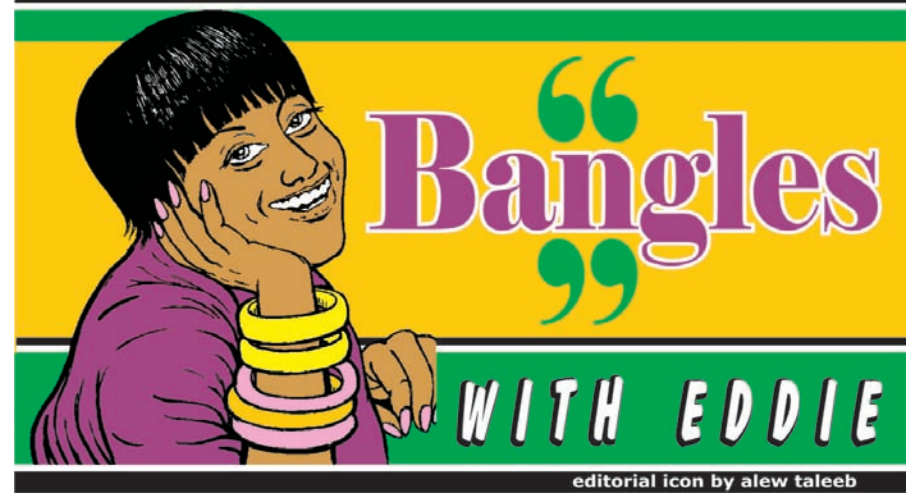
psychologist. According to FHE health, in an article titled "Domestic violence and personality disorder, the eye opening link":

It's not uncommon for people diagnosed with personality disorders to have been victims of violence themselves as children. Psychiatric professionals will look for symptoms when assessing someone's condition, such as an unstable sense of self or a history of social difficulties. Often, for instance, people with a borderline personality disorder may struggle to trust others in their close interpersonal relationships and/or act impulsively, without thinking about the likely consequences of their actions.

The Forgoing is from FHE. We can see that the problem of domestic violence or Intimate Partner Violence is not as simple as it looks. It is a problem that could stem from childhood based on how parents treat their children and what experiences a child goes through generally, and only a clinical psychologist can confirm and treat this. We can suspect and report mental health disorder in our intimate partners and spouses, if we have basic understanding of personality disorders and mental health issues.

Any organization that stands against spousal abuse must understand the need and importance of attacking the problem of spousal abuse from its roots and must also empower men and women to know when a man or woman has potentials for abuse. Abusers do not change because their problem is intrinsic. It is in their psychological make-up. A spouse who is not abusive in nature, will not abuse his or her spouse even if the environment and culture provide the enabling environment to do so. An abusive partner will abuse even when the law will take its course. Question is, do we want to be victims in the name of marriage? Why are we more reactive than proactive? Why do we look so solutions when irretrievable harm has already been done?

Marriage does not only deal with human behaviour, it deals with the creation of life



rejection or abandonment, poor social skills, hostility toward a gender, high levels of dependence, controlling behaviors, heightened feelings of rage, and acts of mental and/or physical abuse.

Secondly, it is apparent that a lot of us think that physical abuse is the only type of abuse or violence. If someone is not beating up his or her spouse, he or she is not an abuser. Wrong. There are various types of behaviour that are classified as violence. The New Found Land Labrador itemizes the types of violence as follows: **Physical Violence** occurs when someone uses a part of their body or an object to control a person's actions. **Sexual Violence** occurs when a person is forced to unwillingly take part in sexual activity. **Emotional Violence** occurs when someone says or does something to make a person feel stupid or worthless. **Psychological Violence** occurs when someone uses threats and causes fear in an individual to gain control. **Spiritual Violence** (or religious) occurs when someone uses an individual's spiritual beliefs to manipulate, dominate or control that person. **Cultural Violence** occurs when an individual is harmed as a result of practices that are part of her or his culture, religion or tradition. **Verbal Abuse** occurs when someone uses language, whether spoken or written, to cause harm to an individual. **Financial Abuse** occurs when someone controls an individual's financial resources without the person's consent or misuses those resources and **Neglect** is when someone has the responsibility to provide care or assistance for an individual but does not. The Forgoing is from the New found Land Labrador.

In my opinion, killings or maiming of wives and husband, girlfriends and boyfriend for money ritual and other purposes is a form of spiritual abuse that may not be very obvious but happens in African marriages. Health Abuse occurs when the chronic and persistent behaviour of a spouse can cause the partner to develop stress related disease such as cancer and high blood pressure. Infidelity is a form of emotional abuse that can cause high blood pressure in the one being cheated on and neglect by the cheating spouse.

Knowledge of what constitutes violence and abuse will go a long way in stemming or stopping domestic abuse before or while it is happening and this can only be done through formal or informal teaching of basic psychology. How do I know when I am being abused? when do I know when to leave? How do I avoid marrying an abuser? how do I know if my husband is an abuser? how do I raise my children to ensure that they do not become abusers? What are forms and types of abuse? Where can I find a psychologist and a psychiatrist? How do I teach my children to identify abusers? These are a few questions that our NGOs and Government through expert psychologist and psychiatrist, can answer to help prevent abuse in our society.

We have taken a look at the correlation between mental health and personality disorders on one hand, and spousal abuse on the other hand. Next week we will look at how the stigmatization of divorce has also kept women and men in their marriages with the hope and prayer of their spouses changing, until they got killed. We will look at why it has become important for the society at large to stop stigmatizing divorce and divorcees as a way of giving respite to the abused and saving their lives.

GOD has the ability to provide for you and to keep you if you are connected to Him just like He did for Israel in the Old Testament when they were in the city of Goshen in Egypt. Understanding how to trust in Him and how to yield to His salvation will preserve you and will cause you to thrive and flourish in this wicked world.

Again, today we are looking at what the Holy Spirit is saying concerning the spirit of fear. The Spirit of God is saying that it is either you are trusting the salvation you have through Jesus Christ to preserve you in the world or you are going along the path of fear. You cannot do two at the same time. This means that if you are yielding to fear, you are not trusting God; if you are trusting God, there is no way you will be afraid.

We are seeing how important it is to understanding how to resist the spirit of fear. Again, 2 Tim. 1:7 **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** We understand from the scriptures that fear is not just an emotion or a thought or an impression or even just a physical reaction in your body. Fear is actually a spirit and it came into this world when Adam sinned.

Fear and Satan are synonymous as fear proceeds from the devil. As we also found out from scriptures, Satan can do nothing in the life of an individual outside of fear. The only access he has into your life is through fear. This is why the Bible says, **refuse to fear and trust me and my power will work in your life and your situation.**

It is important for us to realise that no matter what is going on in your life today, you can make a choice to refuse to fear; especially if you are a child of God. you can raise and say, no matter how dark and despondent the situation looks, no matter how hopeless and helpless the situation looks, I can rise up today, bind the spirit of fear and refuse the spirit of fear from operating in my life. Introduce the power of God into that circumstance.

Child of God, I say this without fear in any way, no situation you are faced with is bigger than God. your God is bigger than sickness, He is bigger than disease, He is bigger than lack; He is bigger than failure – no matter how many times you fail, God is bigger than your past and your past failures.

Your God is bigger than bad economies, He is bigger than insurgencies, He is bigger than security challenges; He is bigger than anything you can ever face. As a matter of fact, the foes we face are an opportunity for God to manifest Himself if you will trust Him.

The challenges, difficulties and problems we face today are simply an opportunity for God to manifest Himself and demonstrate Himself to be God if we will learn to trust Him. and a vital part in learning to trust God is shorting down the

operation of the spirit of fear.

Now how does the spirit of fear operate? It operates through thoughts and perceptions concerning your circumstance. He amplifies the things you are going through and causes you to meditate and dwell on the circumstance in your thinking day and night. And the more you are thinking about it, the bigger it becomes. That is just how it is –

that enforces the power of the devil to keep that situation alive and active.

Job said **the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me** (Job 3:25). Fear is that open door. Job by his own admission opened the door for the devil to attack by the things he feared. But you can shutdown the power of the devil



Fear not, trust God (08)



“**Fear and Satan are synonymous as fear proceeds from the devil. As we also found out from scriptures, Satan can do nothing in the life of an individual outside of fear. The only access he has into your life is through fear. This is why the Bible says, refuse to fear and trust me and my power will work in your life and your situation.**”

whatever you focus your attention becomes magnified in your life.

This is not psychology; this is the word of God. The Bible says in Prov. 23:7 **For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...** that is how it works. So it is either we make up our minds to trust God and refuse to fear or fear and give the spirit of fear the opportunity to operate in our lives which shuts down our ability to trust God and causes the situation to continue to deteriorate.

So here is a scenario I want to paint before you today – no matter how bad the circumstance is in your life, cut off the power of the devil from that situation by refusing to fear. It is continually being afraid and voicing out that fear talking about the situation

“Now, how do you trust God? by the words of your mouth; by the declaration of your faith and by your actions of faith. To tell you the truth, as you align your thoughts and your words to scriptures, you shutoff the power of the devil from the circumstance and introduce the power of God and you find out that things begin to turn around. I feel so strongly in my heart to tell somebody that no matter how situations seems to have deteriorated, do not agree to listen to the lie of the devil. That situation can change and turn around and you can come up again.”

today. No matter how things have been, you can reverse it. Cut off the power of the devil from that situation by refusing to fear.

Stop thinking fearful thoughts and speaking fearful words. Stop pouring petrol on the situation by thinking and speaking and acting along the lines of fear. Satan will keep telling you how your situation will deteriorate and how he will kill you and how you will never have enough and you will die poor and so on. That is his job – his job is to scream those lies in your ears but your job is to trust God.

Regain strength in the name of Jesus; refuse to speak the devils words after him. Rise up in the name of Jesus and boldly open your mouth and say, I refuse to fear; Satan, I shutdown your

operation in my life today in the name of Jesus. I refuse to be afraid, you are not bigger than my God, you are not my lord and I refuse to think your thoughts and to speak your words. I choose to think God's thoughts and I choose to speak God's words.

Shutdown the operation of the spirit of fear; rise up in faith and open the door for the power of God to work in your life. no matter how bad it has been, God can and will reverse it if you give him the opportunity to do so.

When you shutdown the operation of the spirit of fear in your life, what happens is like literally unplugging an electrical appliance from the wall socket. The moment you unplug that appliance and electricity stops going through it, it stops working.

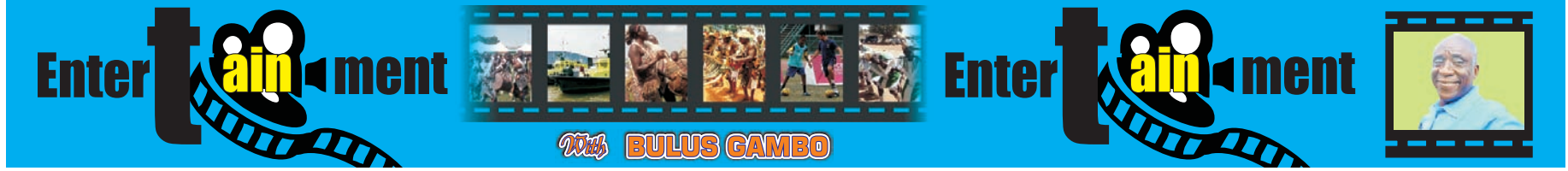
That is how it is when your quit fearing.

Whether the situation has to do with sickness in your body, your finances or whatever area of your life, cut the devil off by refusing to fear. Now the moment his power is cut off, that situation will no longer continue to deteriorate – then you introduce the power of God into your circumstance by trusting God. Glory to God.

Now, how do you trust God? by the words of your mouth; by the declaration of your faith and by your actions of faith. To tell you the truth, as you align your thoughts and your words to scriptures, you shutoff the power of the devil from the circumstance and introduce the power of God and you find out that things begin to turn around.

I feel so strongly in my heart to tell somebody that no matter how situations seems to have deteriorated, do not agree to listen to the lie of the devil. That situation can change and turn around and you can come up again.

You body can be healthy again; your family can stabilise again; God can create an oasis of love and a garden of prosperity for you in the midst of the most hopeless economy. If you allow God to introduce His power into your circumstance, you will come out and come up and go over that situation and circumstance in the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



With **BULUS GAMBO**

My life has been a miracle

- Evangelist Lucky



to encourage these local. I have an audio and video studio, one of the largest in the state. I also have a vehicle which is dedicated to promoting artists around. I have up to 28 speakers and to boost our work. Therefore, we have the equipments to promote any artist which we sign under our label. We will ensure that we promote such artists throughout all the local councils we have here on the Plateau.

Why is it that you have not gone outside Plateau State to ply your trade like most other artistes in the state?

I have gone to many places. My skin color is lighter than you can think so many people do think that I am not from Plateau State. Others think I am Igbo and by the way, I have stayed in Owerri, Anambra and Maiduguri. Therefore, I have gone to many places in this country. In fact, I refused to sign for a label in Niger Republic I would have been staying there. But it would interest you to know that some of them are coming to engage me right here in my studio is Lucy Music World Studio in Pankshin. So some of them from this republic are here working with us in

Continued on page 25

You have been in the music industry for some time now, how far so far?

I have been in the music industry for the past 22 years. When I joined the service I left it for a while but after my accident which, I later recovered, I permanently went into music industry proper. I think I have released about 14 albums and in all I have released about 21 albums now. The one I will release on the 10th of April 2022 here in Jos, the Plateau State capital at Plateau State Polytechnic will feature the two more albums. This will be followed by a musical tour to some local government areas including Shendam, Langtang, Bokkos and Mangu. I want to visit such places to serve as an encouragement to others. I want to also use this opportunity to sign some upcoming gospel artists under my new label.

We want to use this tour



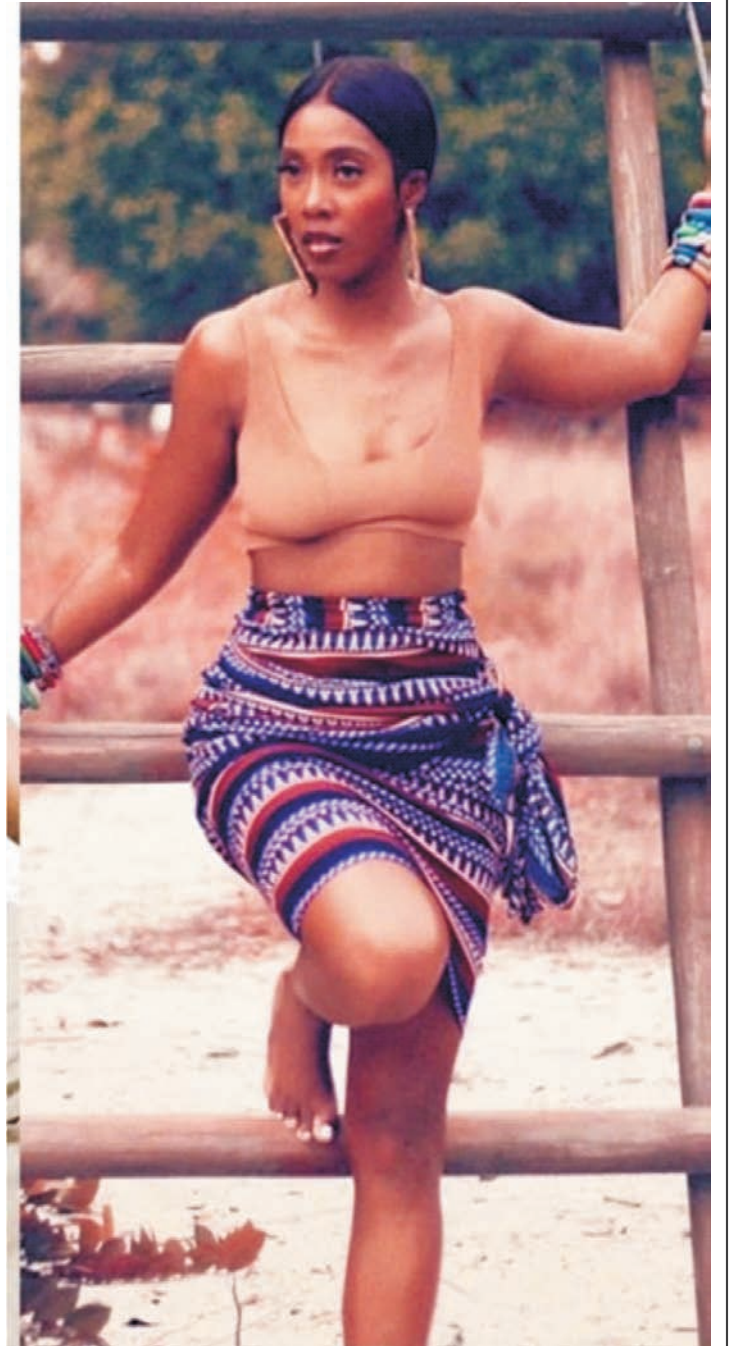
Female celebrities who suffered leaked tape scandal

Paris Hilton



Paris Whitney Hilton is a famous American media personality, actress, model, socialite, and singer. In 2004, the alleged Hilton's tape was released on the media. The incident happened three years after the video was recorded. Fortunately, the celebrity became a famous star overnight.

Tiwa Savage



It is no longer news that Tiwa Savage's tape has been trending all over social media. The popular Nigerian celebrity had openly revealed that she was being blackmailed by an unknown person. She further stated that the blackmailer demanded a huge amount of money. Presently, the celebrity has kept quiet and hasn't said anything about the issue.

Continued on page 25

INTERNATIONAL



The Moskva patrolling the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Syria

Russian warship: Moskva sinks in black sea

A Russian warship that was damaged by an explosion recently has sunk, Russia's defence ministry has said.

Moskva, the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, was being towed to port when "stormy seas" caused it to sink, according to a ministry message.

The 510-crew missile cruiser was a symbol of Russia's military power, leading its naval assault on Ukraine.

Kyiv says its missiles hit the warship. Moscow has not reported any attack - it says the vessel sank after a fire.

The blaze caused the explosion of the warship's ammunition, Russia says, adding that the entire crew were later evacuated to nearby Russian vessels in the Black Sea.

After saying initially the warship was afloat, late on Thursday the Russian defence

ministry announced that the Moskva had been lost.

The 12,490-tonne vessel is the biggest Russian warship to be sunk in action since World War Two.

"While being towed... towards the destined port, the vessel lost its balance due to damage sustained in the hull as fire broke out after ammunition exploded. Given the choppy seas, the vessel sank," the Russian defence ministry said.

Ukrainian military officials said they struck the Moskva with Ukrainian-made Neptune missiles - a weapon designed after Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, and the naval threat to Ukraine in the Black Sea grew.

The ship's sinking was described by the US as a "big blow", but American officials were unable to confirm whether Ukrainian Neptune missiles were responsible.

"It's certainly plausible and possible that [Ukraine] did in fact hit this with a Neptune missile or maybe more," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby.

A senior Ukrainian official said as many as 510 crew could have been on board the Moskva.

On the first day of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, the Moskva gained notoriety after calling on a small garrison of Ukrainian border troops defending Snake Island in the Black Sea to surrender - to which they memorably radioed an expletive-laden message of refusal.

Originally built in the Soviet-era, the Moskva entered service in the early 1980s. The vessel was actually laid down in Ukraine's southern city of Mykolaiv, which has been heavily bombed by Russia in recent days.

Sri Lanka secures IMF bail out

A Sri Lankan delegation is headed to Washington, looking to secure up to \$4 billion from the International Monetary Fund and other lenders to help the island nation pay for food and fuel imports and limit debt defaults.

The team led by newly appointed Finance Minister Ali Sabry hopes to start talks with the lender of last resort on April 18 and secure aid as early as a week after negotiations.

Sabry will be joined in the talks by central bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe and Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardana, both of whom have had stints with the IMF.

Still, political turmoil at home, with street protests by citizens calling for the ouster of Rajapaksa only make the job of convincing the IMF to lend money more difficult. The \$81 billion economy faced \$8.6 billion worth of debt obligations this year before it suspended payments on foreign loans to preserve cash to pay for essential food and fuel imports.

Sabry said, affirming confidence in the team he will be leading. Governor Weerasinghe replaced Ajith Nivard Cabraal, one of the strongest proponents of ending reliance on the IMF, while

Secretary Siriwardana took over from Sajith Attygalle, also known for resisting aid from the multilateral lender.

Even with officials more amenable to working with the IMF in place, it will be an uphill task for Sri Lanka to raise the kind of funds Sabry said the country needs to tide over a balance of payments crisis this year.

The last time IMF extended help to Sri Lanka in 2016, the loan was capped at \$1.5 billion and the program was prematurely terminated after disbursing \$1.3 billion. That was when the economy was growing at about 5% and tourism accounted for a similar percent of gross domestic product.

In the absence of revenue from tourism, Sri Lanka has in recent times turned to countries including China and India for support amid a weak foreign-reserves position. The nation is also in talks with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for support, Sabry said.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi to seek further help for securing food and fuel

imports for the island nation, a statement from the high commission said. New Delhi has already provided a \$1 billion credit facility to buy food, medicines and other essential items as well as \$500 million for fuel imports, since the crisis.

Citigroup Global Markets expects the IMF's involvement to help negotiations with bond holders, as Sri Lanka looks to request them to take a haircut on payments owed to them. The government may ask investors to accept a loss of 50% on interest payments, and 20% on the principal, analysts Donato Guarino and Johanna Chua wrote in a note to clients.

The loan restructuring plan needs to be credible and one that will reduce the debt quantum to a sustainable level, said Sanjeeva Fernando, strategist at CT CLSA Securities in Colombo. He also underlined the need for fiscal reforms with a formal time line.

The authorities are also seeking to cut expenditure, including freezing hiring at government departments.

Ahead of the talks, Sri Lanka has raised interest rates,

SOMALIA has inaugurated 290 new lawmakers, bringing the country a step closer to completing a prolonged electoral process marred by alleged corruption and irregularities.

The ceremony was held on Thursday in the capital's heavily fortified Halane military camp, protected by sandbagged fences and high concrete walls. Somali police and African Union troops were deployed to the surrounding areas, putting Mogadishu under lockdown.

Dozens more legislators are yet to be selected and sworn in. Later the lawmakers will elect speakers and deputies for both parliamentary chambers before they sit to choose a new president.

"We are observing a new set of parliamentarians taking over from others. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate parliamentarians who have been sworn in today. This is a huge responsibility assigned on you by your constituents, and it is a vote of confidence," said Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble.

The swearing-in took place as the UN humanitarian coordinator in Somalia warned that "the country is facing a very real risk of famine."

Adam Abdelmoula said in a video briefing for UN reporters in New York that severe drought has compounded humanitarian

Russia threatens another strike on Kyiv

RUSSIA has warned it will intensify attacks once again on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, over alleged by Ukrainian forces.

In a daily update issued on Friday, Russia's defence ministry said it would increase the "number and scale of missile strikes" against targets in the city in response to "any terrorist attacks or

Somalia risk famine as it swears in lawmakers

needs, and 6 million people "need food assistance immediately".

The UN asked for \$1.5bn to meet humanitarian needs in Somalia in 2022, but he said that "we have received just 4.4 per cent."

Hussein Sheikh Ali of the Mogadishu-based research group Hiraal Institute said the inauguration of lawmakers "marks a great relief day for all Somalis and (the) international community who invested in Somalia to move forward".

In recent years, Somalia has begun to find its footing after 30 years of chaos from strongmen and the abundance of armed groups linked to al-Qaeda, al-Shabab and ISIL (ISIS).

Somalia's parliamentary

and presidential polls were delayed for more than a year amid political turmoil after President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's mandate expired in February 2021 without a successor in place. Lower house elections that were to be completed on March 15 are still not complete.

The delay led the US Department of State to announce sanctions on a number of government officials accusing them of "undermining the democratic process in Somalia".

It also raised political tensions and the threat of violence in a country prone to attacks by fighters who oppose the federal government. In March, al-Shabab claimed to have thrown mortar shells targeting the Halane base.



Mohamed Hussein

sabotage" on Russian soil.

The threat came after Moscow accused Ukrainian troops of launching assaults in Russian border areas on Thursday - a charge Ukraine denied - and coincided with reports of powerful explosions being heard in Kyiv early on Friday morning.

In its briefing, the ministry said its troops had struck a "military" factory on the outskirts of Kyiv late on Thursday using Kalibr sea-based long-range missiles in retaliation for the alleged attacks.

"As a result of the strike on the Zhulyansky machine-building plant 'Vizar', the workshops for the production and repair of long-range and medium-range anti-aircraft missile systems, as well as anti-ship missiles, were destroyed," the ministry said.

The blasts in Kyiv appeared to be among the most significant there since Russian troops pulled back from the area more than two weeks ago as Moscow announced it was refocusing its offensive on Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.

They were reportedly heard after the Russian defence ministry said the Moskva, the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, had sunk while being towed after being badly damaged.

Ukraine claimed the Moskva's damage was the result of one of its missile strikes. Russia's defence ministry spoke only of a fire breaking out and of exploding ammunition.

Reporting from the Ukrainian capital, Al Jazeera's Charles Stratford said the reported attacks served as an

"example that despite the withdrawal of Russian forces from this area, Kyiv could become a target once again".

Kyiv was first targeted in the early hours of February 24, at the onset of Moscow's large-scale invasion, but Russian advances on the city and other areas stalled or were blocked by Ukrainian defences.

Separately, Russia's defence ministry said that its S-400 missile system had shot down a Ukrainian Mi-8 helicopter which Moscow said had taken part in air raids on residential buildings in the country's southwestern Bryansk region on Thursday.

There was no immediate reaction to Russia's claims from Kyiv, which on Thursday rejected accusations of cross-border raids by its forces and instead accused Moscow of staging "terror attacks" on its own territory to stir up "anti-Ukrainian hysteria" in the country.

Al Jazeera's Stratford said there were big concerns in Ukraine about potential so-called "false flag" operations by Moscow.

"The Russians have repeatedly been accused of using ... falsified pieces of information or falsified video evidence of a Ukrainian strike, according to the Russians, which gives them a pretext to retaliate and to strike Ukrainian targets," he said.

According to Russian officials, dozens of residential buildings were damaged by the "air strikes" carried out by two Ukrainian helicopters in Bryansk.

At least seven people were wounded in the attacks, Moscow said. news agencies



Rajapaksa

INTERNATIONAL

Somalia's elections - where the people don't vote

Most of Somalia's new MPs have been sworn in following a unique election for its parliament - known as the House of the People. But the people did not vote in a poll that has been dragging on for a record four months - more than double the time it took to pull off India's election, the biggest democratic exercise in the world, in which more than 600 million people voted. MOHAMUD ALI writes.

IN Somalia, only a few thousand people voted for a parliament that would represent the nation of around 16.3 million.

This is because Somalia uses a complex and indirect political system and political parties do not contest elections. Nor do one-person-one-vote elections take place.

Instead, the 275-member House of People is chosen by delegates appointed by clan elders and members of civil society who are selected by regional state officials. The MPs then vote for a president, who leads the country.

A 54-member lower chamber, the Senate, representing Somalia's five regional states, also takes part in the presidential vote.

It shows the power of clans in Somalia - they form the backbone of a society in which Western-style democracy has not taken root.

They also fill the vacuum created by the absence of a functioning state - Somalia has not had one since the socialist regime led by Siad Barre collapsed in 1991.

Somalia plunged into a civil war in the 1980s, leading to the overthrow of the Siad Barre regime

As there is intense rivalry among Somalia's clans, the system is based on a power-sharing formula, where the four major clans have an equal number of parliamentary seats and the remaining clans are lumped together and given half the number.

This makes Somalia's clan representatives political kingmakers nearly 300 MPs have been sworn in, following the elections for the two parliamentary chambers. But the choice of about 30 MPs has not yet been concluded because of disputes over various issues, including the eligibility of candidates.

The elections were rocked by massive corruption, abuse of power and disregard of the election's rules. It is believed millions of dollars were spent in buying delegates in some cases.

Unfortunately, the country does not have institutions that can act against corruption.

Qatar is a major player in the political scene. Analysts believe that it single-handedly financed current President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo's campaign in the 2017 vote,



20 MPs were sworn in at a time



Somalia plunged into a civil war in the 1980s, leading to the overthrow of the Siad Barre regime

and had huge access to his administration.

Huge public pressure exists for parliament to move swiftly to elect a new president, as President Farmajo's term expired in February 2021.

But he remained in office because political bickering and the lack of preparations delayed the parliamentary election, leaving him - and lawmakers - without a mandate to govern.

The parliamentary election was finally held under pressure from Western donors - including the US which restricted visas for officials seen as undermining the electoral process.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it could stop financial support for Somalia by mid-May if elections were not completed.

Once a new government takes office, it will have to

address Somalia's challenges - including the drought. It has been worsening in the last three years and aid agencies are now warning of a famine.

More than 3.5 million people need food aid, and 1.4 million children face severe malnutrition.

Their main concern is the growth of militant Islam. Somalia is the headquarters of al-Shabab, an al-Qaeda affiliate regarded as the most dangerous in Africa.

Militant Islam grew in Somalia about two decades ago after US-backed Ethiopian troops stormed the capital, Mogadishu, to oust the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) from power.

Somalia has been wracked by an Islamist insurgency for about two decades

The defeat of the UIC led to al-Shabab gaining strength, as the militants vowed to drive

out the "invaders".

Today, al-Shabab controls many parts of Somalia, and carries out frequent attacks aimed at overthrowing the government and establishing Islamist rule.

In the 2012 and 2016 election, al-Shabab threatened and even kidnapped clan elders after condemning them for participating in what it saw as un-Islamic election.

This time around, its response to the elections has been more muted, with fears that its members or sympathisers may have secretly sought parliamentary seats in a bid to undermine the system from within.

The fear was publicly expressed by neighbouring Djibouti's President Omar Guelleh in 2020, when he was quoted as saying: "I fear we will end up with a parliament

indirectly controlled by al-Shabab because they'll have bought the support of some of the MPs."

Some analysts felt Mr Guelleh was exaggerating the possibility of al-Shabab gaining a foothold in parliament, but there is no doubt that it is a major political force in Somalia.

Somalia's power-brokers agreed a long time ago that one-person-vote elections would be held by this year, but they failed to fulfil the promise.

That was not surprising, as some of the key requirements - including the registration of political parties and the ratification of a new constitution via a referendum - did not happen.

It is unclear to what extent it will be the priority of the next government, which will have lots of huge challenges.

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Did you know you could clean with lemon?

WHEN life throws you lemons, just clean your home with them

Cleaning items and lemons
Lemons can make a refreshing addition to our meals, but did you know they can also be used for cleaning? Similar to the miraculous cleaning properties of baking soda and white vinegar, lemons are a great, natural cleaning solution without the use of harsh chemicals. In addition, lemons are a natural bleaching agent, and can deodorize bad odors, leaving a fresh scent. Plus, it's far cheaper than spending a fortune on cleaning products.

Here are nine things you didn't know you could clean with a lemon around the home.

Bathroom Cleaning

Lemons are great at tackling limescale around bathroom faucets or the showerhead. Simply run the cut side of a lemon over faucets, drains, and more to remove hard water stains. Rinse and dry thoroughly, and this will make them fresh and shiny. Never use lemons on gold plated taps as it could damage or discolor the surface. In addition, lemon juice can get rid of marks on glass shower doors and soap scum around your bathtub or in the shower. Simply apply the lemon juice on a sponge or dilute lemon juice with water into a spray bottle. This will be easier to spray onto a larger surface. Allow the lemon juice to sit for a minute before wiping clean with a damp cloth.

Microwave cleaning

Our microwaves are prone to messy spills or caked-on food or grease. Instead of getting out the cleaning spray, there is a quick way to make it spotless without all the elbow grease. First, fill a microwave-safe bowl or measuring cup with water before squeezing two lemon halves into it. Microwave the mixture for three minutes, then let it sit for five minutes. Leave the door closed to allow the steam to loosen up the hardened food residue or grease. This will make it easier to wipe the inside of the microwave clean with a damp cloth. If you want to give the rest of your microwave a thorough clean, check out how to clean a microwave.

Glass cleaning

Similar to white vinegar, lemon juice can make your glass spotless and streak-free. You



can easily make a DIY spray by mixing one tablespoon of white vinegar and two tablespoons of lemon juice in warm water. Pour into a clean spray bottle and apply directly onto the glass. While this solution can also be used on plastic, or ceramic surfaces, avoid using lemon juice on porous surfaces such as marble, granite or slate. The high acidity may scratch or damage surfaces.

Pots and pans

If you have hardened dirt, food or grease, lemons make a natural scourer and stain remover. Simply slice a lemon in half, dip it in coarse salt and rub it onto metal surfaces such as stainless steel and copper pans. This will eliminate dirt and make them shine. Don't use lemon on silver and gold features though, as it can damage the plating. You may also want to read how to clean stainless steel without

damaging it.

Blender

If you use your blender often, it will be prone to lingering odors. This easy hack is simply to cut up a lemon and add it to the blender with half a cup of water. Then turn the blender on for a minute or two before rinsing out and leaving to dry. The lemon will help eliminate odors out of the blender jar and leave it smelling fresh and citrus clean.

Kitchen knives washing a knife

If your best kitchen knives have rust spots, lemon juice can help to remove these. Simply soak the stainless steel part of your knives in lemon overnight. Then, rinse each knife with warm water and dry with a clean towel. The lemon juice acidity will lift the rust away from the knives so they'll be spotless.

Cutting boards Wooden cutting board with lemon

Wooden cutting boards can often be prone to stains and marks, especially if you're chopping foods such as beets, tomatoes or carrots. Lemons are a quick and easy way to tackle these. Simply run half a lemon over the wooden surface to get rid of stubborn stains and odors.

White linen/clothing White linen in washing machine

Lemon juice can be used as an alternative to bleach to brighten your white linen. Simply place your whites in five litres of cold water with the juice of one lemon and leave to soak for an hour, before machine washing as normal. In addition, lemon juice is a natural stain remover so this will get rid of stubborn yellow sweat stains or deodorant marks. Avoid using it on colorful fabrics, as this can cause discoloration. You might also want to check out how to remove oil stains from clothes without

ruining them.

Kettle

If you love hot drinks on a daily basis, your kettle is likely to have a build-up of limescale. This is often the case if you live in a hard-water area. Rather than buy an expensive descaler, simply mix 1 ounce of lemon juice to 2 cups water and pour into your kettle. Boil the kettle for the lemon to lift off the hard water residue and let it cool before emptying out. Rinse a few times and your kettle should be limescale free and clean again. There are certain things you should never clean with lemon due to its strong acidity. Never clean marble, brass-plated or any other porous surfaces with lemons as these may etch, scratch or stain the surface. Also, never mix lemon juice with bleach as this can release a toxic, chlorine gas in the air. Always use these substances in isolation.

EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Relationship

Signs your man is deeply in love with you

By **CHIMA**

IT can be hard to tell if he is truly in love with you on your first date or if you've been dating for a long time.

Fortunately, there are eight signs to look out for if you want to know if he intends to propose to you in the near future.

In the event that you don't detect any of the following indicators in your relationship, your partner is most likely playing with your emotions.

Even if you're wrong, he stands up for you. Wives' self-esteem is a priority for men who truly care about their wives. In every situation, they are always there for their loved ones. His love for you is clear if your partner tells you about your mistakes privately and protects you no matter how wrong you are.

When you're sick, he's worried about you. When he calls or texts to express his concern and wish you well, he goes above and beyond. Forget about anything else and stick by your side till you're back to your old self. In addition to taking care of your food and household needs, he buys everything you need, including tampons. You have his undivided attention because he cherishes you.

When you disagree with him, he doesn't become furious.

You let out a scream. You are overcome with emotion as you weep. You're the one who breaks dishes. You say things that you later regret saying. You don't have to worry that



he'll get irate and lash out. He understands that women are more sensitive, therefore he allows you to be who you are. He doesn't care who is right or

wrong when he fights. In order to make you feel better, he would sometimes allow you to win the battle.

For the sake of resolving your issues, he is willing to take on debt.

Your partner is willing to support you, even if it means going into debt himself, whether you have a horrible illness or are in debt. As soon as he sees there is a problem, he does not run away from you. He's doing everything he can to make your life a little bit easier. Is this a familiar scenario? You've got a lot going for you. Your guy is infatuated with you to the point of mania. A Relationship he undergoes a radical shift in his lifestyle

In love, a man will do anything to make you happy, even if that means sacrificing all else in his life. Long-distance partners tend to adapt their routines, tastes, and preferences to accommodate the other person's location, so it's likely that he won't mind moving to your city. He is making an effort to adapt into your lifestyle

without revealing it to you...

He admires your tenacity in the face of hardship.

When one of the partners is going through a bad patch, the other is usually there to lend a

helping hand. It is unfortunate that not everyone is capable of understanding and accepting assistance when in need. But this isn't about couples who are head over heels in love. When things get tough, you're stronger because you're going through them with someone else.

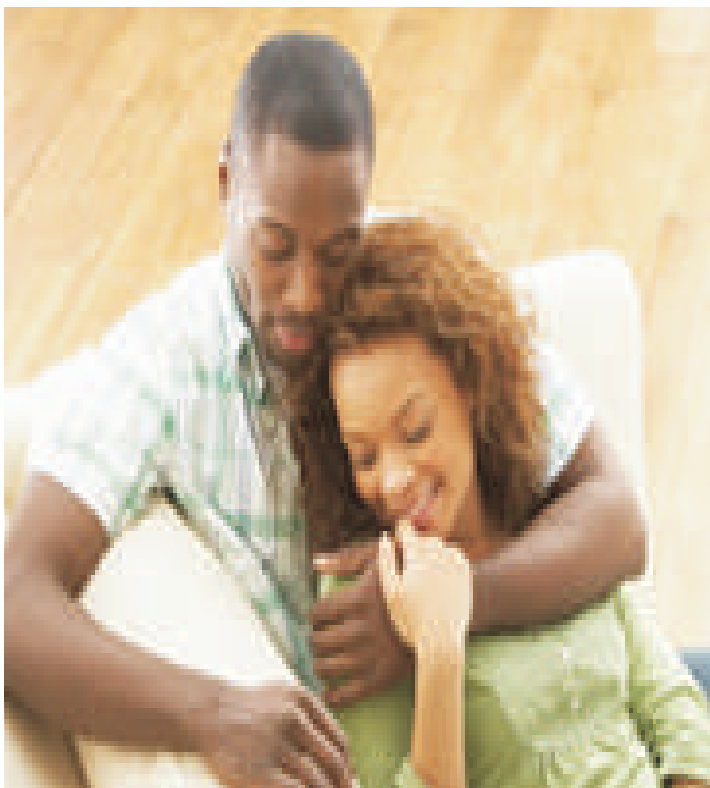
He thinks you've done a great job.

No matter what you do, he will never be ashamed of you. Because of this, he's spread the word. It doesn't matter how much his friends, relatives, and coworkers dislike you; he is grateful to have you in his life. You're all that matters to him, and he doesn't care what anyone else thinks.

The remote is yours to use.

As you know, men worry about who has the remote control while they are watching TV, therefore this isn't as important as the others. As long as you control the remote when you watch TV together, you're most likely in love with him if he gives up his favorite shows so that you may watch yours.

In your current relationship, are you noticing any of these telltale signs? Because of this, you now know that your boyfriend loves you and intends to pop the question one day. If this is the case, congratulations. The question is, 'Are you crazy about him as much as he is for you?'. Hopefully, that's the case. We wish you the best in your future together!





Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi
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The need to set up Plateau Gender Commission

AFTER being among the first to sign the GEO bill into law in the country, Plateau state is still lagging behind in setting structures and implementation mechanisms for the laws to take off.

As such, Wednesday 13th April 2022 led various stakeholders from government circles and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to brainstorm on the way forward on the two gender laws, awaiting assent and take off in Plateau State.

The forum was a strategic meeting with state coordination Committees, Legislators, and State Government for the effective implementation of the model laws under the project "Legal and Social Empowerment Program on Women's Rights in Kaduna and Plateau States", and it was organised by Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), funded by African Women's Development Fund.

In attendance was legislators, government officials, representatives of CSOs and key stakeholders including the Media whose major concern was how to ensure the two gender laws, the Gender and Equal Opportunity (GEO) Law which is already a law awaiting implementation, sets into proper action by enhancing the relevant structures on ground.

Strategic discussions and engagements by the stakeholders therefore led to the call for setting up of a Lobbying Committee and legislative advocacy coalition to push for its implementation and urge the Plateau government to should set up a gender commission, a criteria for GEO laws to be executed.

An 11- man committee was therefore chosen and immediately inaugurated to form the advocacy committee for championing and lobbying for the formulation of gender commission. The members are Comrade Gad Shamaki, Prince Charles Dickson, Hajiya Fati Suleiman, Susan Yigo, Madam Jessica Vongkat, Rhoda Jahota, Hajiya Mauro Sani, Hajiya Zainab Musyapha, Mr. Katdapba Gobum, Bello Lukeman, and Hajiya kaltume Abubakar.

Speaking at the forum, Mohammed Ibrahim Mai Fada, Senior Executive Administrative and programmes, WRAPA said the



Hon. Dusu

"Legislative advocacy coalition and committee is necessary to push for effective implementation of the two laws which are instrumental to getting justice for social ills and violence. He said

copying from Lagos and Kaduna States who have shown commitment and placed structures on ground like Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) funded by donor agencies, there is a need for Plateau State to follow suit to enhance a smooth take off of the two gender laws.

"Plateau does not have a SARC structure for survivors of domestic violence, the structure has two sections which is the shelter side and prosecution side with components like medical doctors, legal practitioners and other stakeholders coming to render free services to victims . The gender commission is also going to have SARC as part of its services. So when we lobby and the commission comes on board, it will run SARC services which is a major aspect that will support the gender laws implementation."

Mai Fada who assured that setting up the gender Commission will benefit Plateau citizens irrespective of gender differences however called for diplomacy in the committee's engagements of state and non-state actors

towards the establishment the State gender Commission, assent of the VAPP Bill and lobby for the establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), including advocacy visits to the state House of Assembly and other key stakeholders that are instrumental to the successful take off of the commission and its structures.

Former Plateau Chairperson of Federation of Women Lawyers, Barr Mary Izam encouraged stakeholders and Plateau citizens to read the laws and have a good knowledge of it adding that they do not address only the issues affecting women but workplace discrimination including other laws that are discriminatory in nature noting that inequality is embedded in discrimination.

Izam, also a gender Expert and Consultant said "There is a lot of ignorance playing out in the society, concerning laws, people don't read or know them, VAPP comes to back up section 42 and enforce the constitution. Harmful cultures that are discriminatory are the challenges that has made the constitution not to be effective despite repite being lumped up in Section 42".

"But The amendment of the penal code law is now effective and there is an option of fine when a man impregnates a woman. Before now, the Nigerian police did not view battery as a crime but now you can be arraigned, convicted and sentenced. Therefore a fusion of the two laws, VAPP and GEO are robust and will boost the main law found in section 42 of the constitution as they will help Plateau men and women in fighting discrimination and social crimes. We are only waiting for its implementation and take off".

Without the Gender Commission, Izam said the GEO Laws cannot be implemented. "This is because the GEO law itself establishes the commission for its implementation. It states that is the commission that would oversee and monitor its implementation process, while the VAPP laws is to be adopted by the ministry of Women Affairs and other bodies for its implementation".

While calling on all stakeholders and the new Committee to be proactive in lobbying, the Gender Expert called for the setting up of an oversight committee in the Plateau House of Assembly to oversee the implementation of the bills adding that "Plateau has gone far through OGP (Open Government Partnership), a forum where government and CSOs work together for the benefit of the state".

Chairman of the newly set Committee, who is the also the Chairman Coalition of Civil Societies in the state, Mr. Gad Shamaki promised to amplify and spearhead activities geared towards ensuring the commission comes into place by embarking on visits to the various stakeholders concerned.

The Speaker, Plateau House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda, and the only female Parliamentarian in House, Hon. Simi Pam Dusu, former Plateau Commissioner for Women Affairs and Information, Hon. Olivia Dazyam, the Plateau State Director, National Orientation Agency, Mrs Kaneng Pam-Hworo, heads of Civil Society groups and representatives of key government agencies and ministries made contributions to make the state attain a milestone on the VAPP, GEO laws implementation level and strategies for establishment of the gender commission.



Shamaki

EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living



How to make up for lost time

YLAND BUCKLEY

I haven't physically seen my mother in over 10 years. I didn't actually get in touch with her until around 3 years ago. While the conversations were a bit rocky at first, we've gotten to the point where we can talk every day about basic things. I think the biggest issue about trying to mend this relationship was making up for lost time. I was no longer an eleven-year-old, and a lot had changed in seven years.

This type of guilt leaked into both of us and we spent more time wondering if this was a relationship that either of us wanted rather than actually trying to form a relationship. I think a lot of you out there can relate to not seeing someone and then trying to pick back up where **you both had left off.**

If you are struggling to try to make up for lost time, here is how you can do it. Don't Allow Guilt to Come in

The worst thing that you can

do when you are trying to repair a relationship feels guilty about the time that has passed. Not only will this guilt make you feel worse about yourself, but it will also prevent you from trying to form a new, blossoming relationship. You both will be too busy thinking about all that you could've done that you miss out on creating new memories and being with that person. Never allow guilt to come into your relationship if you want it to be successful.

Start Now and Forget About the Past

The funny thing about trying to make up for last time is that it is just not possible. Once time passes, it is gone forever. There is no truly making up for lost time. The only thing that you can do at this moment is to try your best to create a long lasting relationship that will overcome that time gap. Make the other person feel loved. Do what you need to in order to build that bridge again. Do what you would normally do in any other relationship. Time does not dictate how a

relationship ends up. You do.

Share a Short Summary of What Has Happened

You can't go back and share moments that never happened between the two of you. However, you can catch them up on what they've missed while you have been separated. Think of your life as a television show and the beginning of this relationship is that short recap that you see before the show starts. Let them know about some of the highlights of your life and then ask them to share theirs. You'll feel much more connected when you are caught up on each other's new lives.

Don't Force Things to Happen

Some relationships are so damaged that you can't put them back together. This is just a fact of life. If too much time has passed and you don't think that you belong in someone else's life anymore, don't try to force it. Sometimes, things happen for a reason and we just need to let them be rather than try to fight them. Think about the good times that you

had rather than reflecting on what could have been when this type of situation comes up. It can be hard but it just might be necessary. **Take It Day by Day**

It can be difficult to come into an old relationship without feeling guilt or responsibility for the separation. Because of this, you may try to overcompensate and do everything that you think you should have already done in the time that you've missed. While this kind of thinking should be expected, it can actually do more harm than good. If you are pushing too hard or trying to make up by showering them with gifts and attention, you may actually ruin your relationship instead of mending it. Take it day-by-day and listen to the other person when you are first stepping back into a relationship. Patience is a virtue. Have you successfully recovered from a relationship that has been ignored for too long? Were there any problems on the way? What kind of things did you have to deal with in this situation?



BUSINESS WORLD

A cash-driven society is bad for you

Your cash transactions which leave little or no trail, make it hard for you to leverage any possible track record for growth. If the 38.1 million Nigerian adults financially excluded at the end of 2020, saved N1,000 every month through a financial service provider, that would have meant an extra N457 billion available in liquidity to drive the Nigerian economy. It would have been almost half a trillion naira available to banks for lending to businesses and individuals, FEMI APESIN writes.

THE Director General of
NThe bottom line is this, there would have been more money digitally captured and potentially available to drive more economic activities; even if it came from something as little as N1,000 saved per person. And this is just scratching the surface of possibilities for an economy where cash moving under the radar is de-emphasised.

Let us make it more personal. If you had a shop on one of the busy streets in Lagos, where you receive payments in cash and when the van comes to supply you with new goods, you also pay in cash. After doing this business for a year or two, you can do a self-assessment and conclude that the business is booming.

At this point, you want to expand to two shops, but to do this, you need a loan. Yes, you have a bank account, which you use occasionally but, really, your business has been largely cash-driven. You're doing well, you're popular as the biggest shop owner in the area, and everyone considers you successful, but how do you explain to your bank that the business has been doing well?

The bank could ask for your account statement, which exists but probably struggles to show about 5 percent of your business transactions. You really haven't been transacting through the formal financial system but more with cash. Doing this was honestly not a problem or limitation for your business, at least not until you needed to establish financial credibility to access a loan.

So, what happens? You remain at the status quo (the single shop); just because you cannot provide "relatable" proof that your business is doing well. However, what many people may not know is that by going digital, the trail



that entities (like banks) want to accept as evidence that your business is doing well is readily available.

Now, let us multiply this availability of digitally available financial trail by the over 100 million economically active adults in Nigeria, the result is that there would be proof of financial existence, that can enable each of these people to effectively grow from one to two shops or more. This can then cascade to impact the economy and GDP, but a cash-driven society results in opacity thus preventing that from happening.

In summary: Dear shop owner, they will ask for evidence that your cash-driven business is actually doing well, but because you've been receiving only cash, no one can verify the financial health of your venture.

Keeping money at home or inside some drawer in the business place could attract thieves, so don't do it. This would probably be the most common motivation for some people to use a bank in the first place. But really, this is the most elementary demerit of a cash-driven society. Yes, the risks of theft are there, but these exist mostly because of wider security challenges.

What matters the most, is the consideration that all things being equal, your cash transactions which leave little or no trail, make it hard for you to leverage any possible track record for growth.

Billions of naira pass through the informal sector and this has a negative impact on Nigeria's economic growth and development, according to EFInA. It had also noted that in the absence of finance, people who are not connected with the formal financial system lack opportunities to maximise their income and expand their businesses, emphasising the point earlier made.

EFInA also emphasised that the country's economic growth could be stifled: Vast unutilised resources, in the form of money in the hands of people who are in the informal sector could

limit a country's economic growth potential.

However, the business owner that has a bank account but hardly uses it is really not enjoying the full spectrum of financial inclusion. This limitation is caused because of the over-dependence on cash.

The World Bank defines financial inclusion as individuals and businesses having access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way. So, what if you own a bank account; do you derive maximum value in terms of financial products and services?

As noted in a KPMG report on financial inclusion in Nigeria, the "Mallam" who is a gateman but sells low-value groceries through the gatehouse of the compound he is employed, or the smallholder farmer in Northern Nigeria or the woman who sells tomatoes at the open market in southwestern Nigeria, sell on a daily basis but are all largely cash-driven, lacking access to proper financial services and this lack translates into limited

economic well-being. Their net worth is more often than not, tucked somewhere under the little space they do business.

There is an opportunity for the private sector to step in and provide financial products and services to these groups of people (who are in their millions), seen as low-income demography yet highly productive. Innovating bespoke financial products and services that factor in possible aversion to technology and minimal literacy could get these people formally captured in the financial system.

Where the traditional banks cannot reach them, other last-mile players can cater to these people, linking them to formal banking services without these individuals having to go through 'the educated stress' that may have turned them off in the past.

When they are captured, their widow's mites as it were, when aggregated, could form a cash haul that can boost liquidity in the entire economy. More importantly for these new converts to the financial system, it would be an introduction to a new world of possibilities where they can make their money really work for them.

"Keeping money at home or inside some drawer in the business place could attract thieves, so don't do it. This would probably be the most common motivation for some people to use a bank in the first place. But really, this is the most elementary demerit of a cash-driven society. Yes, the risks of theft are there, but these exist mostly because of wider security challenges".

BUSINESS WORLD

FG commences distribution of grains nationwide

THE Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Abubakar has flagged-off the distribution of 40,000 metric tonnes of grain to cushion the effect of high price of commodities across the country.

Abubakar while speaking at the flag-off ceremony at the Karamajiji IDP Camp in Abuja stated that the ministry commenced the distribution at the IDPs Camp who were mostly affected by insecurity in the country.

"Let me say the high prices of commodities in the market have affected costs of production of various kinds of foods, including poultry, and



Mohammad

others.

This distribution will include also some poultry because they are also part of the dietary assortment that we need to make sure it's available for this, we

are distributing to the public.

He said the commodities being distributed also include dietary items that would reduce the prices of poultry foods in the market.

Q1 2023: NNPC to deliver \$2.6bn gas pipeline

THE Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC), Mele Kyari, has assured that the ongoing 40-inch by 614km Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano gas pipeline project would be completed before the incumbent government elapses its tenure.

Kyari mentioned this while noting that the firm and its contractor will commence transportation of oil through the AKK pipeline in the first quarter of 2023.

The firm disclosed this during an inspection tour of the construction work on the gas pipeline project in the Abaji end of the facility in Abuja.

Economic confidential understands that the Trans-Nigeria Gas Pipeline with a capacity to transport about 2.2

billion cubic feet of gas per day.

The AKK pipeline originates from Ajaokuta, in Kogi State and traverses Abuja, Niger, Kaduna, and terminates at Kano.

Speaking during the inspection of the project, Kyari, "This is a signature project for Mr. President. This is one great thing that this President will deliver to this country before he leaves and we will put gas on this line before Mr President leaves.

"More importantly, this is one major project that will bring development and progress to this country, power will be stabilised, industries will come up across the country, because this will ensure gas supply nationwide, not just the AKK pipeline. "We are very confident and vow that this project

will be delivered and that this country will be happy that we have done something great. By quarter one 2023 we'll put gas on this line."

On the work being done by the contractor, Kyari said, "We are happy with this contractor and we know that this project will be delivered on time and as scheduled. Yes we have missed some time and we are doing catch-up, but we are truly going to meet the new schedule we have set."

In his remark, the Group Chairman, Oilserv Limited, Emeka Okwuosa, said the engineering work handled by the contractor was more than 80 percent done, while procurement was over 50 percent completed.

He said, "By building AKK we'll be able to move gas and satisfy the midstream activities and this generates the upstream activities that would happen in the South our country.

"Gas is a key factor in the energy sector in the country. It is what will make Nigeria come up again industrially and we will be able to develop the country through the gas."

Okwuosa described the current completion stage of the project as a moving target, adding that "what I tell you today is not what you will see tomorrow because

AROUND 4.5 million people across Sudan, Nigeria and Kenya are already, or soon will be, facing emergency levels of hunger.

The UN has allocated 15 million dollars from the 100 million dollars earmarked to Africa and Middle East to address food insecurity as the spillover effects of Ukraine war threaten to push millions even closer to famine.

The contribution from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which was announced recently would go towards relief projects in six African countries and Yemen.

The countries are Nigeria, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan.

The CERF was established in 2005 to deliver urgently needed humanitarian assistance whenever and wherever crises arise.

The fund pools contributions from a range of donors, with more than 130 UN Member States, observers, others,

UN allocates \$15m to address food insecurity

including private individuals, providing more than eight billion dollars through the years.

Over the past six months, CERF has allocated more than 170 million dollars to address rising food insecurity in several countries, including those that will receive the new funding.

"Food insecurity in these seven countries is mainly being driven by armed conflict, drought and economic turmoil, and the Ukraine conflict is making a dire situation even worse.

"The war began on Feb. 24 and disrupted food and energy markets, causing food and fuel prices to soar," Martin Griffiths, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator said.

The money will enable UN agencies and their partners to provide critical support, including food, cash, nutritional help, medical services, shelter and clean water.

Projects will also be tailored to help women and girls, who face additional risks due to the crisis.

"Hundreds of thousands of children are going to sleep hungry every night while their parents are worried sick about how to feed them.

"A war halfway around the world makes their prospects even worse. This allocation will save lives," Mr Griffiths said.

The CERF funding will support humanitarian operations, with 30 million

dollars for the Horn of Africa, divided between Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Another 20 million dollars will go to Yemen while Sudan will also receive the same amount. South Sudan will be allocated 15 million dollars.

Earlier in April, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reported that global food prices were at "a new all-time high", reaching levels not seen since 1990.

Humanitarians measure food insecurity levels using a five-point scale called the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC).

Phase 5 is a situation in which "starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident".

Famine is declared when hunger and death rates pass certain thresholds.

Some 161,000 people in Yemen are projected to face the catastrophic Phase 5 level by the middle of the year, according to the UN humanitarian affairs office, OCHA.

In South Sudan, 55,000 people may already be experiencing it, while another 81,000 in Somalia could face the same if rains fail, prices continue to rise and aid is not scaled up.

Meanwhile, around 4.5 million people across Sudan, Nigeria and Kenya are already, or soon will be, facing emergency levels of hunger - IPC Phase 4.

The CERF funding will also boost response in Ethiopia, amid its worst drought in recent history.

CBN's FX programme rakes in \$60m

THE Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) forex programme has raked in \$60 million after one month of active implementation.

Managing Director of Fidelity Bank, Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe, made this known while briefing the media at the end of the Bankers Committee meeting in Abuja recently.

Reports have it that the RT 200 forex repatriation programme of the CBN is targeted at attracting \$200 billion in forex repatriation into the country through the non-oil sector in the next five years.

Under the programme, the CBN says it is ready to prioritise and finance non-oil export businesses as banks are also to source the forex needs of their customers from the export window.

Speaking further, Onyeali-Ikpe stated that a total of 150 exporters who are customers of



Emefiele

banks in the country have received N35 million as a rebate into their accounts on Wednesday.

The Fidelity bank boss added that the money was only released on Thursday for this quarter and it is going to be paid quarterly.

On state governments' participation, Onyeali-Ikpe said, "The only state government that has concluded its own is Plateau State.

"All the other state governments are at

different levels of engagement. "This policy is only one month old. The export zone is not very easy.

"So we expect that it will take a little more time but that option is available to the state governments as an incentive for them to set up export processing zones and terminals that would help the export products to get to the work very quickly and to be exported on time."



Kyari



My life has been a miracle

- Evangelist Lucky

Continued from page 16

Plateau State.

How did you ventured into music?

As you know, I am a stammer and would not have been into music. But this music has helped stabilized me. God gave me an assignment and had to take care of this problem. So, Jesus chose me to be a messenger.

Lots of gospel musicians have cried loud due to lack of support, what do you think has been the problem?

To say the truth, I did not also find it easy. It was very difficult for me when I started but with God; all things are possible. We have many people who can help upcoming musicians but have not done so which is very discouraging.

I follow my programmes with much passion and don't wait for such kind of support which most times don't come to fruition.

When God gives an assignment, He provides. Many of our elders don't support us but if it is a social gathering, you see them there. I have been struggling on my own and not relying on such support which does not come.

How have you been able to combine music and evangelism?

God has always been there for us. Sometimes you sing and then minister to people. So the combination has been good for me. We thank God.

Tell us a bit about this your two albums dedication please?

As I said, I will be releasing two albums. Many musicians will be coming for the show. The Mupun culture will be there mind you I am Mupun. The Afizere will also be there amongst many others. I will also share some items with the vulnerable



women. We have many who have experiences these senseless attacks in the state and we must make life better for these kinds of people. There will be music and assistance for the widows. It is going to be good.

Can you tell me a bit about yourself?

My name is Evangelist James David Lucky, a Gospel Artist and Audio and Video Producer on the Plateau. I want to thank God for all He has done in my life especially for the promotion and where He has taken me to in my career. I want to also appreciate God for my wife and how she has been supporting me.

It may interest you to know that I had worked with a security organization in the past. However, I had an accident which no one expected that I would survive. I retired subsequently based on medical grounds. I remain grateful to God for seeing me through this ordeal and I subsequently understood that my retirement was further transformed by God to open corridors of success in music to the glory of our Lord and savior. Everything about my success has been a miracle.

Female celebrities who suffered leaked tape scandal

Continued from page 16

Kim Kardashian



Kim Kardashian became more popular after the recorded tape was revealed in 2007. It was said that the tape was recorded in 2002. Kim Kardashian is a renowned American media personality, businesswoman, model, actress, and socialite. At first, it was not easy for the American celebrity, however, she was able to scale through.

Jane Mena

Jane Mena is a well-known Nigerian dancer. The alleged tape of Jane Mena circulated online and became the talk-about of many social media users.

Maryam Booth



Maryam Booth is a famous Nigerian actress who acts in both Kannywood and Nollywood movies. In 2020, the news of this actress trended online. She suffered a leaked tape saga. Maryam accused her former lover, Ibrahim Rufai, popularly known as Deezell, of leaking the video. Fortunately, the actress was also able to scale through.

Paige

Paige, a female wrestler also suffered from depression after her tape was leaked and she struggled with injury. It was said that an unknown person stole the tape from her tape.

Source: premiumtimesng.com

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE ATTSAR



Entrepreneurship in technology: Role and uses

Entrepreneurship in Technology: Role and Uses: Technology plays a great role in all types of entrepreneurship, irrespective of their nature. No one will get amazed if we say technology and entrepreneurs have excellent compatibility with each other.

The role of entrepreneurship in technology has dramatically increased, forcing businesses to realize its importance significantly. This post will talk about the relationship between entrepreneurship and technology with a complete explanation.

The world is advancing consistently and that is changing technologies regularly. If someone follows the technology closely, they will understand the deep learning and smartness involved in it nowadays. Let us give you a few reasons why entrepreneurs need to stay updated about the latest technologies below:

Getting an edge over the competitors

A company that embraces technology always has the edge over the other companies in the same industry. Knowing the latest technologies will be very helpful for inventing innovative products and solutions.

Give extra chances of growth

Technologies provide many opportunities for start-ups and small businesses to grow themselves. Whether it is automating the manufacturing system or adopting the latest techniques, entrepreneurship in technology is undoubtedly helpful for sure.

Streamlining

A company that streamlines its process has

higher chances of success considering the present era. Staying aware of the latest technologies will assist in streamlining and automating the process in the system.

What are the main types of technologies every entrepreneur should know?

There is a tremendous set of opportunities opened by the technologies for the business. However, there are a few about which every entrepreneur needs to be aware for getting success. We have explained them in detail below:

Machine Powered Data Monitoring

Modern tech tools can be very helpful for getting data and improving the efficiency of the business. They can be

greatly effective for increasing the profitability of most companies if applied adequately.

Customer Relationship Management Software

The advancement in technologies has increased the number of tools keeping the customer's need in mind. Having customer relationship management software gives a superb level of power in handling important relationships with entrepreneurs.

Marketing Tools

We all know how important marketing is to succeed in entrepreneurship. The use of marketing tools makes sure the business can be promoted. There is a great range of practices that only

quality marketing tools suggest to the users.

Is it important to use the right tools for perfect outcomes in entrepreneurship?

It doesn't matter what industry someone works in; there is a great need to access the right tools for success in the business. It is an exceptional technique for better insights into the business and automating it. It is essential to have the proper access to tools for achieving a great sort of success in entrepreneurship.

Everyone has to contend with a great sort of competition, but entrepreneurship in technology helps for sure.

Change of Name

CHIBUZO	MRS KIRITMWA	AGAH	PAUL	KWARKAS	AGYAM
I, formerly known as CHIBUZO KINGSLEY AGOH , now wish to be known and addressed as CHIBUZO KINGSLEY AGOHA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS KIRITMWA DOMINIC , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. KIRITMWA LOKRIT SUWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNU KUSA ELISA , now wish to be known and addressed as AGAH ALISA . Correct date of birth is 10/09/1961. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as PAUL NANBAM JONAH , now wish to be known and addressed as PAUL NANBAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GODFREY PAUL now wish to be known and addressed as KWARKAS PLANGKAT CHIBI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as AWUZIONG LAITU LUKA , now wish to be known and addressed as AGYAM LAITU LUKA . Correct date of birth is 25/10/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DARUWANG	MRS. ADAMS	SHUAIBU	MARY	ISAH	ABUBAKAR
I, formerly known as DARUWANG MONICA LARABA , now wish to be known and addressed as DARUWANG MONICA GODENA'AN . Correct date of birth is 03/07/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ODEMWINGYE PHILOMENA (MISS) , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ADAMS PHILOMENA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SHUAIBU AUWALU GARBA now wish to be known and addressed as SHUAIBU AUWALU . Correct date of birth is 16/02/1979 not 01/01/1980. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ABIMIKU MARY AYINDA , now wish to be known and addressed as MARY LEKMUT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MUAZU RIFKATU , now wish to be known and addressed as ISAH RIFKATU MUZU . Correct date of birth is 31/08/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR HALIMA RABIU , now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR HALIMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ITSE	DASHIHIR	LAWRENCE	MICHAEL	MRS. THEODORAH	MRS. KAMSIYUCHUKWU
I, formerly known as ESTHER AMOS , now wish to be known and addressed as ITSE ESTHER AMOS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MANASSEH YOHANNA, MANASSEH YOHANNA DASHIR , now wish to be known and addressed as DASHIHIR MANASSEH YOHANA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LAWRENCE SOLOMON MAREN , now wish to be known and addressed as LAWRENCE SOLOMON BWEBUN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MICHAEL SHEKINAH NADUNZIYA , now wish to be known and addressed as MICHAEL CYNTHIA NADUNZAYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS LONGWUL THEODORAH KENGUN , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. THEODORAH KENGUN MARK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS KACHOLLOM ANNA PAMKAI , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. KAMSIYUCHUKWU KACHOLLOM-PAMKAI IGWE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
DONGO	MUHAMMED	DRAMBI	TAHBUT	YEKA	IBRAHIM
I, formerly known as DANJO MARKUS DAVOU , now wish to be known and addressed as DONGO MARKUS DAVOU . Correct date of birth is 11/11/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MUHAMMAD MARYAM , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED MARYAM . Correct date of birth is 03/01/1968 not 01/01/1967. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOHN VANDI , now wish to be known and addressed as DRAMBI VANDI . Correct date of birth is 01/01/1998 not 01/01/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MANAP SELFA , now wish to be known and addressed as TAHBUT SELFA MANAP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as YEKA KOBPUBBA KOBPUBBA , now wish to be known and addressed as YEKA, BITRUS KOBPUBBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM SYNTHIA , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM CYNTHIA MANU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
YOUMWUYAK	MRS. CHARITY	NANFA	ISHAYA	BALA	ABU
I, formerly known as YOUMWAYAK GRACE MAIMAKO now wish to be known and addressed as YOUMWUYAK GRACE MAIMAKO . Correct date of birth 16/8/1968. All former documents remain valid. All	I, formerly known as CHARITY THOMAS DWAKNAAN , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. CHARITY DAMULAK . All former documents remain valid. Qua'anpan LGC, other concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as PHILOMINA RIMPYEN , now wish to be known and addressed as NANFA PHILOMINA NANBYEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ISHAYA MOSES GOWAN , now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAYA MOSES GOEWAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ABDULRAHMAN HARUNA BALA , now wish to be known and addressed as BALA ABDULRAHMAN HARUNA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ABU RUKAIYYA MOHAMMED , now wish to be known and addressed as ABU RUKAIYA MOHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH	DAVID	MUHAMMED	MARY	VINING	JOSEPH
I, MOHAMMED JAAFAR KASIM . wish to state that my date of birth was wrongly captured in my BVN as 01/01/1990 and my bank account as 01/01/1983. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAVID TESSY now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID STACY RIKWE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ISAH MOHAMMED SHAFI , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED ISAH SHAFI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MARY CHIKA OJIHE , now wish to be known and addressed as MARY CHINEYEAKA OJIHE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as TITUS GOBUM FINALINE , now wish to be known and addressed as VINING FINALINE GOSELLE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JACOB CHARITY , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH CHARITY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ADAMU	USMAN	ZAKARIYA	BALKISU	MOHAMMED	MOHAMMED
I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR ADAMU YAU , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU HASSAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAMUGOKARU MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ZAKARIYA AYUBA , now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKARIYA, AYUBA ARBI . Correct date of birth is August 5, 1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MOHAMMED SALISU HABIBU , now wish to be known and addressed as BALKISU ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as INUWA MAIMUNA , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED MAIMUNA AGWOM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MUHAMMED SANI now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED SANI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
TIJJANI	DABAU	UCHEGBULAM	YAMSET	SAFIYANU	VONGJEN
I, formerly known as RABIU SAIDU , now wish to be known and addressed as TIJJANI SAIDU RABIU . Correct date of birth is September 16, 2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DESMOND BABAU D, DESMOND DABAU D. , now wish to be known and addressed as DABAU DESMOND ANSHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as UCHEGBULAM DESMOND IFEANYICHUKWU , now wish to be known and addressed as UCHEGBULAM DESMOND IHEANYI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KABANG NANSAT ISHAKU , now wish to be known and addressed as YAMSET NANSAT MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as RABIU SAFIYANU SAFIYA , now wish to be known and addressed as SAFIYANU RABIU SHEHU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as VONGSEM DODO , now wish to be known and addressed as VONGJEN DODO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH	HANATU	HENKOOM	ABAH	Public Notice	
I, BAKO LAWEMESI , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 1/1/2004 not 6/5/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as HANNATU ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as HANATU AUDU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as THOMAS HENKOOM KELVIN , now wish to be known and addressed as HENKOOM THOMAS MENWAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ABAH ENE BLESSING , now wish to be known and addressed as ABAH BLESSING EHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NOTICE OF DEATH	
JIBARANG	ABIGAIL	HAPPINESS	ADAMU	<p>This is to inform the General public of the death of MR. ALLY DALYOP, who died on the 14th June, 2015 at Tudun Wada Ring Road, Jos, Jos north LGA, Plateau State and has since being buried.</p> <p>All concerned authorities and the general public to take note.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed: JOSHUA ALLY DALYOP</p>	
I, formerly known as YILDIMMA SUNDAY JIBARANG , now wish to be known and addressed as JIBARANG SUNDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ABIGAIL ABI YOHANNA , now wish to be known and addressed as ABIGAIL YOHANNA ITSE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KILSON HAPPINESS INUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as HAPPINESS SUNDAY DAVWET . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM SHERU YAHAYA , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU IBRAHIM SHARIF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.		

NEWS

Lalong mourns Statistician

General

By PALANG KASMI

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong has described as shocking and painful the death of the Statistician-General of the Federation, Dr. Simon Harry.

In a condolence message released Thursday, Lalong described Harry's demise as a huge loss to the nation considering the fact that he was one of those who shaped the National Bureau for Statistics, (NBS) and saw to its transformation before he was appointed to head the Agency in August 2021.

Governor Lalong who had visited the deceased in hospital while he was undergoing medical treatment in Abuja said: "The death of this illustrious son of Plateau and a patriotic Nigerian was a sad development which creates a vacuum not only to his family, but the state and nation at large".

"Although his exit is sorrowful, there is solace by the records of service and excellence he left behind which are evident of his diligence, passion and honesty which paved the way



Lalong

for him to rise through the ranks and become the number one Statistician in Nigeria until his death"

While using the forum to condole his family, friends and associates over the great loss, Lalong urged all

to accept his death as the will of God and to pray for the peaceful repose of his soul.

He also urged them to work hard to uphold his good legacies and ensure that his positive contributions to the society are sustained.

THE Kogi State government has assured of continued partnership with the Nigeria Navy to secure the nation's waterways.

Governor Yahaya Bello gave the assurance in a message during a visit by members of National Warfare Course Six of the Naval College, Calabar who were on a study tour of the state.

Represented by his deputy, Chief Edward Onoja, the Governor said the two rivers that meet at Lokoja were essential to the socio-economic development of the state and transformation of the transport sector.

Governor Bello said, the theme of the study tour, 'Inland Waterways, Security and Socio-economic development' was timely in view of the security challenges facing the country.

He urged the course participants to take note of the present administration's effort in the area of security and produce an accurate report as government builds on past successes.

The Governor expressed appreciation to security

KGSG partners Nigeria Navy on security

agencies in the state for their efforts at ensuring safety on the waterways.

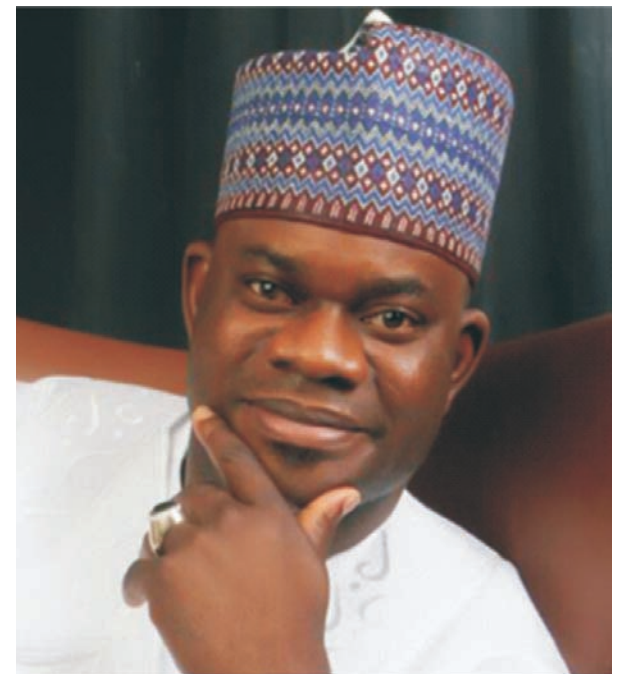
Commandant Naval War College, Calabar and TeamLeader, Rear Admiral Saheed Akinwande said, the Navy was working towards putting together a security architecture that will ensure an enabling atmosphere for economic activities to thrive on the waterways.

In a welcome address, State Security Adviser, Retired Commander Jerry Omodara, who stated that

government had done a lot in providing security in the State, maintained that it would continue to synergize with relevant agencies to sustain the prevailing security of lives and property.

He added that government was expanding its vigilante laws to enable them secure lives on the waterways.

Highlights of the occasion was presentation of souvenir by the Navy to Governor Yahaya Bello.



Bello

NSCDC arrest suspects for abducting 18 year old

THIRTEEN suspects have been arrested by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, (NSCDC), for allegedly abducting 18 year old girl in Kogi State. The suspects consist of nine male and four females. The arrested suspects are, Mohammed Abdul aged (25), Mohammed Ibrahim, (24), Samuel Adesina, (23), Malik Mohammed, (24), Olatoyor Mathew, (26), Tenimu Abubakar, (25) and Shittu Ibrahim. Other suspects paraded by the command were Momoh Friday, (22), Abdullah I'drid, (21), Oluoyomi Bisola Adesewa, (24), Mariam Mohammed, (22), Yakubu

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

Neifisat, (25), and Samson Rosemary, (22). Parading the suspects, the Kogi State Commandant, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, (NSCDC), Suleiman Ibrahim Mafara told newsmen that, one Miss Elizabeth Ojo was reportedly kidnapped on 10th April 2022 by a syndicate led by one Godwin Daniel who is currently at large.

He said, through intelligence gathering, his officers were able to uncover the hide out of the kidnappers and rescue the victim alive.

"The suspects led by one Godwin Daniel kidnapped Miss Elizabeth and took her to one hotel here in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital. My officers through intelligent reports were able to track their location and arrested these 13 suspects. Their gang leader as I speak to you is currently on the run. We are going to apprehend him as soon as possible" he added.

According to Mafara, the suspects were still under investigation and would soon be charged to court. He, however, appealed to parents to caution their wards from engaging every act of crimes and criminalities, adding that, the public should report any suspicious character within their environment. Items recovered from the suspects include Indian hemp, charms, weapons, Honda car with registration number Kogi LKJ 137 BJK. Meanwhile, the Kogi State Command of NSCDC, also arrested one Mohammed Ibrahim who specializes in stealing building materials. Parading the suspects, the Kogi State NSCDC Commandant, Suleiman Ibrahim Mafara said, the suspects confessed to be using charms to disappear in a bid to carry out nefarious activities. The suspects upon interrogation by our correspondent confessed to the crime. One of the suspects said "I won't lie I have been stealing for several years

since I lost my father when I was eight years of age.

Things are hard so I must feed my self and family. Please tell them to forgive me. I won't do it again".

Gombe commences distribution of

Ramadan food items

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

COMMITTEE saddled with the distribution of Ramadan relief package in Gombe State has commenced the conveyance of food stuff to designated centres in the 11 local government Areas for onward distribution to individuals, groups and associations as directed by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.

The committee was at the Gombe State Central Store to supervise the dispatch exercise to all the 11 LGA's and subsequent distribution in all the 114 wards of the state.

Speaking at the event, the Chief of Staff Government House, Abubakar Inuwa Kari said the directive by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for food items to be distributed was done in the spirit of the holy month of Ramadan.

He said, "As you can see the vehicles are being loaded to the various local

government areas for onward distribution to the beneficiaries. "Clubs and associations are equally here to pick their consignment; so I am here to ensure that the distribution goes as planned and those charged with the responsibility execute it to the later", he stated.

According to him, the gesture of distributing food items has been a trademark of the present administration of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya covering both and subsequent religious rites.

Governor Inuwa had earlier approved a template to be implemented by local government councils' chairmen in their respective areas with Hon. members of the State House of Assembly, commissioners and party chairmen as members while SSA's (Community Relations) serve as secretaries in order to

ensure a smooth distribution exercise.

Items being distributed include 25,000 bags of sugar, 15,000 bags of rice, 15,000 gallons of cooking oil as well as 15,000 cartons of Spaghetti pasta and Tomato paste respectively.

Inuwa Kari said, the humanitarian gesture by Governor Inuwa was aimed at providing succour, especially to the less privileged persons in the society in the holy month of Ramadan.



Audi



Yahaya

NEWS

Gyang adds feather to cap

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

SENATOR I. D. Gyang of Plateau North has been presented with the 2022 International Gender Equality Advocates Award, and has also been certified as an International Gender Equality and Women Advocate Ambassador.

The presentation was made by Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Advocacy Network, (GEAWEAN) Lagos.

National Vice Coordinator of the GEAWEAN who led the delegation, stated that Senator Gyang merited the award due to his pro-women and gender equity stance and his sustained support to women causes. She also applauded the very impactful representation of the Senator on his constituency.

In his response, Senator Gyang expressed joy that GEAWEAN had taken note of



Gyang

his gender based advocacy and affirmed his commitment to sustain same by speaking out until the desired gender equity becomes a reality in Nigeria.

He reiterated two quotes that summarizes his firmly held opinion about women;

that "Being a Woman is not being less Human" and "being a female does not connote inferiority."

The presentation was made to mark the 2022 International Womens Day celebrated on April, 12, 2022.

A two-day forum on the Development and recovery of the Lake Chad Basin region has ended in Abuja with a call for all hands to be on deck to rebuild communities around the Lake Chad Region affected by insurgency and other humanitarian crises.

The Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo assured in his keynote note address at the opening of the 'Inaugural Forum on the Development of Lake Chad Basin' at the International Conference Centre Abuja, that the Federal Government will be an active participant in policies that will beef up the rebuilding of the region.

Prof. Osinbajo who thanked the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the North East Development Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and other stakeholders for their commitment and contributions to the

'Rebuild communities around Lake Chad region'

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

recovery of the Lake Chad Region, advised that results and recommendations of the forum should be transmitted to the various government arms to guide in policy making and strategic positions that will be taken on issues relating to the development of the region.

"I want to assure all our partners of government's commitment to working with you for a sustainable, peaceful and boisterous region. I also want to assure you of our unwavering determination to address the crisis and rebuild the livelihoods of people who have been affected by the humanitarian crisis in the region. I am confident of the same level of willingness of the governments of Cameroon, Chad and Niger which in

evidence, is displayed here, "The Federal government of Nigeria will be an active participant in striving to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters across the four countries", the Vice President said.

Earlier, the Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq noted that an estimated 23 million civilians affected by the Boko Haram insurgency were straddled across the four countries bordering the Lake Chad Basin in the last ten years.

The Minister who was represented by the outgoing Permanent Secretary Mr Bashir Nura Alkali stated that the objective of the inaugural forum is to capitalise on the gains and successes of the military operations of the Nigerian Armed forces, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) as well as militaries of all LCB countries.

"To avoid another humanitarian disaster, our intention is to develop strategic and operational solutions that address the challenges of climate change and conflict, support economic recovery, repair the social contract and address the needs of women, youth and the most vulnerable in the Lake Chad region.

"This forum comes at an equally important time as we plan to extend beyond being a coordination platform, pursue the ambition of concrete joint advocacy actions, contribute to the orderly and humane management of reintegration systems and assist in the search for practical solutions within the Lake Chad Basin".

NCC charges consumers to protect telecoms

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Nigerian Communications Commission, (NCC) has emphasised that telecommunications consumers in Nigeria have a major role to play in complementing efforts being put in place to ensure effective protection of telecommunications infrastructure.

This was made known in a statement signed by Dr. Ikechukwu Adinde Director, Public Affairs.

The Commission made this request and assertion recently at a sensitization programme it organized at Wannune, Tarka Local Government Area of Benue State.

According to the statement, the commission, aside from the role of the law enforcement agencies in protecting telecom infrastructure, the consumers, who are the subscribers and ultimate users of telecom services, have an obligation to do everything to protect

telecoms infrastructure in their environment. These include the base transceiver stations (BTS), the underground fibre optic cable, as well as associated infrastructure.

While addressing the audience at the programme, the Director, Zonal Operations, NCC, Amina Shehu, decried the problem of vandalism caused to telecom infrastructure which often result in poor quality of service delivery to the end users.

While imploring the indigenes of Tarka Local Government Area of Benue State to ensure that they protect telecom facilities in their community, Shehu, who was represented at the event by an Assistant Director, Zonal Operations, NCC, Abubakar Usman, further enjoined the consumers to always alert law enforcement agencies close to them once they suspect any act of

vandalism, theft or other suspicious activities directed at telecom infrastructure because such nefarious activities have implications for quality of service delivery in the communities.

Shehu underscored the centrality of telecommunications sector to the economy and she also informed the audience that in the last 15 years, telecom has been a major contributor to the nation's economic growth and development. The Director Zonal Operations said the Commission will continue to collaborate with relevant agencies and keep sensitising the consumers on their role in ensuring the security of telecom infrastructure.

One issue Shehu discussed in her speech was the misinformation about Electromagnetic Frequency (EMF) radiation emanating from telecommunications infrastructure which she asserted was not harmful according to studies conducted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Shehu stated that the overall objective of the event is to sensitize members of the public on the need to protect telecommunication infrastructure, and more importantly, to correct the misconception people have on the effect of radio magnetic waves on human health. "So, the Commission is saying again to you that there is no scientific evidence yet that shows that radiation from telecom masts constitute health hazards to human and we want you to

help spread this information to those that are not here," she said.

During the event, participants were also enlightened on the illegality of pre-registered Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards, the imperatives of proper SIM registration, the

importance of National Identification Number, NIN-SIM linkage exercise. The consumers were also informed about facilities provided by the Commission which they can use to improve their telecom experience and quality of life in general.

UN calls for action to secure Nigerian schools

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

ON the 8th Anniversary of the abduction of 276 students for Government Girls' Secondary School Chibok, the UN Children's agency called for action to make schools safe for more girls to enrol in school and complete their education

UNICEF called on the authorities in Nigeria to make schools safe and provide a secure learning environment for every child in Nigeria, especially for girls, to increase girls' enrolment, retention, and completion of education.

Last Wednesday marked eight years since the first known attack on a learning institution in Nigeria on 14 April 2014, in which 276 students at Government Girls Secondary School Chibok in north-east Nigeria were abducted by a non-state armed group. Since then, a spate of attacks on schools and abductions of students - sometimes resulting in their deaths - has become recurrent in the last two years, especially in the North-west and North-Central regions of Nigeria. Since December 2020, 1,436 school children and 17 teachers have been abducted from schools, and 16 school children lost their lives.

"Unsafe schools, occasioned by attacks on schools and abduction of students, are reprehensible, a brutal violation of the rights of the victims to education, and

totally unacceptable. Their occurrences cut short the futures and dreams of the affected students," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria.

"Attacks on learning institutions render the learning environment insecure and discourage parents and caregivers from sending their wards to schools, while the learners themselves become fearful of the legitimate pursuit of learning," added Hawkins. "The invisible harm school attacks inflict on the victims' mental health is incalculable and irredeemable."

"Girls have particularly been targeted, exacerbating the figures of out-of-school children in Nigeria, 60 percent of whom are girls. It is a trajectory which must be halted, and every hand in Nigeria must be on deck to ensure that learning in Nigeria is not a dangerous enterprise for any child, particularly for girls," said Hawkins.

In Nigeria, a total of 11, 536 schools were closed since December 2020 due to abductions and security issues. These school closures have impacted the education of approximately 1.3 million children in the 2020/21 academic year. This interruption of their learning contributes to gaps in

children's knowledge and skills and may lead to the loss of approximately 3.4 billion USD in these children's lifetime earnings. This, risks to further perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality.

UNICEF, with generous funding from donors, is collaborating with the government of Nigeria to protect children's right to education in a safe and inclusive learning environment. This involves building the capacity of School-based management committees (SBMCs) on school safety and security and strengthening community resilience.

In Katsina State, 300 SBMC members have been trained, and schools, supported through the Girls' Education Project (GEP3) funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK, have developed Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans to mitigate the impact of potential and actual threats.

Multi-sectoral task teams on school safety have also been established across all the 34 LGAs of Katsina state to provide timely and efficient networking among actors on school security, with particular focus on the safety of girls. Additionally, 60 Junior Secondary Schools have developed emergency plans and tested the plans in evacuation drills.



Pantami

NEWS

Army arrests military imposters in Lagos

From DORCAS PANKYES,
Abuja

THE 81 Division Nigerian Army Military and Police Personnel have arrested over 12 suspected impostors fully dressed in military camouflage uniforms portraying the Nigerian Army in bad light.

This is contained in a release issued by the army acting Public Relations Officer, Major Olaniyi Osoba.

The General Officer Commanding, (GOC) 81 Division Nigerian Army, (NA) Major General Umar Thama Musa in a press briefing dispelled unfounded narrative that all illicit acts committed by persons dressed in military uniforms are always military personnel. He noted that persons displaying military banners and accoutrement such as belts and stickers on vehicles and driving commercial vehicle. In military uniform as well as driving civil vehicle painted in Army colours are often not personnel of the Nigerian Army.

He said, in an effort to curtail this ugly trend, the Division heightened activities of "Operation Checkmate" to ensure regular arrest of impostors and offenders within its area of responsibility.

The GOC disclosed that over 150 impostors have been arrested from January last year till date.

Major General Musa during the parade of these suspected impostors explained that preliminary investigations revealed that



Alkali

some of suspects specialized in mounting road block along Ajah road to extort money from motorists as well as indulge in other illegal duties dressed in Nigerian Army Camouflage uniform. Similarly, the GOC said there are some arrested fully dressed in military uniform ensuring were caught along the Ilaro Border area of Ogun State where they carried out smuggling of rice and other contrabands.

The GOC said these arrested impostors would be handed over to the Nigerian Police for further action.

He therefore urged members of the public to desist from wearing military uniforms and T-Shirts, display of military banners, belts and stickers on vehicles as well as driving of vehicles painted in Army colours.

He further implored members of the public to continue to support the Division's Operation

Checkmate by providing information to the nearest Nigerian Army formations or Units as part of its efforts to rid Lagos and Ogun States of criminal elements who are bent on tarnishing the highly revered image of the NA.

The GOC thanked members of the press for their efforts in objective reportage of activities of the NA.

Minister condemns attacks on Plateau communities

From DORCAS PANKYES,
Abuja

MINISTER of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has condemned the attacks on five communities in Plateau State describing it as satanic.

The minister disclosed this in a statement recently in Abuja

Umar Farouq who

'Christ's death unifies Christians'

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT has been asserted that the death of Christ on the cross of Calvary was the major source of unity among Christian faithful. Rev. Faman Lohkat of the church of Christ in Nations, (COCIN) Local Church Council, (LCC) Landyengre, Regional Church Council, (RCC) made this assertion in a sermon during this year's good Friday Church Service at COCIN LCC Landyengre, last Friday.

The cleric took his reading

from Mathew 27:45, 46, 50 and John 19:30 with the title "the genuine cause for unity was paid for us with Christ blood".

He said that the sacrifice Jesus Christ made should always serve as a moment for sober reflections for Christians.

Rev. Lohkat added that the attributes of sacrifice made by Christ include love, kindness, forgiveness, peace and patience. These were all to be our guiding principles to be

emulated by Christians in their daily lives.

He further explained that the pains and sin carried by Christ through his death was to bring Christian faithful back to him, considering all the attributes which led to his death.

The cleric reminded all believers of Christ to always keep faith in God in whatever they do, saying Christ remains the Alpha and Omega, since. He is the only way, truth, and life.

He also condemned the recent killings in Kanam, describing it as inhumanity to man.

Relief as remaining Kogi pensioners get pay

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

THERE was a big relief on Thursday as the rest of Kogi pensioners not paid last week got their full payments. The state government had last week, explained that the delay in paying all pensioners at the same time was due to poor network by the paying banks, namely United Bank for Africa, UBA and Access Bank. Our correspondent had reported that the state

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

KOGI State Commissioner for Health, Dr Saka Haruna Audu has been relieved of his appointment by the state Governor, Yahaya Bello. Reliable information reaching our correspondent, indicates that the commissioner was sacked over a reported allegation of misappropriation of funds.

Dr. Saka Haruna Audu was among the first commissioners appointed by the state Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello during his first tenure.

According to reliable sources from the State Ministry of Health, Dr. Saka packed out of his office on Tuesday, even as his sympathisers reportedly pleaded on his behalf that his sack should not be made public by the Governor. It was learnt that the

Bello sacks Commissioner for Health



Bello

commissioner had told some of his colleagues that he was only suspended. Efforts to reach him for comments on his mobile phone failed as he could not respond to calls and text messages put across to him by our correspondent.

Dr. Saka was in his second term as Commissioner for Health under Governor Bello before he was relieved of his appointment. However, all efforts to speak with Kogi state commissioner for Information and Publicity, Mr. Kingsley Fanwo proved abortive.



Farouq

sympathized with the state government and victims of armed banditry attacks in Garga District of Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State stated that the mayhem unleashed on innocent citizens especially during the Ramadan Fasting was evil.

She directed the immediate deployment of relief materials including

food, water, blankets and sleeping nets to the displaced victims who are currently seeking refuge in Garga Central Primary School, Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State announced that relief materials were on the way to the victims.

According to the statement, five communities including

Kyaram, Gyambau, Dungur, Kukawa, Shuwaka villages under Garga District were attacked by armed bandits while scores were reportedly killed during the mayhem.

The National Emergency Management Agency under the Ministry accompanied by SEMA, Joint military Task Force, Community Leaders, Local Government Council members and the media are already in Plateau State for an on-the-spot assessment to ascertain the level of destruction and advice, the agency appropriately.

However, the Coordinator, NEMA North Central Zonal office Jos, Mr Eugene Nyelong who led the team confirmed that profiling and assessment of victims have begun.

According to Nyelong, the assessment which commenced on Tuesday April 12, 2022, revealed loss of many lives and destroyed property.

The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are said to be over 4800 comprising mostly women and children.

The statement also explained that the local government Health Department through the dispensary in Garga town was however offering skeletal medical support to the displaced persons while the

Director General of NEMA, Ahmed Mustapha Habib was working on prompt delivery of emergency humanitarian support ahead of full intervention.



Lohkat

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Kanam, Wase massacre: Killer bandits ransack Plateau

Continued from page 10

particularly in Zamfara, Sotoko, Katsina, Niger, Kaduna and Kebbi States, the activities of bandits had become so worrisome which includes kidnaping, murder, robbery, rape, cattle-rustling and the likes. Their modus operandi involves maiming and killing of their victims when they least expected.

Though bandits have attacked and created havoc in several communities, the question which has been on the lips of many Nigerians have been; what they want and need to warrant this level of unspeakable destruction. The dimension in which these crimes are constantly committed coupled with the sophistication of the arms and weapons used have raised serious concerns on the side of stakeholders and security experts.

Unfortunately enough, no group usually accepts responsibility when and or if such attacks occur. According to Aljazeera, "many of the groups are believed to comprise mostly ethnic Fulanis, including pastorals and mercenaries from the region as well as neighboring Chad and the Niger Republic.

On several occasions, they have kidnaped schoolchildren in various parts of Nigeria's Niger, Kebbi and Yobe States. Other victims of their kidnappings for ransom scheme range across all social classes, from politicians and members of their families to imams, clergymen, security guards and farmers." According to the Wisconsin-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, (ACLED), one of the most reliable conflict data aggregators disclosed that there were 18 abduction events targeting students across northern Nigeria between January 2018 and April 2021.

The data also shows that the bandits killed more than 2,600 civilians in 2021, an increase of over 250 percent from 2020. This number dwarfs that of civilian death credited

to Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province in the same year.

In the period between December 2020 and August 2021, more than 1,000 students and school staff were abducted. Within the next six months as many as 343 people were killed, while 830 others were abducted by bandits between July and September 2021 in Kaduna according to figures by the government.

In the words of Ayisha Osori, Director of Open Society West Africa, "bandits are now a motley mix of the displaced, those displaced by the over a decade long violence in the northeast and those displaced by climate change-unable to farm, fish and trade. There are also herders who tired of their cattle being rustled and the fights with farmers have found a more lucrative revenue generating operation: Kidnaping, for ransom and trading terror for community payoffs. Bandits also include the opportunistic so criminally minded men who may or may not be supported by some members of the Nigerian security force who in a gradually collapsing economy also find this lucrative way of exploiting Nigerians.

Beyond this is the issue of proliferation of religious extremism after becoming brainwashed through fallacious ideologies of their mentors. Of course in Nigeria where many of the youth are living below poverty lines, they become easy recruits for such negative missions. All these are some of the problems which have continued to brew security crises for Nigeria.

But again, Obasesan Okoi and MaryAnne Iwara notes that the failure of governance in Nigeria manifests in the declining capacity of political leaders to recognize risks such as election fraud, terrorists attacks, herder-farmer conflict, armed banditry and police brutality and put in place the necessary measures to navigate these

challenges."

Accordingly, the spiral of violence in northern Nigeria in which armed bandits engaged in deadly planned attacks on communities leading to widespread population displacement has become another grave security challenge that has sharpened regional polarization. Because some public servants are usually unaware of insecurities faced by the ordinary Nigerians, they lack the frame of reference to make laws that addresses the priorities of citizens.

In the aftermath of the most recent attacks on innocent citizens, there have been calls for the resignation of President Mohammedu Buhari over what is perceived as lack of competence to end insecurity in the country. For the Northern Elders Forum, "the administration of President Buhari does not appear to have answers to the challenges of security to which we are exposed. We cannot continue to live and die under the dictates of killers, kidnapers, rapists and sundry criminal groups who have deprived us of our rights to live in peace and security. Our constitution has provisions for our leaders to voluntarily step down if they are challenged by personal reasons or they prove incapable of leading.

It is now time for President Buhari to seriously consider that option since his leadership has proven spectacularly incapable of providing security for Nigerians. Our forum is aware of the weight of this advice and it is also aware that we cannot continue to live under these conditions until 2023 when President Buhari's term ends."

The House of Representatives also decried incessant attacks by bandits in the country lamenting that several of its resolutions on insecurity were not respected. To this end, the House urged President Buhari to implement the report of its 2021 security summit which had been submitted to the executive arm of government.

The lawmakers who took turns to

contribute to the motion moved by the member representing Pnaskin, Kanam and Kanke federal constituency of Plateau State regretted that despite repeated resolutions to improve the country's security, much success had not been recorded.

Speaking while moving a motion during the plenary, Gagdi said 92 people were killed, 20 persons were injured in the attack while 3,414 people had been displaced after the attack that occurred in the area.

In his words, "terrorists unleashed terror on the people of Kanam Local Government Area and neighbouring communities, killed 92 persons, injured over 20 people and destroyed property in Kuka wa, Kyaram, Gyambau and Dungur amongst other communities. A total of 41 houses, 86 shops and eight motorcycles were completely burnt and destroyed leaving a total of 3,413 persons displaced. The federal lawmaker lamented that the assaults took place notwithstanding intelligence reports of impending attacks from the Department of State Services on the influx of terrorists fleeing to Plateau and other neighbouring communities of Wase and Kanam Local Government Areas.

Responding however, the presidency notes that resignation would not solve the problem of insecurity in the country adding that "it is more important that citizens know what their government is doing to deal with this situation and for the politicians to come to terms with the fact that it is beneficial to all that they help to preserve the state so that when it is their turn, they will have a place that they will manage."

Even in these difficult times, many people have continued to sympathize with the people of this locality over this heinous crime. In a statement, the chairman of All Progressives Congress, (APC) in the state, Hon. Rufus Bature condemned in strong terms the killings of innocent people mostly farmers from different

communities in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas of the state. The statement signed by the APC Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang explained that "this dastardly act is seen as a deliberate attempt by these marauders to draw back the hands of the clock of security architecture from this part of the state which had enjoyed a relative period of peace and tranquility.

Hon. Bature said, these attacks coming at a time the unsuspecting peasant farmers had gone to their farms preparatory to the farming season calls for vigilance and more proactive measures by the citizens and security agencies in the state and the affected communities. On his part, the Senator representing Plateau Central, Nde Hezekiah Ayuba Dimka described the horrendous killings and wanton destruction of property as one too many as well as unfortunate reiterating his call on the Federal Government to come to the rescue of the state.

Dimka, a retired commissioner of Police called on security agencies to intensify efforts by investigating the masterminds of the killings with a view to bringing them to book so as to serve as deterrent to others.

All said and done however, most vulnerable communities in particularly rural areas of Plateau State are not spared by these bandits. It seems that if nothing is urgently done, no part of this country would in the nearest future be safe.

As the victims of the Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas look for succor from both the government and spirited individuals, many security experts are of the opinion that until concrete and more convincing measures are taken, Nigeria will continue to witness such ugly experiences which are highly detrimental to the corporate existence of the nation.

METRO-FOCUS

Dumping of waste materials in drainages

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

It is one thing to construct a road and another thing to set up a maintenance mechanism that can sustain the pace of having long lasting roads that are durable. This is because the good intention of government to ensure that motorists enjoy smooth drive in also meant to protect the lives of citizens.

Unfortunately, human behaviour has been one of the major challenges we are grappling with especially when we talk about value for what we have. Our 'I don't care' attitude has grossly affected almost every part of our development, bringing us back to square one.

You discover that government year-in-year out coughs out money to reconstruct or rather dualize roads that should have lasted for a period of 20 to 50 years, but human activities would not allow it last as specified.

Instead of us to take responsibility by maintaining these projects to help reduce the cost of reconstructing them so that these monies could be channeled to other life changing ventures, we are busy destroying what was meant to improve our livelihood.

To be specific, when you look at what is happening to drainages along JD Gomwalk Road in Jos, the Plateau State capital, you will understand the danger this portends. The laying of water pipes and telecommunications cables have taken the centre stage and it is devastating. Most of these drainages collapse because of these activities.

As it is now, different organisations are digging sides of these drainages in the name of laying pipes or cables and it is weakening the base of these standard drainages that were constructed by the former Governor JD Jang.

However, some of these drainages have long collapsed because of these activities and need to be reconstructed quickly or they will end up creating more damage to the road. There is one of these examples along Bishop Court junction where the drainage has long collapsed and it is expanding to both sides of the road.

This is not unconnected with the constant activities of these telecommunications companies who dig every season to lay their network cables to boost their network



services. Presently, another one is ongoing and this time around, sand dug from inside the drainage is again being dumped inside. This action is going to cause more damage than good to the road because sooner than expected it will be blocked.

As the rains have started in earnest, only God know what will happen when there is heavy downpour and of course, we would definitely expect diversions of the water to homes. So, the authority concerned should without wasting time, lay their cables and be responsible enough to pack this sand out of the drainage and cover it before the rains.

Also sad to note is the attitude of some individuals

who dispose refuse in waterways (drainages), blocking the free flow of water when it rains. These are actions that result to flooding of roads that could result to destruction of lives and property.

Therefore, government should take drastic steps to discourage people from dumping waste materials in drainages to avoid the unexpected. Because the damage this might cause, would not be as cheap as preventing people from dumping waste materials in drainages.

It is also important for government to give conditions to any emerging organisation that may want to lay cables. If they must

use the roadside, the distance should at least be ten meters away from the drainage.

On the part of these organisations, they should educate their labourers or contractors to respect all conditions given by government so that the gains and purposes of their transactions should not temper with or add more loss to government and citizens

because it may cost more than the tax they might have paid the state.

We therefore hope that our human excesses would not be a setback to us as a people because ignoring activities such as this is like fetching water from well and pouring it back to the ground. No reasonable government would like spending money continuously and needlessly on what keeps demanding for more within a short period.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG MEETS IRIGWE NATION

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Thursday met with the Irigwe nation at the Miango Rest house, Bassa LGA to discuss the security challenges of the area



Governor Simon Bako Lalong addressing the Irigwe Nation



A cross section of Irigwe elders and traditional rulers listening to the Governor



L - R: Bassa LGC Chairman, Hon. Stephen Igmala, HRH, Brra Ngwe Rigwe, Rev. Ronku Aka and the President of the Irigwe Nation, Mr. Robert Ashi



Former Commissioner of Commerce and Industry, Hon. Ezekiel Daju (right) with other Irigwe sons at the meeting



A cross section of Irigwe Youths listening attentively to the Governors' address



A cross section of elders and youths of Irigwe at the meeting



A cross section of people present at the session



Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State (standing) delivering his address during the meeting with Irigwe Nation

PHOTOS: OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, RAYFIELD, JOS

NEWS

FCE Pankshin to promote skills acquisition training

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

FEDERAL College of Education, Pankshin has declared that it would continue to encourage skills and training development in its learning programmes as a deliberate strategy to promote self-reliance to the younger generation and the society at large.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Istifanus Kyakmut, Public Relations Executive of the institution and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** recently in Jos.

This was against the backdrop that in this era of hardship and economic instability worldwide, individual potentials and knowledge need to be mobilized to acquire skills and training to earn a living and support the economy.

The Provost of the College, Dr. Amos Bulus Cifrat made this known at the opening of a four day National Conference organized by the School of Vocational and Technical Education of the institution with the theme "Building Lifelong Learning Systems and Skills for Green Inclusive Societies in a Digital Era".

The Provost who was ably represented by the College Librarian, Dr. Samson Ainoko, noted that for any economy to develop and grow, skills and training are great technical background to push forward all efforts to achieve positive results especially as means of livelihood.

He maintained that with a staggering economy, a certificated education does not always translate to job opportunities but with additional skills and training,



Adamu

self-reliant is guaranteed for healthy living and economic growth.

He added that it was in this regard that the College established an Entrepreneurship Centre for skills acquisition and training in different disciplines of human endeavour for student's staff and members of the public to take advantage of it for productive ventures.

Earlier while declaring the Conference open, Chairman of the occasion, Prof. Dakas C. J. Dakas, SAN, commended the School of Vocational and Technical Education for organizing the Conference which he said was timely and

would change the narratives of the nation's dependence on oil to a technology driven economy in diverse ways.

Dakas, encouraged the students to ensure that aside their chosen courses of study, put their God given talents to test by developing their potentials through skills acquisition and training which will support them in life.

The Dean of the School of Vocational and Technical Education, Mrs. Martha Ibrahim Bulus had earlier in a welcome address appreciated guests and academics for honouring their invitation and disclosed that the Conference was their humble contribution to nation building as the theme implies.

Plateau attacks: Rep wants laws to legalise arms in Nigeria

Rep called on the National Assembly to enact laws that will permit Nigerians to bear arms in order to defend themselves.

Gagdi, representing Pankshin, Kanke and

Kanam Federal Constituency of the state, made the call in a chat with journalists shortly after he visited some communities in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas in recent attacked by

gunmen.

Gunmen suspected to be bandits last Sunday stormed some communities in Kanam and Wase, killing 106 persons, injured scores and razed many houses.

According to Gagdi, legalising the bearing of arms would go a long way toward addressing the spate of attacks and killings in communities.

He, however, said stiffer measures must be put in place to regulate the use of the arms by the citizens

"If we want to curtail the spate of attacks in communities, we should make laws that will permit citizens to carry arms.

"If for instance, those who attacked my people know that the locals also have arms, they won't come and the casualty will not be this high.

"But there must be

MEMBER representing Pankshin, Kanke. Kanam, Yusuf Gagdi says he has moved a motion for the setting up of permanent military bases and a Mobile Police Squadron in Kanam, Plateau.

Gagdi who paid a courtesy call on Chairman of Kanam Local Government, Alhaji Dayyabu Garaga described the Sunday night attacks in Garga district as a sad and difficult moment for Kanam people.

The lawmaker said that his motion in the National Assembly received approval and military bases would be established in strategic areas particularly where Kanam share boundaries with other states.

He told the chairman that he sought for the establishment of Mobile Police Squadron to be situated in the area.

The lawmaker who is House of Reps Committee Chairman on Navy said that prior to the attacks, Kanam used to be safest and most peaceful area in Plateau.

"We don't know why they attacked us but we are people of faith and we will take it that God is testing our faith.

"My late father use to tell me that if you are a faithful man, God will test you through hunger, hardship or through war to know

Gagdi appeals for military, mobile bases in Kanam

whether your faith is genuine.

"As House Committee on Navy Chairman, I can say that other areas in Nigeria have experienced similar attacks but the response giving to Garga attack is unique.

"The swift deployment of military to affected communities is unique," he stated.

The lawmaker further stated that his motion to fix the road linking Wase through the affected communities by Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) was also approved.

He added that the fixing of the road would soon commence.

"On my part, I took 100 mattresses to Garga, 50 bags of rice, 50 bags of maize, 100 bundles of zinc and 400 pieces of clothing materials.

"For those whose motorcycles were burnt, I took 10 motorcycles to them as well as N2 million donation to the affected people," he added.

Gagdi commended the Chairman of Kanam and Wase for showing leadership in the difficult moment.

Kanam Local Government Chairman, Dayyabu Garga commended the lawmaker to abandoning his lesser Hajj to assist the people.

Garga told the lawmaker that they have so far buried 106 people while others were still missing.

The chairman said that many people were severely injured and were receiving treatment in different hospitals across the state.

He said that the attackers were camping at Kamabari Forest in neighbouring Taraba State.

"We must flush them of our forest, the Kamabari Forest in Taraba is like their village where they moved freely AK47 and other weapons.

"They want to turn the forest like Sambisa. If they are not flushed out, we will not be safe" he added.

He called on all sons of Kanam to unite and defeat the common enemy.

He said that the local government on its part is taking charge of the hospital bills of injured apart from assorted food materials they donated.

NNPP gets new executives in Plateau

THE New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Plateau chapter, has elected new officials to run the affairs of the party in the state.

Mr John Mandim was elected as the new chairman alongside 30 other executive members during the party's congress held on Wednesday in Jos.

Mandim, in his acceptance speech shortly after the congress, said that the party



Mahmood

would participate in the 2023 general elections in the state.

He said that NNPP under his watch would not discriminate against new members, who intend to contest elections on the party's platform.

"As you may be aware, NNPP already has three aspirants, including the former governor of Kano State, Alhaji Rabiu Kwankwaso contesting for presidency on the party's platform.

"Our priority is to salvage Nigeria from its present state of insecurity, economic

instability and also ensure that the welfare of the youth and women are given priority," he said.

The party's Youth Leader in the North Central zone, Mr Azi Ashoms, moved the motion to validate the congress that produced the new executives.

He said that the congress was conducted in accordance with the party's constitution.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the congress was monitored by officials of Independent National Electoral Commission and



Gagdi

Change of Name

BADRUL

I, formerly known as **ODEBUNMI DAMILOLA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BADRUL-DEEN AZEEZAT DAMILOLA**. Correct date of birth is 12/08/1995 not 12/08/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

AUTA

I, formerly known as **AUTA SUZAN TIMOTHY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AUTA SUZAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

REHAB

I, formerly known as **RAHAB DAVID KAYIT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **REHAB DAVID**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MARYAM

I, formerly known as **MARYAM AYUBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM JOHN NDASH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

JIBRIN

I, formerly known as **MUNKAILA JIBRIN YAKUBU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JIBRIN YAKUBU**. Correct date of birth is 31/12/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DUWONG

I, formerly known as **FAITH EPHRAIM DONG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DUWONG FAITH EPHRAIM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

GRACE

I, formerly known as **GRACE SEV SAMUEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GRACE BUNA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

VICTORIA

I, formerly known as **DANAAN VICTORIA DAMOEROEM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **VICTORIA SHEISHOL KWOTWAI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

PWOL

I, formerly known as **PWOL LADI PAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PWOL JUMMAI PAM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DINATU

I, formerly known as **DINATU MARKUS BULLE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DINATU UCHE ODINIGWE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

AHMED

I, formerly known as **SHEHU IYAMI SHEHU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMED IYAMI SHEHU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

PAUL

I, formerly known as **SAMUEL MWANKON CHOJI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PAUL JOSEPH MWANKON**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

HASSAN

I, formerly known as **HASSAN AHMADU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HASSAN AHMAD**. Correct date of birth is 1/10/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ABUBAKAR

I, formerly known as **MUSTAFA ALI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR SADIQ**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ABDULLAHI

I, formerly known as **ISMAIL MUHAMMED ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULLAHI ISMAIL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ILIYA

I, formerly known as **ILYA ELISHA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ILIYA ELISHA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

NUHU

I, formerly known as **NUHU GOODNESS BABAYO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NUHU GOODNESS YAMBAKASI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

FUNKE

I, formerly known as **ARIYO OLUWASEYI FUNKE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OLAOLORUNPO OLUWASEYI FUNKE**. Correct date of birth is 4/6/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

Space for sale

Space for sale

NEWS

Political appointees, public servants aspiring positions should resign -Inuwa

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

GOMBE State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has directed political appointees and other public servants seeking elective offices in the forthcoming parties' primaries ahead of the 2023 elections to tender their resignation letters. This directive was conveyed in a press statement signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi. The SSG, in the statement, quoted the Electoral Act 2022 recently assented to by President Muhammadu Buhari which provides that political appointees aspiring to contest elections must resign their positions before the conduct of political parties' primaries. He said, "I am pleased to

remind you that Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR has assented to the Electoral Act 2022 recently. "In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has released the time table and schedule of activities for the 2023 general elections. "Specifically, it is stated that all political appointees and other public servants aspiring to contest for political offices are expected to resign their appointments thirty (30) days before parties' primaries of the positions they wish to contest",



Inuwa

Governor Yahaya said.

The statement therefore directed that all resignation letters are to be submitted to the office of the Secretary to the State

Government not later than the stipulated 30 days before the primary elections.

UNICEF decry recurring spate of abductions of students

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) has decried the recurring spate of abductions of students in Nigeria after the abduction of 276 Chibok school girls by Boko Haram fighters on 14 April, 2014.

In a release made available to newsmen by UNICEF's Communication Specialist, Samuel Kaalu, it said UNICEF is even more worried over the increasing spate of the abductions of these children in the last two years in Northwest and North central Nigeria.

It said, "Since December 2020, 1,436 school children and 17 teachers have been abducted from schools, and 16 school children lost their lives".

Also, according to UNICEF, a total of 11, 536 schools were closed since December 2020 due to these abductions and security issues.

It said, these school closures have impacted the education of approximately 1.3 million children in the 2020/21 academic year.

It added that this interruption of learning

contributes to gaps in children's knowledge and skills and may lead to the loss of approximately 3.4 billion USD in these children's lifetime earnings. This, risks to further perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality. The UN Children's agency is therefore calling on the Nigerian Government to immediately take actions to make schools safe for more girls to enrol in school and complete their education.

The release also quoted Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria saying, "Unsafe schools, occasioned by attacks on schools and abduction of students, are reprehensible, a brutal violation of the rights of the victims to education, and totally unacceptable. "Their occurrences cut short the futures and dreams of the affected students," Peter Hawkins added.

He said, "attacks on learning institutions render the learning environment insecure and discourage parents and caregivers from sending their wards to schools, while the learners themselves become fearful of the legitimate pursuit of learning. "The invisible harm school attacks inflict on the victims' mental health is incalculable and irredeemable. "Girls have particularly been targeted, exacerbating the figures of out-of-school children in Nigeria, 60 percent of whom are girls. It is a trajectory which must be

halted, and every hand in Nigeria must be on deck to ensure that learning in Nigeria is not a dangerous enterprise for any child, particularly for girls," said Hawkins.

Although Nigeria has ratified the Safe Schools Declaration, schools and learners are not sufficiently protected.

Unless greater attention is given to protecting children, teachers and schools, they will continue to come under attack. Urgent, coordinated action is needed to safeguard the right to learn for every child in Nigeria.

Lawmaker felicitates with constituents, Nigeria at Easter

From DORCAS PANKYES, ABUJA

THE member, Hon Musa Agah Avia, House of Representative, representing Bassa /Jos North federal Constituency felicitates with constituents and all Nigerians as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This was said in a statement by Hon. Musa Agah media Director Friday in Abuja.

The Hon. However enjoined all and sundry to imbibe the lessons of the just-concluded lenten season, in commemoration of the forty days fast of our Saviour, which began on Ash Wednesday and ended on Good Friday. Hon. Agah supplicated concupiscently to all constituents irrespective

of faith and believes to make sacrifices in order to make our existence conducive and great. The statement explained that the Hon. urged everyone to bear in mind that this Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the death and symbolizes victory over sin, sickness and the devil and all evil activities, he prayed that the RESURRECTION POWER OF JESUS CHRIST be yours, your household and our communities to make you victorious in all spheres of life in Jesus' name. Amen.

Salvation has come to all. Happy Easter to you all



Henrietta

SUNDAY SPORTS

What is the future of Rangnick in ManUtd?

By CHARLOTTE DUNCKER

MANCHESTER United's reasoning for appointing Ralf Rangnick as interim manager in December was twofold.

The interim boss is set to take up a consultancy role this summer, so his lack of involvement in the club's search for his successor is puzzling.

Firstly, it was believed that the influential German tactician might be capable of bringing some much-needed order and coherency to an erratic, disorganised side and mastermind a top-four finish in the Premier League, thus securing a spot in next season's Champions League.

However, he was also promised a consultancy role – to be taken up following the completion of his senior squad duties – with a view to shaping the long-term future of the club.

Obviously, with United sitting seventh in the standings – exactly where they were when Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was sacked – and now unlikely to finish in the Champions League spots, Rangnick has clearly not delivered on the field.

So, what does the future now hold for him off it?

After all, it was the consultancy job which convinced Rangnick to accept the interim position, as he did not want to take a job that was for a little over six months.

It is understood, however, that his advisory role is limited, both in terms of power and influence.

Certainly, while he is currently concentrating on his first-team responsibilities, with seven Premier League games still to play and all hope not yet lost in the pursuit of a top-four place, it is telling that he is not playing a key role in the search for the next permanent manager.

"I know they have spoken to some people but, so far, we haven't spoken about the



experience and the impressions they have got from those meetings," Rangnick said of those leading the hunt for a new boss.

"It's not an issue for me. It's important for me to focus on the next games."

The task of recruiting the next manager lies with football director John Murtough, technical director Darren Fletcher and new CEO Richard Arnold.

Sources tell GOAL that Rangnick has been involved in recruitment meetings, for both potential new signings and the new manager, but while his

opinion is valued, he is not the "dominant voice" in discussions.

However, Rangnick has been with the squad for four months now and he is adamant he knows exactly what needs to be done to get United challenging for major honours again in a couple of years.

He has made his thoughts to the board through a number of meetings, suggesting a four-point plan to implement over the coming seasons.

The 63-year-old believes they need to copy Manchester City and Liverpool's approach to the transfer market by recruiting

players that fit into a specific style of play.

Rangnick also believes any new signings need to have the right kind of character and mentality to play at Old Trafford, adding that they must be both physically strong and aggressive.

His final point was that there needs to be an acceptance that it will take at least three transfer windows to correct past mistakes.

Sources are keen to stress, though, that Rangnick's primary role right now is finishing the season strongly, while Murtough & Co. focus on finding a new manager.

It is understood that Erik ten Hag is in advanced talks to take the role after the Ajax boss impressed in his formal interview for the position.

There has been no formal agreement as of yet, but United are hoping to sort Rangnick's successor as soon as possible.

Indeed, they have not ruled out making a formal announcement before the season is over.

The arrival of a new manager will obviously see Rangnick vacate the Old Trafford hotseat, but there is some confusion over exactly what his new role will entail.

The Austrian Football Association has already moved to dismiss reports that sports

director Peter Schottel has spoken with Rangnick about taking over as national team boss.

However, that does not mean that Rangnick will not be able to take on a managerial role elsewhere while continuing to serve as a consultant for United.

When asked if he would be allowed to do so in December, Rangnick said it would be a decision for the United board. And still now he is unsure of what lies ahead for him once he has been relieved of his Old Trafford managerial duties.

The reality of the consultancy role is that he would only be expected to work a handful of days a month.

The club wanted to draw on his expertise and experience but when that role was offered, it was not done with the idea that he would be an integral part of the new hierarchy involving Arnold, Murtough, Fletcher et al.

Only when the season finishes and a new manager arrives will it become clear how Rangnick fits into the new set-up at Old Trafford.

Still, given he has spoken eloquently and insightfully about where the problems lie, the club could do worse than listen to his advice for the next couple of seasons after his brief stint at the helm comes to an end this summer.



SUNDAY SPORTS



Ajiboye

Plateau United, MFM light up Jos

THE Nigeria Professional Football League, NPFL, matchday 23 fixtures will kick-off, as usual, this weekend with matches spilling into Monday just as on the last matchday.

Last week saw entertaining encounters in various centres despite a low goals count. Some teams could dominate their opponents while some sloppy performances continued to surface.

Fidelis Ilechukwu's Plateau United will face off against his former side, MFM at the New Jos Stadium on Sunday needing all three points to stay in touch with NPFL leaders Rivers United.

The first time they met in the league this season, MFM defeated the Peace Boys one-nil at the Teslim Balogun Stadium.

They have only met nine times in the last six years. During those meetings, Plateau United won four games while MFM recorded three victories.

Plateau United have lost no point at home this season with 11 victories from 11 matches, the highest any team has achieved.

The rejuvenated Olukoya Boys have picked a few points on the road in their last five games and will fancy their chances in Jos.

But Ilechukwu is seeking to close the gap on Rivers United and will surely set aside emotions as he fights all three points in Jos.

Positions: Plateau United; 2nd, 45 points; MFM: 18th, 23 points
Players to watch
 Plateau United: Izuchukwu Chimezie, Sunday Anthony, and Jesse Akila
 MFM: Badejo Oluwaseun, Micah Ojodomo, and Oladayo Alabi.

Attention will also be on the Garden City where Enyimba will hope to slow down table-toppers Rivers United, there are other interesting fixtures on this matchday.

Rivers United will seek to continue its unbeaten streak when they play Enyimba at Port Harcourt. They have gone 11 games unbeaten and will extend it to 12 if they don't suffer a home loss to Enyimba.

The two sides have met 23

times in the last 12 seasons, with Enyimba having more wins from the encounters. The People's Elephant have 10 victories compared to Rivers' seven wins.

Enyimba have only won once at Port Harcourt in their last 12 seasons. That only victory was in 2015 when Enyimba defeated Rivers 2-1.

Rivers United also recorded its first away victory over Enyimba in the last 12 years this season on matchday three of the NPFL season.

The current form of Stanley Eguma's men suggests they may claim a double over Enyimba this season, as they boast an 11-match unbeaten streak and a home record of 10 wins and a draw.

Enyimba have lost seven games on the road this season and their form over the last five games does not portray a team to hold out against a rampaging

Kenyan long-distance runner gets four-year doping ban

KENYAN long-distance runner Joyce Chepkirui has been banned for four years for an athlete biological passport (ABP) violation.

BBC SPORT said that the 33-year-old won the 10,000m at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 and also took the African title over the same distance in Marrakech that year.

Chepkirui has been provisionally suspended since June 2019, after an expert panel studied anomalies in blood samples collected by World Athletics between 2016 and 2017.

The panel concluded the "likelihood of the abnormalities in results being due to blood manipulation" - the artificial increase of red blood cells using a stimulant - was "high".

Chepkirui explained the results by saying she suffered from hormone imbalance and vaginal bleeding, which was caused by a contraceptive injected every three months, had an iron-rich diet and took three drugs to treat these conditions.

However, the Court of

Arbitration for Sport (Cas) decided to ban Chepkirui after upholding an appeal filed by the Athletics Integrity Unit, and her four-year period of ineligibility has been backdated to the start of her provisional suspension.

Chepkirui's results between 6 April 2016 and 4 August 2017 - which include a third-placed finish in the Boston Marathon in April 2016 - will be disqualified and she will be required to forfeit any medals, prizes and appearance fees gained in that time.

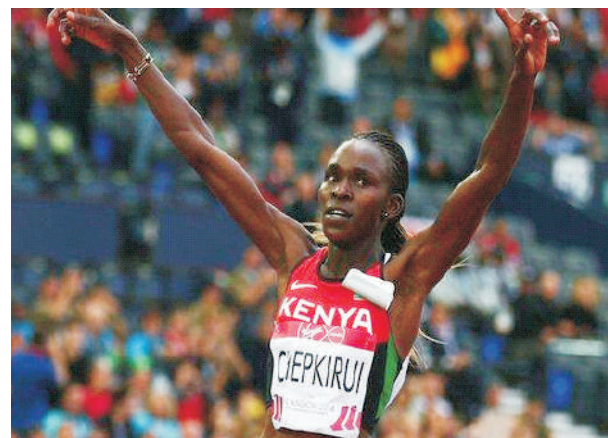
Meanwhile, Cas have ruled the Anti-Doping Agency of

Kenya should pay 2,000 Swiss Francs (US\$2,140) to World Athletics as a contribution towards its legal costs and other expenses.

Kenya is still listed as a category A nation by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada), meaning the country remains a high risk for doping.

As a result, Kenyan athletes still need to undergo three out of competition tests in a 10-month period before a World Championships or Olympic Games.

BBC Sport Africa understands Athletics Kenya had been hoping to be removed from the category A classification.



Joyce Chepkirui won gold in the 10,000m

Woods to play JP McManus Pro-Am

TIGER Woods has been added to a star-studded field for the JP McManus Pro-Am at Adare Manor.

BBC SPORT said that, the 15-time major winner will play the two-day event in the

Republic of Ireland on 4-5 July - less than two weeks before the Open Championship.

Woods stated his intention to play at the 150th Open at St Andrews having

completed 72 holes at the Masters on his competitive comeback.

His stirring return came 14 months after a life-threatening car crash.

The Pro-Am, hosted by legendary Irish racehorse owner JP McManus, will boast an impressive field of the world's best golfers including Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka.

It will be Woods' fourth appearance at the charity event, which will be held at the County Limerick venue set to host the 2027 Ryder Cup.

"His presence at Adare Manor will undoubtedly bring huge excitement to the thousands of spectators," said McManus.

"We are very grateful to him for giving up his free time to be with us."

Meanwhile, Allyson Felix, the most decorated female

track and field Olympian of all time, will retire at the end of the season.

The 36-year-old American has won 11 Olympic medals, including seven golds, as well as 13 world titles.

She competed at her fifth and final Olympics in Tokyo last summer.

"As a little girl they called chicken legs - never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined I'd have a career like this," said Felix.

"I have so much gratitude for this sport that has changed my life. I have given everything I have to running and for the first time I'm not sure if I have anything left to give.

"I want to say goodbye and thank you to the sport and people who have helped shape me the only way I know how - with one last run.

"This season isn't about the time on the clock, it's simply

about joy. If you see me on the track this year I hope to share a moment, a memory and my appreciation with you."

Felix has won four Olympic golds in the 4x400m relay, two in the 4x100m relay, and one in the 200m.

In November 2018, Felix gave birth to her daughter Camryn by emergency Caesarean at 32 weeks after discovering she had pre-eclampsia, which could have been life-threatening for them both.

Less than a year later, she became the most successful athlete in World Championships history when she took two relay golds in Doha.

That same year, she took on sponsor Nike over maternity pay. In May 2019, she wrote in the **New York Times** that Nike wanted to pay her 70% less after she became a mother, and three months later, the brand changed their stance.

Felix has also worked to highlight the issue of maternal mortality among black women.

"This season I'm running for women. I'm running for a better future for my daughter. I'm running for you," she added in her retirement statement.

"More to come on that, so stay tuned, but I'll be sharing a series of announcements that I'm hoping will make the world better for women.

"Here's to my final season."

Raducanu 'ready to lead' GB in Billie Jean King Cup

EMMA Raducanu is ready to "embrace her position" as leader of a new-look Great Britain team when they face the Czech Republic in the Billie Jean King Cup, says captain Anne Keothavong.

BBC SPORT said that, US Open champion Raducanu, 19, assumes the role in a young squad which, for the first time since 2010, is without either Johanna Konta or Heather Watson.

Raducanu is joined by Harriet Dart, Katie Swan and Sonay Kartal.

"It feels like a new era. I'm excited about the team," said Keothavong.

World number 12 Raducanu is the highest-ranked player in the British team - and the highest-profile - after her swift rise to becoming a Grand Slam champion in New York last September.

The best-of-five tie, which will be played on outdoor clay in Prague, sees two singles matches on Friday, followed by two more on Saturday and one doubles rubber if needed.

But, in another reminder of her rapid progress inside the past year, Raducanu is set to play her first senior match on clay, as well as making her debut in the Billie Jean King Cup.

Raducanu will assume the mantle as the team's new leader in the absence of former world number four Konta, who retired at the end of last season, and 29-year-old Watson.

Watson, who has dropped outside of the world's top 100, decided to skip the tie in order to focus on improving her singles ranking.

"I guess a lot has happened over the past year and obviously Emma's success has been highlighted and we've seen what she's been able to achieve in such a short space of time," said Keothavong.

"So we're kind of getting into the unknown a little bit, and there has been a bit of a changing of the guard.

"I'm sure Emma will embrace her position, lead the team by example and really grow in that role in the years to come."

Dart, 25, plays in the first rubber on Friday against 2019 French Open finalist Marketa Vondrousova, before Raducanu faces world number 50 Tereza Martincova.

The Czech Republic, who have won the competition six times since 2011, are without their three highest-ranked players - Barbora Krejckikova,

Karolina Pliskova and Petra Kvitova.

Katerina Siniakova, another top-50 player who is the world number one in doubles, also misses out through injury.

The winners will qualify for November's finals, while the runners-up will face a play-off tie in the same week.

However, Britain are among the nations bidding to host the finals and could also still qualify as the host nation.

While Dart and Swan are familiar faces to British tennis fans, 20-year-old Kartel will be unknown to many. She received the call-up from Keothavong after winning four of her past six ITF events.

"In Harriet and Katie we've got two players who have been part of the team in the past so they know what the expectations are," said Keothavong.

"They will bring good energy to the team and in Sonay, we've got someone who, compared to the other players, doesn't have that experience.

"But I've been really excited with what I've seen with her and the results she's had this year.

"If she keeps working hard that ranking is only going to go one way."



Woods

SUNDAY SPORTS

How we're able to record 10-match unbeaten streak – Plateau Utd Coach

"The preparation is superb, the kind of thing we discuss in pre-match talk, if any player discusses that, believe me, such a player will be ready to give his best..." One coach performing excellently in the Nigeria Professional Football League is Fidelis Ilechukwu, who manages Plateau United, the 2017 league champions. Excerpts:

Ilechukwu, 43, fondly called the 'working coach', joined the Jos-based club in August 2021 and has led them in a 10-match unbeaten streak that sees them just a point behind league leaders, Rivers United.

In their last match against Enyimba; fans chanted his name at the Enyimba International Stadium, seeking for him to come and coach the Elephants.

The former MFM gaffer (he was there for 13 years) spoke with Premium Times about his new environment, fans, and expectations for the season.

How did you see the environment, Jos, the team when you joined?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: Jos people are very good people. They are caring you know and they have very great fans. One of the best fans in Nigeria as far as football is concerned. The support we get from fans is massive and the management, the Excellency, Governor Lalong, have been the pillar of the team. We've got all that we need to succeed. The environment is fantastic and I'm happy about it.

PT: Some said the reason you joined Plateau United from Heartland was that you were owed wages, how true is that?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: It is not only that I'm owed salaries by Heartland; more importantly about me is that I have a lot of patience while working in any place even if you want to owe me I don't have any issue with that but owing my players...

If my players aren't comfortable working, it's a problem. At a time, players refused to train, and because they don't pay them and it's affecting me mentally, psychologically and winning games was very difficult. The first thing I did was to find a way and work around the challenges, the results, and other things that are not good for you.

PT: There is a particular story that says that you are still owed salaries by Heartland, how true is that?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: Heartland have not paid me [he had earlier revealed is owed about N11 million]. I don't want to talk about them because I said I won't talk about them again but you cannot find grace.

The kind of challenges we faced to remove Heartland from relegation you won't understand, it must be beyond physical human being to do all that job in that place and work under that condition and you want me to beg before you pay me when you paid other people? For me it is witchcraft character, it is wickedness but I just leave things like that and concentrate on the present, that's important to me.

PT: Assess the squad you have in Plateau United?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: In Plateau United, we have a lot of young players and when you have young players you have the challenges of converting chances but most importantly, the boys are disciplined, very important. They create a lot of chances and score few. You keep on telling them gradually.

They are not the kind of team you put under pressure because if you do that they will run away from



trying to do it so that you will not blame them. All they need is encouragement. We don't have top-class players in that attack but at least we have young players who are ready to learn and work hard all the time.

So my assessment is that the squad is very strong, young, elegant, moving the ball fast, at least the intensity of the training sessions and matches is very high, and this is what is good for the team. We have a good squad.

PT: Coach, your team is one of the teams that has conceded the least in the league; how do you manage to keep your defence compact? Despite the pressure you've been able to stand strong, your game against Enyimba for example, how did you change their psychology?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: First of all, after losing our game to Warri Tourists, we decided that this time around we won't play home game 4-3-3 formation while we come away, we play 4-5-1 because tactically we've started defending from day one in away games.

We decided that the same formation we used in a way, we are going to use in the home, tactically in that situation we are telling them they must go out and score. Everywhere is our home, we don't have home, we don't have away, and we will come out on you no matter who you are. If we come out, if we see a point fine, if we don't see we go home and work. These are things we understand now.

Another thing is, as a coach when you finish the first half of the game and you go inside the dressing

room, most of the things you need to do is motivate them. You need to 'psyche' them up, you need to tell them that they can do better in all they have done for you. For them to go outside, they need to fight and create chances, you need to block where the opponent is attacking from, by doing that with their youthfulness believe me it will be better for you.

PT: So far this season you've won all your matches at the New Jos Stadium. Is there something you do to your boys because 100% record at home is remarkable, how have you been able to achieve this?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: You know the method we inject in our team, especially our pre-match talk is superb. That morning you already know the team is prepared from the pre-match talk. The preparation is superb, the kind of thing we discuss in pre-match talk, if any player discusses that, believe me, such a player will be ready to give his best.

So it's not like other pre-match talks, we have an inter-reflection during the pre-match talk where we know the strength and weaknesses of the opponent then we know our strengths and weakness, and then prepare on how to fight.

It has not been easy winning all the matches at home, our last game against Katsina United, it was so tough that we scored around 92/93rd minute. Do you know what it means?

It's a sign that we also face challenges. It hasn't been easy at any given time. We never give up, we still believe that at 90 minutes we can still score goals. All this is the advantage we have. There is no

pressure when the team isn't doing well during the game, what we do tell them is you can do better and we believe in you and that's the reason we give you this jersey.

PT: You have the likes of Mohammed Zulkilful, Izuchukwu Chimezie, and Sunday Anthony who have scored more than three goals each this season, how do you manage them against injury, and do they have the same abilities?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: Most important thing is that we have a medical team, sound and they understand sports injury. First of all, you must listen to doctors, you must take their advice.

What we try to do in training sessions is to determine the pairing of each player, merging players, we need to understand the players that understand themselves. You need to understand one player's fatigue standing. You need to rest the players a little. You bring in some in the second half or dying minutes of the game when others are tired.

These are the things that make you a super coach because some of them will likely not come to you and talk because they want traveling allowance, they want match bonus, you need to watch deeply inside your team and understand when the body is telling the player that, I need a little rest.

In our team, our training is a competition if you don't make the 20-man list of Plateau United out of their low performance. You can only be out of the 20-man list if you have an injury or we are resting, out of that condition, if you are not on that list you have yourself to blame. Everybody is fighting day-in and day-out.

It is a place of no sentiment of any type, everybody even fans will come and watch training sessions, most times management will come and watch training sessions. They understand that on the day of the lineup and 20-man list they will say that this coach and these coaches tried their best. What you saw in the training is what you will see in the match also. **PT: About your game against Sunshine Stars, what should we be expecting?**

Fidelis Ilechukwu: Sunshine Stars, they are youngsters with a good coach. They have quality players. Believe me, I know their players. I have some players who played with me in Heartland, I know as a Lagosian, I know the team very well, and they are a fantastic team.

I watched their game against Rivers United, I've also watched their highlights against Akwa United, all those two highlights are superb. There is no small team in the NPFL. If you are careless or kind of looking down on any team because your team is doing well, you have yourself to blame. They are top players. They are young players and that's the most important thing.

PT: Is Plateau united thinking of bringing new legs during the mid-season?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: Yes we are on that, trying to get 1-3 players. It is very important we do that because you know when you're working in a place, you need to know some of your players who are going to travel abroad.

All we have done now, there are

few players training with us for me to create space for them. So we are watching, we are working, hoping that maybe by next week we will do one or two deals.

PT: you are second on the table, behind Rivers United, how can you keep fighting for the top place in the league?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: This is a tough question. Rivers United are one of the best in Nigeria now, whether you like it or not. They have only lost one game in the league which was against Plateau United.

That will show you the strength of the team, management, and the coach. It will show you the capacity, ability, and quality. They have top players, comparing Rivers United to Plateau United is not going to be good. They are fighting most for the title because they have experienced players but we have a lot of young players but at the same time we are not giving up.

I'm not going to put my team under pressure for the league title. Plateau United have tasted the league. We were league champions last five years if I'm not mistaken, 2017 or so. We don't want to behave as if we have not won it before, we know our capacity as well.

We are working to make sure I run away from relegation on time and my team won't be struggling. My boys have done a massive job, they have worked seriously. I don't want to say I want to win the league, by all means, saying that will put the team under pressure but what we are saying is we are a very hardworking team and we keep on working hard.

At the end of the day, if the trophy smiled at us why not, we go for it. If it goes another way around, there is no problem, we have other seasons to go for the title.

PT: When you visited Aba for the Enyimba game, some fans were calling you to come around to the club; if you get an offer from Enyimba, will you leave Plateau United for Enyimba?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: The truth is we need to address coming to Enyimba because they have a coach right now. Finidi George is a top coach, ex-international, I have respect for him. A good fan or fans must support their team in times of challenges.

If they can't support Finidi in time like this, believe me, if Ilechukwu goes there and has the same kind of challenges they will not support him tomorrow, that's the character of the fans. I'm the Plateau United coach and you can't wake up overnight to be Enyimba coach, it's not possible in football.

Everything has a process, Enyimba is a team everybody wants to be with because of their antecedents in the Nigerian league. But this is the time the team needs the fans so much, so they should support Finidi George.

PT: Fidelis Ilechukwu, do you see yourself coaching the Super Eagles anytime in the future?

Fidelis Ilechukwu: Why not? Right now I'm still the youngest coach in the Nigerian Premier League, I don't know as much. I'm not getting any younger anymore but the most important thing is to support the person there now, it is turn by turn.

When our time comes, we want to serve our country. We want to make our country proud with the little knowledge we have gotten to give back to people, country that has given birth to us, so that's it.

SUNDAY SPORTS



Super Falcons to know group opponents Friday as CAF reschedules date

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has Rescheduled the Total Energies Morocco 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations draw to a new date, BSNSports.com.ng can report. It will now take place on Friday, 29 April 2022. CAF on its website announced that the ceremony will be held at the Mohamed VI Complex in Rabat, Morocco at 20h30 GMT. Nine-time champions Nigeria will know their group phase opponents at the 12th Women Africa Cup of Nations when the draw is staged on Monday, 25th April 2022.

Goals by new birds Ifeoma Onumonu and Esther Okoronkwo steered the Super Falcons to a 3-0 aggregate win over Cote d'Ivoire in the final round of the qualifiers in February. In the earlier round, forward Uchenna Kanu scored both goals in Lagos to lift the Falcons past the Black Queens of Ghana, who won the return leg 1-0 in Accra. Nigeria won the first edition of the Women Africa Cup of Nations (then known as African Women Championship) staged in the country in 1998, and has won seven other championships. The only times the Super Falcons did not emerge victorious in the history of the

competition were when the tournaments were staged in Equatorial Guinea, in 2008 and 2012. This year's tournament in Morocco, 2nd - 23rd July comes with added impetus as the four semi finalists will represent Africa at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup finals in Australia/New Zealand. The 12 teams that have qualified to play at the 12th Women Africa Cup of Nations are: Morocco, Nigeria, Uganda, Burundi, Zambia, Togo, Senegal, Tunisia, Botswana, Cameroon, South Africa, Burkina Faso. They will be divided into four groups of three teams each.

National para games enters final day, Plateau wins 27 medals

AS the events of the National Para Games climaxed, states are busy scrambling for the remaining medals left for grabs. Plateau has so far won 5 gold, 6 silver and 16 bronze in six of the nine sports paraded by the state.

The latest results indicate that two additional gold medals were carted by Munkwoba Talla in the badminton singles and Juliana Markus in the athletics discus event. Other results show that four more silver medals were colonized by Munkwoba Talla and Andrew Micheal in the double event in badminton, while Nendirmwa Monday grabbed silver also in badminton single event. The remaining two silver were won by Emmanuel Ugwu, 65kg Powerlifting and Juliana Markus in the athletics shot put event. The ten bronze medals won in the last two days were accredited to the following athletes;

Anna Nyam, badminton singles; Punshak Istifanus, Powerlifring 49kg class; Abdulrazaq Awoniyi, Teakwondo Poomse event; Joyce Markus, Powerlifring 55kg class; Rose Dung, Powerlifring 65kg class; and Deme Gyang, Swimming backstroke 50m. Other beneficiaries of the bronze medals are; Ayuba Kadiya, athletics shot put; Naomi Charles athletics shot put and Ayuba Puja, won two bronze in athletics shot put and discus; It was a tough day for Para soccer as they had to fight with their life, playing two matches, winning Nassarawa 3-2 and



THE Nigerian Football Federation has confirmed the Super Eagles will face Ecuador in a friendly game on the 2nd of June 2022.

The match will be held in New Jersey in the United States. Recall that Soccernet had earlier reported that Ecuador listed the Nigerian team for a friendly match as part of its preparations for the 2022 World Cup.

The Nigerian team won't be at in Qatar but has friendly games to prosecute against two World Cup-bound teams in May and June.

A friendly against Mexico has also been set for Texas on the 28th of May.

While the NFF is yet to announce a new head coach for the senior national team, a list of assistants has been released with Salisu Yusuf, Usman Abdallah and Finidi George appointed as the assistants to the yet-to-be-known coach.

Ike Shorunmu is also returning to the team as a

NFF confirms date for Super Eagles friendly against Ecuador

goalkeeper trainer for the team. Nigeria last faced Ecuador in 2004 at the LG Cup with the South Americans winning the

third-place match on penalties after a 2-2 draw during regulations time. Ecuador have qualified for the World Cup for the fourth time in their history.



'Nigeria 'll surpass old records at 2022 Commonwealth Games'

CHAIRMAN of Edo State Sports Commission, former long jumper, Yussuf Alli, has predicted that Team Nigeria will record a good outing at this year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England.

The Sports Ministry, on Wednesday, appointed Alli as

Team Nigeria's Coordinator for the Commonwealth Games. For about two decades, Alli was the 'Commander-In-Chief' in African athletics, particularly in the long jump event. Apart from being a three-time Olympian, Alli is best remembered for his gold medal at Auckland '90 Commonwealth Games. Till date, his Personal Best of

8.27 metres, which he set in 1989 during the African Athletics Championships in Lagos, still stands as Nigeria's record. He also holds school records for the long jump - both indoor and outdoor (set in 1984 and 1983) respectively for the University of Missouri in the United States. Alli was Africa's captain, longest Nigeria's captain, Technical Director of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), and Manager, COJA Committee for the 8th African Games held in Abuja in 2003. Alli was the captain of Team Nigeria to two consecutive Olympic Games, at Los Angeles '84 and Seoul '88.

Proceedings of the National Para Games will come to a close on Friday with a closing ceremony later in the day.

Speaking with The Guardian shortly after his appointment, Alli said he would deploy his experience to make sure Team Nigeria get the best results at the Games. The Sports ministry stated that Alli will, in collaboration with officials of the ministry, coordinate and ensure the success of Team Nigeria by working as a bridge between the athletes, federations and the ministry in Birmingham. Team Nigeria finished in ninth place at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia. It won nine gold, nine silver and six bronze medals. However, Nigeria's best performance ever was in Victoria, Canada in 1994, where the country finished in fourth position with 11 gold, 13 silver and 13 bronze medals. Meanwhile, President of Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Tonobok Okowa, has said that the federation is working hard to produce a formidable squad at the Commonwealth Games in July. Okowa told The Guardian that AFN would use the fast approaching African Senior Athletics Championships in Mauritius and the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, Eugene, U.S. to perfect its strategies ahead of

tomorrow against their opponents, even though Para soccer is guaranteed at least a silver. So far all the sports assembled by Plateau state have won at least a medal with the exception of Deaf football and Para soccer who look set to join the fray as they file out

table. In powerlifting, Emmanuel Nuhu and Cynthia Mathias will slug it out in the heavy weight categories, also on Friday, to find a place on the medals

have Kano to contend with for the third place match on Friday. In powerlifting, Emmanuel Nuhu and Cynthia Mathias will slug it out in the heavy weight categories, also on Friday, to find a place on the medals



NFF re-appoint Bosso, Yusuf as national coaches

TWO years ago, Coach Ladan Bosso failed to qualify Nigeria's U-20 team, the Flying Eagles, for the Africa and FIFA U-20 World Cup, as his team failed at the U-20 WAFU Cup in Benin Republic.

Against all expectations, the Flying Eagles, who used to be the pride of Africa at the world level, were reduced to baby chickens in Cotonou, finishing with just one point from two games in the group stages, following a 1-1 with Cote d'Ivoire and 0-1 defeat by Ghana.

The failure at the WAFU Cup stopped the Flying Eagles from participating in the 2021 U-20 Africa Cup of Nations, which was the final qualifier for the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

After the competition, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) apologised to Nigerians for embarrassing the nation with a promise to strengthen the team's technical crew ahead of future challenges.

Before then, the same Ladan Bosso had failed with the Flying Eagles at the FIFA U-20 World Youth Championship in Canada, where Nigeria lost to Chile in the quarterfinal stage. That was in 2007.

Rather than drop Bosso or send him on refresher courses to upgrade his knowledge of the game, the NFF gave him a pat on the back and allowed him to continue on the job for two more years. He was later



Reappointed Flying Eagles coach, Ladan Bosso

dismissed when he led the Flying Eagles to finish third at the African Youth Championship in Rwanda in 2009.

It took public complaints over his team's lacklustre display before the NFF reluctantly dropped Bosso. Many football-loving Nigerians were shocked, yesterday, when the NFF rolled out names of coaches for the national teams, and again, Bosso returned as

Head Coach of the U-20 team. He will work with former U-17 Head Coach, Fatai Amao (Assistant Coach); Oladuni Oyekale (Assistant Coach); Jolomi Atune Alli (Assistant Coach) and Baruwa Olatunji Abideen (Goalkeepers' Trainer).

Many Nigerians, who could not see the rationale for Bosso's return as head coach of the Flying Eagles, carpeted the Amaju Pinnick-

led NFF yesterday, describing the football hour as a body that encourages failure.

"I can't believe that the same NFF, which sacked Augustine Eguavoen, Emmanuel Amunke and others for Super Eagles' failure to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, is lining up the likes of Bosso as national team coaches. It is sad," the proprietor of Cables Football Academy,

Coach Edwin Onovwotafe, told The Guardian.

Apart from Bosso's recall, the NFF executive committee also approved the recommendation of its Technical and Development Sub-Committee for the reappointment of Salisu Yusuf as the Head Coach of the Super Eagles B (otherwise known as CHAN team), as well as the U23 (Olympics) team.

To some Nigerians, the re-

appointment of Salisu Yusuf as coach of both the CHAN Eagles and the Olympics team is a clear indication that the NFF does not wish the nation's football well.

Former coach of the Super Falcons and Golden Eaglets, Godwin Izilien, had warned the NFF of Wednesday on the implication of re-appointing Yusuf as head coach of the Home-based Eagles four years after FIFA punished him for allegedly soliciting bribe as handler of the same team.

On July 24, 2018, Yusuf was seen accepting a cash gift in a video released by BBC Africa following a series of investigations on the state of football in Africa.

Yusuf was said to have accepted bribe after two investigative reporters approached him to include two footballers in his squad to the 2018 African Championship (CHAN).

"If it is true, then the NFF would have destroyed our football completely," Izilien told The Guardian on Wednesday. "What will be NFF's message to other coaches, who are into corrupt practices? I just hope it is mere rumour.

But if it comes to reality, the Amaju Pinnick-led NFF would have rubbished everything left in our football. "For you to preach equity, you must come with clean hands. It will be a bad precedent for the NFF to re-appoint Salisu Yusuf as coach of the Home-based Eagles," Izilien stated then.

GFA President wants NFF boss to seek third term

PRESIDENT of the Ghana Football Association, GFA, Kurt Okraku has expressed shock that his Nigerian counterpart Amaju Melvin Pinnick has decided not to run for a third term as President of the Nigeria Football Federation.

Pinnick was first elected as the NFF boss in 2014 after spending four years as Chair of the Delta State Football Association. The 51-year-old was re-elected in 2018, with the highlight of his tenure being guiding the Super Eagles to the 2018 FIFA World Cup and a bronze medal finish at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt.

Pinnick is statutorily permitted to seek a third term in office, but he has come under intense pressure lately after Nigeria failed to qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Ghana's Black Stars

beat the Super Eagles to the qualification ticket on the away goal rule in March, weeks after the Eagles were eliminated at the second round of the 2021 AFCON.

And Mr. Pinnick hinted on Arise TV earlier in the week that despite being eligible to contest for the NFF Presidency for the third

time, he would not be running.

However, GFA boss Okraku is convinced Pinnick has more to offer Nigerian football and has urged Nigerians to support the Delta State-born to take the country to greater heights.

"That's unfortunate if he (Amaju Pinnick) really said he is quitting the NFF," Mr.

Okraku told Brila FM in a radio interview.

"I would be one of those people who would go up to him to tell him to rethink that decision.

"I know Pinnick loves Nigeria; he loves Nigerian football. He wants to see the Super Eagles dominate African football. That's his dream and it's the dream of every Nigerian, including the President of the country.

"In this challenging period, it calls for cool heads. It also calls for everybody to stand with each other. This is time to offer solutions and Nigeria will get back to its feet."

Despite Pinnick's many troubles, CAF President Patrick Motsepe only recently nominated the Nigerian to be part of the newly established FIFA Working group on Normalisation Committees.



Okraku



Pinnick

WORD SEARCH: Answer the clue and search for the word

I	H	C	E	L	E	K	W	Y	Q	N	A	R
P	X	J	S	U	N	D	D	W	N	S	N	L
A	L	I	Y	U	O	H	L	M	V	K	I	G
W	I	S	P	Z	N	G	V	O	B	Q	G	R
B	A	E	H	I	N	F	E	A	G	L	E	E
T	P	A	R	T	E	Y	S	I	A	B	R	E
W	X	U	K	G	N	M	A	F	Q	L	I	N
Q	O	C	H	V	L	N	G	M	A	K	A	J
M	U	Y	U	I	N	R	I	J	T	E	E	A
P	D	T	S	D	E	N	C	E	A	R	F	C
D	Z	E	L	E	N	C	K	H	R	J	I	K
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By IBRAHIM LOT

CLUES

1. As Roma Manager (8)
2. Mamelodi --- S/A football Club (8)
3. Warri Football outfit (6)
4. --- Henry, Belgium football Manager (7)
5. 2 under Par in golf (5)
6. Arsenal and Ghana footballer (7)
7. Officio Prize of the Augusta Masters (11)
8. --- Anteto Koumpo.

9. Greek -Nigerian NBA star (7)
9. Tenisa 94 Nations Cup winners (7)
10. Golf Peg (3)
11. --- iheanacho, Nigerian and Leicester striker (7)
12. 2922 World Cup host (5)
13. Where the Olympics started (6)
14. --- Pinnick, NFF President
15. Deji ---, Nigeria's ex-Sprinter (5)
16. Ice hockey ball (4)