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THE Nigeria Standard



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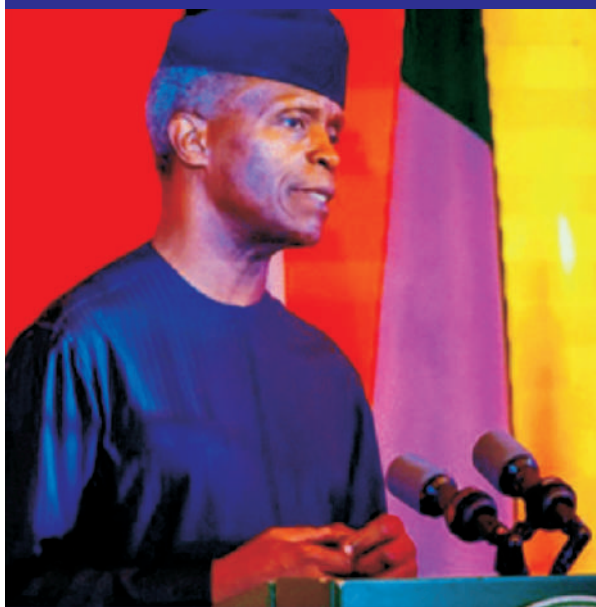
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Tinubu disowns Osinbajo



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,

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President Muhammadu Buhari in a handshake with the immediate past Caretaker National Chairman of APC, Governor, Mai Mala Buni when he led the newly elected National APC Chairman, Sen. Abdullahi Adamu to the Presidential Villa, Abuja last week. PHOTO: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA

GEM trains teachers as Foundation donates materials

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Girls Education Mission International [GEM], A Non-governmental Organisation in Jos, the Plateau State Capital, has trained selected teachers as TY Danjuma Foundation donated Instructional materials comprising 1000 textbooks and workbooks of Mathematics, English and Basic Science to the Plateau State Universal Basic Education Board [SUBEB].

This took place recently at the Conference Hall of Nigeria Bible Translation

Trust [NBTT] in Jos, the state capital where participants were drawn from selected schools in the Central Senatorial Zone to be trained by GEM in collaboration with SUBEB and funded by TY Danjuma Foundation.

While speaking during training, a Member of the Board of Trustees of TY Danjuma Foundation, Professor Alice Eta Asim, commended the Girls Education Mission International [GEM] for taking the most sensitive aspect of human development to execute such project in line with Foundation's goal and

objectives.

She urged the participants to take advantage of this training opportunity titled; "Linking Teachers welfare With Quality and Standard" and make use of what they have learned to ensure that the goal of the training was achieved

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Danjuma

No resumption until demands are met -ASUU

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Abuja zone, on Monday, insisted that lecturers will 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 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-week 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, however, said the lecturers are ever ready to return to their duty post as soon as their demands are met by the Federal Government.

He said: "You would recall that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) declared a four

week rolling strike at the University of Lagos National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held on February 14.

"Owing to the failure of the Federal Government to act within that period, the national action was rolled over for another eight

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News

Tinubu disowns Osinbajo

Cont'd from Page 1

yesterday, through a short video uploaded on various social media platforms, said his over seven years of working with Buhari had provided him requisite insights to complete what the ruling All Progressives 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.

Tinubu met with about 12 APC governors at Kebbi State Governor's Lodge in Asokoro, Abuja, a few hours after the governors' meeting with Osinbajo at his official residence inside Aso Rock, at the start of the vice president's

presidential campaign.

Fielding questions from journalists after the meeting, an apparent knee-jerk response to the vice president's deft pioneering meeting with the APC governors, Tinubu denied Osinbajo outright.

Tinubu's denial of his erstwhile political protégé is a clear indication that the battle line is drawn between both men, and the battle may get more intense and messier in the period ahead.

However, speaking earlier, Bagudu described the competitive situation in the party as a welcome development. He said Tinubu told the APC governors about his intention to vie for the presidency in 2023.

Bagudu said, "Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, this morning, met members of the Progressive Governors Forum, where he stated what he has made public already - his intention to seek the office of the president come 2023, which he has already announced publicly. He briefed us on his reasons, his thinking and his message."

Asked if Osinbajo and

Tinubu's ambitions had put the governors in a tight corner, Bagudu said the governors appreciated the development, because it was an indication that the ruling party had endeared itself to Nigerians.

He stated, "On the contrary, we appreciate our party, because it has become a party that has endeared itself to Nigerians. We have many brilliant people in our party, some serving and some not serving.

"The fact that we have people in our party that express desire to lead the party into the highest office in an electoral contest shows how much this our party has resonated with Nigerians and our party members.

"For us, it is a hallmark of success that people are showing interest, but at the end of the day, and because they are leaders of the party, they will always put the party's interest at heart."

"APC has done well as a party, President Buhari has led the party ably well and we believe strongly that come 2023, Nigerians will see another President

of the APC extraction."

Osinbajo officially declared his intention to run for president in 2023, Monday, after meeting some APC governors at his official residence, Akinola Aguda House, within the precincts of the State House.

In the announcement video posted on his verified Twitter handle and other media platforms, including television, radio and social media platforms, Osinbajo promised to use his seven years insight and experience as the vice president to complete all that the Buhari-led APC government started at the centre since May 2015.

According to him, if given the opportunity to lead Nigeria, his experience, insights and opportunities would be used for the benefit of Nigeria and Nigerians.

He claimed to have practically been to all the local governments in the country and had taken time to listen to the diverse experiences and yearnings of the people.

Vowing to transform the security architecture, agriculture and all other sectors for the betterment of the country, Osinbajo assured the citizens that he would build a Nigeria, where everywhere would be home for everyone.

He sought the support of all Nigerians to be their president in the next political dispensation.

GEM trains teachers as Foundation donates materials

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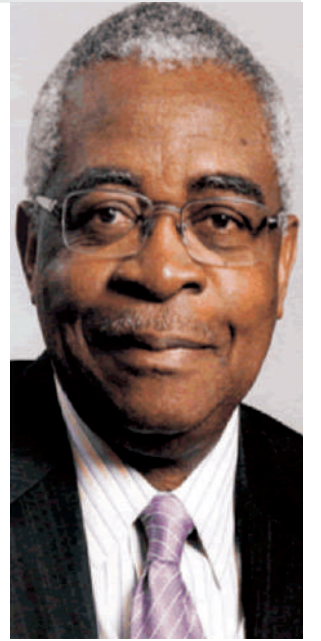
so that access to quality education of a child would be guaranteed because the engagement was enriching.

Asim, thereafter, presented instructional materials comprising textbooks and workbooks of Mathematics, English and Basic Science to Plateau State Universal Basic Education [SUBEB] for onward distribution to the 63 participants to further hence quality in schools in the zone.

Receiving the instructional materials, the Executive Chairman, Plateau State Universal Basic Education Board, Professor Mathew Sule represented by the Board Permanent Member 1, Hon. [Chief Mrs] Sarah Ramadan, thanked TY Danjuma Foundation for the kind gestures and assured the foundation of SUBEB's continuous collaboration.

Speaking shortly after the training with Newsmen, the Executive Director of Girls Education Mission International, Mrs Keturah Shammah, expressed gratitude to the TY Danjuma Foundation saying, "I want to use this medium to thank the TY Danjuma Foundation for making our vision and mission possible at Girls Education Mission International.

"The Foundation has not provided funding, but ensured that the capacity of GEM Team Members is



Danjuma

built. It is an honour to have the Foundation sent one of its Board Members, Prof. Alice Eta Asim who is not just a professor of Education Evaluation but Head of Quality Assurance at the University of Calabar.

"Her engagements and contributions throughout the training period was laudable and one of the greatest take away during the training was the idea of concept mapping shared by Professor

Asim which has been a great experience for the participants", she appreciated. There were presentation Certificates and Instructional Materials to the 63 participants as well as group photographs respectively.

No resumption until demands are met -ASUU

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weeks following the resolution taken at an emergency NEC meeting at the Festus Iyayi National Secretariat on March 14.

"The action as you are probably aware is to

among other things, compel the Federal Government to sign and implement the draft renegotiated 2009 ASUU-FGN Agreement submitted to it by the Prof. Munzali

Committee in May 2021.

"Deploy for use in the Nigerian university system, was the home-grown payment and personnel solution called UTAS developed by ASUU as replacement for the failed IPPIS."

Acute water shortage hits Jos

By JIDAUNA DARING & HOSEA NYAMLONG

Residents of Jos and Bukuru metropolis have been seriously hit by acute water scarcity which has made lives difficult for them in their respective communities

Some of the residents within Nassarawa Gwong, Rikkos, Yan-Shanu, Angwan Rukuba, Dogon Duste, Jenta Adamu, Gada-Biu, Tudun Wada, Furaka and some parts of Rayfield among others who spoke with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** said that they have never experienced water scarcity that ravaged their communities during dry season like this year. They are therefore, calling on Plateau State government to come to their aid, since "water they say is life".

Our correspondents went round the city to sample the opinions of citizens in regard to the water scarcity.

It was gathered that even the few wells and boreholes cannot serve the needs of

the citizens. Most of the wells and boreholes have dried because of water level and high demand of the commodity for domestic use which is becoming worrisome.

In an interview with some water vendors, Jugu Billy, Sani Umaru, Mohammed Dogo, Bolaji Akin and Mallam Musa Abubakar have alluded to the fact that because of the high demand of water within the period of the road construction at British American Junction, started few months ago, they could not meet up with the demand of residents for water.

Baring their minds, James Ibrahim, Luka Musa, Mrs Nonso Obi and Mrs Mary Danladi, residents of Angwan Rukuba among others lamented that the acute water scarcity within this period of the year have made them unable to meet up with their domestic chores it has made life very

difficult for everyone resulting in people going late to office.

They said that if care is not taken, the water scarcity would result to water borne diseases. And to this extend, not all families can afford to buy water from the water vendors for their consumption and use. Due to the acute scarats prices per water Jerrican ranges from 50, 60, 70 and above.

Also in a press statement on the water scarcity, Plateau State Water Board Public Relations Officer (PRO), Mr Nangor

THE Federal Government has declared Friday April 15, 2022 and Monday April 18, 2022 as holidays in commemoration of Easter celebrations.

The Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, announced the holiday on behalf of the Federal Government on Tuesday.

In a statement, Dr Shuaib Belgore, the Permanent

Ndam attributed water scarcity to lack of constant electricity supply at the water treatment Plants. The has affected the production and distribution of water to most areas within the metropolis, especially Bukuru, Zawan, Angudi, Kwata-Zawan, Trade Centre, Karl Kum University, Vom, Bukuru Low-cost, Building Materials, Kufang, State/Federal Low Cost, Dandin Kowa, Tudun Wada, Jenta Adamu, Kabong, Alheri, University of Jos, Katakko, GRA, Nassarawa, Bauchi Ring Road and Farin

Gada up to Mista Ali.

Ndam, added that acute water supply in some areas of Jos is because of the construction of the fly over bridge at the British American Junction. He explained that the main pipe lines supplying water to central Jos metropolis have been removed to give way for the construction work.

The PRO however gave the assurance that after the demarcation of roads, the pipes would be relocated. The affected areas are West of Mines, Church Street, Langtang Street,

FG declares public holidays for Easter

Secretary of the ministry, explained Aregbesola urged Christians to emulate the attributes of sacrifice, togetherness, forgiveness, kindness, love, peace and patience, which were the attributes and practices of Jesus Christ, as exemplified by his ministry on earth.

Aregbesola also called on Christians and all Nigerians alike to use the occasion of this year's Easter celebration

to pray for an end to all security challenges bedevilling every part of the country.

The Minister assured that the Federal Government will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the recent attacks by undesirable elements on the highways, airport and the railway are timely brought to an end.

"Security is everybody's

business. I therefore urge Nigerians and foreigners resident in our country to display a high sense of citizenship and public spiritedness at this critical time in the history of our country, by supporting the efforts of all security agencies in bringing peace and security of lives and property of the citizenry," Belgore said.



Business & Economy

Decentralised finance: Key driver of Africa's financial ecosystem

Decentralised finance has come a long way from being a term only known to tech insiders. Although still in the early stages of development, DeFi has the potential to open the door to a new industry within the African financial ecosystem. EFAVOMI CARR writes.

AFRICA is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, has a young population, and has proven to be a fertile market for digital financial services. The continent leads the world in mobile money adoption, with digital transactions in Africa accounting for more than 45 percent of global mobile money transactions. All these factors make the continent a strong candidate for adoption of new financial services and technology.

As the younger population on the continent grows the need for financial inclusion increases. As much as banks are crucial to poverty reduction and sustainable growth, they have been unable to fill this gap. As a result, mobile money and open banking platforms are rapidly taking over the role of many banks. Both are leveraging mobile phone technology and data to build efficient domestic payment and financial systems.

The African fintech start-up scene has not only provided an alternative to traditional banking options, but it has also replaced traditional institutions in some places. This, however, is not a coincidence. Fintech has created a conducive environment in Africa for thousands of merchants, small businesses, and consumers to thrive and gain access to diverse financial solutions in a fast-changing and competitive world. Fintech startups have disrupted the financial sector value chain,



Adesina

increasing financial inclusion, innovation, and productivity throughout Africa.

According to a study conducted by the European Investment Bank, sub-Saharan Africa has one of the world's highest rates of bank account ownership. It goes on to say that digital financial services are particularly



Ahmed

popular in rural areas where access to traditional banking is limited.

The introduction of decentralised financial platforms could help accelerate financial development on the continent, leapfrogging traditional technology systems.

DeFi is a common term used for decentralized

really taken off in Africa. Bitcoin and Ethereum are the two largest cryptocurrencies by volume in the world as well as in Africa. They are also the most traded cryptocurrencies on the continent. Stablecoins like USDT and USDC have also seen a massive upsurge in trading due to inflation and cross-border trading.

Crypto investing and saving are also used to resolve difficulties on the continent since signing up to platforms such as global cryptocurrency exchanges like Binance, is allowing investors to save their money in decentralised stablecoins for investment. This means they essentially have a tokenized dollar to allow them to build a portfolio and if needed, exchange at flexible rates for fiat currency.

The opportunities for Defi in Africa are limitless. Smart contracts and decentralised blockchain, for example, have the potential to create entire industries with products designed to meet a wide range of needs. With the exponential growth in online trading and e-commerce, smart contracts can be a smart, easy, and decentralized way of facilitating online transactions.

Lending is another important area where Defis can be used in Africa. Micro and small businesses, as well as individuals, have benefited from an increase in micro-lending platforms and lend tech startups in Africa. Crypto loans are loans that are collateralised or uncollateralised and are given to borrowers in exchange for their crypto assets as collateral or no collateral at all. In this manner, the borrower obtains fiat loans from lenders in place of his crypto assets, which serve as securities in the event that the loan is not repaid.

With the aforementioned developments in mind, decentralized finance will definitely be a key driver of commerce in Africa in the future, especially owing to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic which accelerated the digital transformation on the continent.

Some significant ways in which decentralized finance is being used to resolve difficulties in Africa include Crypto trading which has really taken off in Africa. Bitcoin and Ethereum are the two largest cryptocurrencies by volume in the world as well as in Africa. They are also the most traded cryptocurrencies on the continent. Stablecoins like USDT and USDC have also seen a massive upsurge in trading due to inflation and cross-border trading. Crypto investing and saving are also used to resolve difficulties on the continent since signing up to platforms such as global cryptocurrency exchanges like Binance, is allowing investors to save their money in decentralised stablecoins for investment. This means they essentially have a tokenized dollar to allow them to build a portfolio and if needed, exchange at flexible rates for fiat currency.

financial services, including decentralized exchanges and decentralized money markets. Blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies are responsible for disrupting financial intermediaries to achieve what was once impossible in traditional money markets.

DeFi describes a whole new financial system designed on public blockchains such as Bitcoin and Ethereum. These digital assets are basic open-source networks that can be used to transform the way the world economy works. For example, decentralised finance allows one to pay for goods and services without the intervention of an intermediary, whereas in the current system, financial institutions are situated between the user and the owner of the goods and thus have the power to continue, stop or suspend the transactions.

Some significant ways in which decentralized finance is being used to resolve difficulties in Africa include Crypto trading which has



Business & Economy

5,000 debtors owe FG N5.2tr-Ahmed

THE Federal Government of Nigeria has disclosed that 5,000 debtors are currently owing its ministries, departments and agencies a total sum of N5.2trn which is worrisome considering the dwindling revenue challenges.

The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed also revealed that N53 billion has so far been recovered from debtors owing its MDAs in the last 12 to 18 months.

The minister stated this at the formal launch of the Project Lighthouse Debt Analytics and Reporting platform.

She says the recovery by the ministry was made possible in collaboration with the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation through the Integrated Financial Management Information System.

"A perfunctory review of perceived significant leakages in government led the ministry to issue a directive on 26th September 2019, to all government agencies in a bid to aggregate all government debts across all ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), with a view to having a single window on the credit profile of the government.

"Sequel to the issuance of the finance circular, the ministry through the consolidation efforts of the project, has been able to aggregate monumental debts of approximately N5.2trn.

"These debts came to the spotlight from data aggregated from over 5,000 debtors across ten ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

"Working in collaboration with the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF), we have been able to recover the sum of N53.5bn within the last 12-18 months, through the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) as a recovery touchpoint.

"However, to consolidate on the current effort of this project, a Debt Recovery Application has been built to be monitored by the new Debt Recovery Unit." she says.

Additionally, she explained that the Debt



Ahmed

Recovery Unit will build on the efforts made by the project consultants to provide the government with up-to-date credit records by harmonizing records of all MDAs within the country, enabling debtors to view their debts and offset them seamlessly and securely, and

strengthening the institutional framework for managing the Federal Debt Recovery Plan.

The minister noted that, a fully functional website has been developed to effectively manage public perception of the government debt recovery efforts.

FG partner Cuba on bio-technology

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Federal Government has indicated strong interest to collaborate with the Republic of Cuba on the development of Bio-technology for food and pharmaceutical production.

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu made this known when the Ambassador of Cuba to Nigeria, Amb. Clara Pulido Escadell paid him a courtesy visit in his office on Monday in Abuja.

Dr. Onu said that Nigeria which has a large youthful population as compared to other developed countries will accelerate the development of the country especially in the areas of bio-technology.

He further said that Nigerian youths at home and in the diaspora, have reached the peak of their careers in various technological endeavours and that with the necessary skills could take Nigeria to greater heights.

On tackling food security, the Federal Government has assured that Nigeria is no longer one of the largest importers of rice, but has emerged as one of the largest producers and exporters of rice in Africa.

Nigeria's efforts at biotechnology development, Dr. Onu said that the cultivation of yam is not just for food but also as a raw material for industries.

Dr. Onu assured the Cuban envoy of Nigeria's collaboration and close working relationship with them.

Earlier, the Ambassador of Cuba to Nigeria, Amb. Clara

Pulido Escadell said her visit is to discuss Nigeria's participation at the forthcoming International Conference Bio Habana 2022, slated to be held in Cuba from

Minister debunk rumours on Ajaokuta rehabilitation

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Honourable Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Arc Olamilekan Adegbite stated that at no time did he say that the federal government was handing over Ajaokuta to a British firm for rehabilitation.

The minister however, pointed out that the federal government had been in discussion with a Russian firm Messrs TPE (nominated by the Russian government) towards conducting the technical audit. The war between Ukraine and Russia has caused a setback to the proposed plan.

The minister noted that it was difficult to move forward with the Russian firm due to international sanctions placed on Russia, which has also impacted Russian firms and businesses. "Meanwhile, a local company in partnership with a British company has offered to execute the technical audit at no cost to Nigeria and with no preconditions. This was what I said at the media parley at the state house and not that

OIL prices, on Monday, plunged 4 per cent amid concerns that the pandemic will cut demand in China.

Brent crude futures fell 4.5 per cent to \$98.16 a barrel by 19:53 GMT +1, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude dropped correspondingly over 4 per cent to \$94.51.

Some cities in China had commenced lockdown as the country experienced its worst outbreak since the coronavirus started in central Wuhan in 2019.

Analysts at the Eurasia Group consultancy told Reuters that consumption in China, the world's biggest oil importer,

Oil prices drop below \$100 a barrel

has stalled with coronavirus lockdowns in Shanghai.

Shanghai, China's financial centre, started easing lockdowns in some areas on Monday despite reporting a record of more than 25,000 new COVID-19 infections.

"Even when the restrictions in Shanghai are lifted, China's zero-Covid policies will likely remain a drag on demand,"

Eurasia Group said, stressing Shanghai lockdowns likely reduced China's overall oil consumption by up to 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd).

Last week, member nations of the International Energy Agency (IEA) planned to release 120 million barrels from their strategic stocks over six months to reduce rising oil prices.

Gombe commits to boost wheat production

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

GOMBE State Government says it is committing all resources available to increase wheat production in the State following reduced supply due to the Russia/Ukraine ongoing war.

A statement made available to newsmen in Gombe by the Director General, Press Affairs, Government House Gombe,

Ismaila Uba Misilli, said Governor Inuwa Made the commitment while answering questions from Journalists after a meeting with NALDA Director General, Prince Paul Ikonne, in Abuja.

According to the Governor, Gombe State cultivated 200 hectares this year and is prepared to cultivate more which is the reason for the

visit to National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) Office In Abuja for a sustained partnership to boost wheat production.

The Governor said, "With what we did and with the raging war in Ukraine and Russia, where we import all our wheat and use in our daily lives; the efforts of NALDA towards making us sufficient in wheat production is very fundamental and the people of Gombe have already embraced and aligned.

You saw the output, you saw that we cultivated 200 hectares this year and the result was so fabulous and we are going to continue with that and that is why I came to NALDA to see that we expand on that relationship for the betterment of our people and the country at large", he stressed.

Governor Inuwa also explained his administration's committed towards strengthening the existing partnership between Gombe State and NALDA in order to boost other agricultural value chain in the State.

On his administration's ability to sustain the momentum of wheat production in the State, Governor Inuwa Yahaya said with the support of the ordinary people and the inherent economic benefits attached to wheat cultivation, the Gombe State Government under his leadership will continue to encourage its production through the provision of farm inputs and all necessary support.

He maintained that his administration will equally enhance the agricultural value chain of wheat through its production, marketing and distribution.



Adegbite

Ajaokuta would be handed over to a British company for rehabilitation," the minister clarified.

Adegbite explained that when the technical audit is completed, the result would be shared with all interested investors and potential partners interested in Ajaokuta Steel Plant resuscitation, which they would use to enter their submission bids.

To ensure that the entire process is transparent, a firm

was appointed in 2018 as Transaction Advisor. This firm has been revalidated by the BPP (Bureau of Public Procurement) and will guide and ensure a transparent due process in the selection of the eventual firm for Ajaokuta Steel restoration.

The minister noted that the outcome of the transaction advisors work would be taken to the Federal Executive Council for a robust discussion and eventual decision.



Business & Economy

Understanding the perennial power supply challenges in Nigeria

It used to be straightforward to accurately tell who is responsible for the epileptic power supply situation and lack of access to grid electricity in Nigeria. The government, through its state-owned power sector monopoly, National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), was responsible. Since the government had exclusive authority for the delivery of many services in the country, including telecommunication and power, the agencies directly responsible for the services were blamed for the inefficient or unavailable services, JIDE AKINTUNDE writes

FOR instance, the now-defunct Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) was responsible for the poor penetration of telephone lines in the country and the regular loss of dial tone when attempting to make telephone calls with NITEL land lines. All of that changed with the roll out of GSM numbers by private sector mobile telephony providers in 2001. Government's responsibility is now no more than licensing and market regulation for Nigerians to enjoy mobile phone services. Therefore, nobody blames NITEL today if his or her mobile phone is not working.

But it is not the same with NEPA in the provision of electricity. Although NEPA is no longer in existence, it is still being cursed when grid-electricity supply is off, and "up NEPA" is spontaneously shouted when supply is restored. At the initial stage of the ownership reform of the power sector assets, NEPA was changed to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), but Nigerians refused to recognise the change. Many continued to call PHCN "NEPA". What was needed was a dramatic improvement in power supply and not a new name for the inefficient supplier. Moreover, PHCN was still government-owned and a monopoly.

This fundamentally, but not completely, changed in 2013 when the power sector assets were split into three operating categories, with two of them privatised. The power generation assets were privatised to generation companies (GenCos). Similarly, the distribution assets were privatised to distribution companies (DisCos). However, the transmission assets were retained under the control of the government, through the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN). Nearly a decade after, not much improvement has been consistently delivered in terms of power supply to Nigerians who are wont to identify the culprit for the blackout they were experiencing.

For a number of reasons, Nigerians are not blaming the private sector GenCos and DisCos. It is TCN that is mostly cited as the supply bottleneck in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI). One of the reasons is that the people are not used to getting stuck with inefficient private suppliers of goods and services. Instead of endlessly blaming an inefficient private supplier, Nigerians would simply switch to other brands or providers, in a vibrant and competitive marketplace where the consumers can hardly be persuaded to patronise local brands as opposed to more expensive foreign ones.

Two, although TCN was incorporated like a private sector company, it is owned by the government, and it is a monopoly in national electricity transmission. In which case, TCN may be casually, or mischievously, depicted as the "NEPA" of the NESI post-privatisation.

Three, the centralised structure of the grid means TCN is a constant in every community served with grid-electricity, whereas a DisCo is assigned exclusive coverage of a specific part of the country. This means Ikeja Electric, the DisCo covering Lagos, would not be seen as culpable for power distribution failure in Edo State because it is BEDC Electricity Plc that is covering the area. But TCN's transmission serves the entire nation. When, as in recent time, power generation nosedives, the grid could "collapse" and TCN would be wrongly blamed for it.

Finally, the grid is quite expansive, covering the entire country. This makes



Aliyu

it always susceptible to adverse weather conditions in different parts of the country. Also, access to the transmission facilities for maintenance work may prove difficult in heavily wooded areas. And the huge size of the country makes it difficult monitoring the transmission facilities in the absence of a fully automated system for the function. This situation is compounded by the tendency of some Nigerians to vandalise national assets for economic or political reasons.

Recent Grid Collapses

The national grid has collapsed twice this year. The frustration of the nationwide outages had TCN as the usual suspect. But the company, in a comprehensive statement, has disproved the notion of its responsibility for the blackouts. In a statement on 8 March 2022, signed by its General Manager, Public Affairs, Ndidi Mbah, TCN sought to set things straight: "The Transmission Company of Nigeria wishes to notify consumers of electricity that the current load shedding being experienced nationwide is as a result of very low power generation by the Generation Companies (GENCOs) for TCN to wheel through the transmission grid to distribution companies nationwide."

The statement explained that TCN can only transmit the quantum of power generated by GenCos through the national grid to distribution load centres nationwide. Since it does not generate electricity, TCN only transports cumulative power generation from all the generation companies to distribution load centres. The transmission company allocates power to distribution companies based on the percentage formula approved by the industry regulator, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).

According to the TCN's statement, the cumulative power generation nationwide was low. The GenCos had attributed this to several factors including poor gas supply, fault in generating units of the generation companies, and scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, all of which had caused most of the GenCos to generate less power or none.

The statement provided substantiation for its claim. According to it, a summary

of the power generating profiles in January and February 2022, for instance, clearly shows that 14 gas-fired power plants – out of 23 grid-connected generating plants – were either not generating at all or had limited generation at various times within the period. The power generation plants in this category included Omotosho units 5 and 6; Olorunsogo units 3, 4 and 6; Omoku units 3 and 6; Omotosho NIPP units 3 and 4; Delta units 15, 17, and 18; Afam VI units 11 and 12; Ihovbor NIPP unit 2; Sapele Steam unit 3; Sapele NIPP unit 1; Odukpani NIPP units 1 and 3; and Okpai units 11, 12 and 18.

Also, within the same period, Jebba Hydro and Shiroro Power Generating Stations were either out or had limited generation, causing additional loss of 232MW from the grid, while other power generating plants such as Omotosho units 3 and 4; Olorunsogo units 1; Delta units 10 and 20; Afam VI unit 13; Ihovbor NIPP units 4; Geregu NIPP units 22 and 23; and Odukpani NIPP units 2, 4 and 5 had also been out either on faults or for scheduled maintenance, causing a further cumulative loss of about 3,180MW from the grid.

TCN said a combination of the above situations has persisted and the total effect on the grid is persistent low generation, which it has had to strive to dispatch in a way that will not jeopardize the stability of the grid.

Providing more clarity on the situation of last month, from 1 – 4 March 2022, there was generation shortfall due to water management in Shiroro and Jebba hydropower plants, with the loss of 307MW and 125MW, respectively, from both stations. Within the same period, there were fault and technical problems in Egbin, causing 514MW shortfall and in Geregu causing 230MW shortfall, while reported fault at Alaoji NIPP reduced generation from the substation by 263MW.

Gas constraint alone in Olorunsogo gas-fired plant reduced generation from the station by 104MW, Omotosho lost 102MW, and Sapele NIPP lost 263MW. In Omotosho NIPP, there was generation shortfall of 233MW and 112MW in Omoku. Two units in Okpai had limited generation due to technical problems, causing a 204MW drop in

generation; and in Afam VI, 511MW drop in generation occurred.

Gas constraint and fault in Olorunsogo NIPP reduced generation by 240MW, Geregu NIPP by 435MW, and Ihovbor by 142MW. Also, due to gas pipeline pigging, Odukpani NIPP was shut down – which caused a reduction of generation by 575MW.

"It is important to note that except cumulative power generation increases considerably for TCN to transmit to distribution companies nationwide, TCN will be left with no choice than to continue to load shed. We will, however, continue to work hard to ensure the efficient allocation of the total load generated by power generating stations into the grid, bearing in mind the need to ensure that the national grid is stable in spite of the challenges posed by insufficient load on the transmission grid," the statement concluded.

Grid Maintenance

TCN under the current management has been working assiduously to maintain and expand the grid. Based on its information sharing with Financial Nigeria publications, Financial Nigeria plans to X-ray on a regional basis information on TCN's grid maintenance and installation works. While the regional reporting may underrepresent the totality of the work being done nationwide to maintain the national grid, it will provide the current situation of the grid infrastructure in the area of coverage of issue publication, beginning with the Abuja Region.

Abuja Region

The Abuja Region of TCN comprises three Sub-Regions, namely Abuja, Ajaokuta and Gwagwalada. The Region has four 330/132kV and 14 132/33kV substations. The substations have a total wheeling capacity of 3,303.5MVA made up of 1,386MVA on 330/132kV level and 1,917.5MVA on 132/33kV level. The operation of the Region covers Abuja, Nasarawa, Kogi, parts of Edo, Niger and Kaduna States. It interfaces with the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC).

The Region has completed several projects while many others are ongoing, including installation works on the three substations located in Kogi State, the construction of the Obajana Substation which comprises two 150MVA, 330/132kV capacity transformers and two 60MVA, 132/33kV transformers in Ajaokuta; work is also simultaneously ongoing on the 120MVA capacity Ayingba Substation which will host two 60MVA, 132/33kV power transformers, and the 120MVA capacity Kabba Substation, where two 60MVA, 132/33kV power transformers are nearing completion.

The "Abuja Transmission Ring Scheme" is of significant importance to TCN's rehabilitation and expansion programme, targeted at improving transmission capacity of the national grid. It is a donor-funded project financed by the French Development Agency, which is entirely a Green Field Project made up of five new substations and a new 330kV transmission line into Abuja through Lafia.

The Abuja Ring Project is aimed at ensuring that in the next 20 years, the DisCo serving this area will not lack power for its consumers, as the project will ensure that there will not be transmission constraint once completed.

On inspecting the level of the project execution in February this year, the AFD team led by the AFD Country

Director, Xavia Murou, expressed satisfaction with the level and quality of the projection execution. The five substations and two new lines, Financial Nigeria learnt, will be commissioned before the end of the year.

Also, President Muhammadu Buhari recently commissioned the new Lafia 2x150 and 2x60MVA 330/132/33kV substation, which will be handed over to TCN, adding to its expansion drive. The substation, which is equipped with modern digital control and protection facilities, was funded by the Federal Government through Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC).

In-House Capacity

Transformer installation, and major repairs on equipment have recently been successfully carried out by TCN in-house engineers within Abuja Region. For instance, TCN engineers successfully repaired the 162MVA 330/132/33kV power transformer at Ajaokuta 330kV Main Substation, its 330kV circuit breaker which has been replaced, and its associated equipment has been commissioned.

In Kubwa, the company's engineers successfully installed and energized a brand new 60MVA 132/33kV power transformer. The transformer has 33kV feeders – the Dam, Dawaki, Deidei feeders and all the others are in circuit carrying a cumulative load of 21MW. Also, in Katampe, Karu, and Keffi Substations among others, in-house engineers installed 60MVA transformers which are currently in circuit.

Vandalism

There have been incidents of vandalism of high-tension transmission lines in the Region. The most recent is that of two spans of the Shiroro-Katampe 330kV transmission line, which was, however, repaired under 48hours by in-house engineers and the circuit restored. The miscreants also vandalized the Gwagwalada-Apo Line 132kV transmission line, which was also repaired by TCN in-house engineers.

The Minna-Suleja, Kubwa-Suleja and Apo-Kubwa 132kV Lines, were vandalized at various times and were all restored by in-house engineers. In an attempt to tackle the issue of vandalism, a team was constituted comprising the Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), TCN lines men and local vigilante to patrol the lines 24/7. Their efforts are paying off as vandalism has reduced drastically on that axis.

Encroachment

There have been observed cases of encroachment on transmission lines route; many structures have been built under the transmission lines Right of Way (RoW), ignoring the inherent danger. Culprits claim that the land belongs to them, even as the government will not give any individual or group Certificate of Occupancy on land under TCN Line. For new lines, landowners are paid off before the project commences.

Conclusion

The National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan estimates that \$900 billion is required over 30 years (2015 – 2045) to develop the power sector and fix its infrastructure deficits. While efficiency measures across generation, distribution and transmission needs to improve, the big challenge is mustering the required investments. Only a fraction of the yearly investment target is being met. Derisking the sector and boosting national economic productivity are critical to improving the situation.

Politics

HoR aspirant canvasses for Tech Hubs

HOUSE of Reps Aspirant canvasses for Tech Hubs in Mikang, Shendam, Quaan-Pan.

A deliberate effort towards the creation of Tech Hubs in Mikang, Shendam and Quaan-Pan federal constituency to train the teeming youth in the areas of information and Communications Technology (ICT) with a view to transforming it as the Silicon Valley in the country is a panacea to development.

Giving this assertion recently at the launch of his aspiration to the House of Representatives in the National Assembly under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mr. Dominic Datong Gwamma described ICT as the 'new oil' in the country, stating that developing and supporting a nationwide core ICT infrastructural drive could revolutionise the sector as the new oil revolution.

According to Mr. Datong, if elected, he would pursue and leverage on funds for Science and Technology which is already available with many relevant agencies of government.

Unveiling his agenda towards impacting positively on the people of his constituency if elected, Mr. Datong reiterated his commitment towards a minimum healthcare standard by pursuing and assessing the revolving fund to support free healthcare for children under the ages of 5 years and for those over 65 years.

On the abundance of agricultural resources in the constituency he said, he would want to represent, the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) aspirant insists that the establishment of Agro-Based companies would further discourage the massive movement of unprocessed farm produce to other areas thus helping to create decent jobs and reduce poverty as stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The campaign launch which took place recently in Mikang, Shendam and Quaan-Pan (MSQ) Local Government Areas of the state, the aspirant frowned on the use of religion, ethnicity and political differences to promote acrimony amongst brothers and sisters.

Instead, Mr. Datong believes that politics should be as a conveyance of developmental goals



Ayu

and peaceful co-existence.' There is no do or die in politics, winners and losers should embrace each other for the growth of humanity and the society', he said.

Other motivational factors that spurred him into the race is to develop mentorship programs in various communities in other to open up the political space for well-intentioned upcoming leaders to thrive and contribute to the overall development in Mikang,

Shendam and Quaan-Pan.

Also to make Mikang, Shendam and Quaan-Pan constituency a model of reference for effective representation at the national assembly and a model for others to copy for the quality of our constituency projects.

Again, to work with development agencies including the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to institute pilot developmental projects in the region.

A Plateau State gubernatorial aspirant on the platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Surv. Dr. Fitka Stephen Billshakka, has said that youth empowerment was key to his resolve to boost the economy of the state when given the mandate.

He made the pledge while declaring his intention to vie for the number one seat of the state at the Rwang Pam Stadium in Jos, the Plateau State Capital, where thousands of supporters from the 17 Local Government Areas to show their allegiance to him.

The aspirant said, "we are on the mission to change the narrative of Plateau State because our youth have been ideal and it is my plan to engage them by giving them gainful employment. We have talented young people on the Plateau, but they have not been properly used.

"For us to move forward, we must ensure that the security of the state is guaranteed. When elected, we will not allow the enemy of Plateau State, the enemy must leave because we will ensure that all security structure are strengthened for us to develop the economy of our state.

Youth empowerment is my priority - Bilshakka

By
EZEKIEL DONTINNA

"Whether you are my brother or not and you are found wanting or collaborating with those who are perpetrating this evil act, we will not tolerate that because Plateau is known for peace and we cannot develop the state without peace", Fitka enthused

He therefore, called on the people of Plateau State to support his aspiration so that, together, they change the narrative of Plateau State with Fitka as the pilot of the ship in trust and teamwork.

Earlier, the APC Chairman of Pankshin Local Government Area, Hon. Tanimu Shikmut, described Fitka as one of the committed members of the party and prayed that when given the mandate, to be the Governor he will not only be the Governor of Pankshin people alone, but of Plateau people.

On his part, the Acting Director General, Alhaji Lawal Farare, said, his choice as the ADG was an indication of the fact that, Dr. Fitka was a detribalized person who loves peace and should be voted in to reunite the people of Plateau State.



Bilshakka

'I will use education to fight insecurity'

By
EZEKIEL DONTINNA

A retired Comptroller of Nigeria Customs and governorship aspirant in Plateau, Mr David Victor Dimka, says he will take education very seriously to fight insecurity in the state if elected the governor.

"I will ensure that our youths are trained and gainfully employed so that they would be out of the streets," he said in Kanke Local Government of the state during his consultation with stakeholders.

Dimka, contesting on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC) led his supporters on Friday to Kanke, his local government origin.

He told the local government chairman that he could not proceed with his ambition without first getting the blessings of his constituency.

"Today in the annals of history, your son and your brother is here to let you know that I David Victor Dimka is vying for the exalted position of governorship of Plateau state.

"I cannot embark on this journey without your blessings and those of all members of your cabinet.

"I know that there are other aspirants but I want

to say without fear of contradiction that I am a man of character, a man that is tested and a man that is trusted.

"With your blessings and support, I want to bequeath a secure and prosperous Plateau that will be the envy of other states," he said.

The governorship aspirant told the chairman that he would run the government with the fear of God and the law.

According to him, insecurity has been the bane of development and that his administration

would nip insecurity in the bud and give everyone a sense of belonging to enable the people to unite.

Kanke Local Government Chairman, Mr. Henry Gotip, described Dimka as a household name in Plateau and the country.

Gotip said that out of the numerous aspirants vying the exalted position of governor of Plateau, "Dimka stands out.

"If you are going for a battle, you pick the best weapon you have. I can confidently say that if you see the man Dimka, you see

the governor in him because he has mentored many and his antecedents speak well of him.

"I am confident that if you are given the opportunity by Plateau people, you will build on the legacies of Gov. Simon Lalong.

"I have given you my blessing to go and bring what Kanke people have been yearning for all these years," he said.

The Leader of Kanke Local Government Legislative Arm, Mr Golu Gurumji expressed confidence that if elected, Dimka would leave

lasting legacies, considering his track record of service to his fatherland.

The Director General, DVD Movement (Dimka political movement), Mr Meshak Chindaba, told the stakeholders that his principal was the most qualified among all the persons aspiring to lead Plateau.

"You have before you a distinguished son of Kanke who has traversed the length and breadth of the country and beyond and left positive testimonies," Chindaba said.

Maku's defection to PDP described as home coming

From MOHAMMED
ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Former Minister of Information and Orientation Mr. Labaran Maku, has formerly declared to contest for Governorship seat of Nasarawa State under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Maku made the declaration on Saturday in Lafia when he led his supporters to inform the State Working Committee members of PDP of his defection to the party.

Maku who until his return to the PDP recently was the National Secretary of the All Progressives Grand Alliance

(APGA), apologises to the party for leaving them since 2015.

Maku who explained that he had been a committed member and have served in various capacities at the state and federal levels before he left following dissatisfaction with the outcome of the 2015 primaries of the party, assured that now he is back and committed to the success of the party

The former minister stated that although he cannot justify his leaving the party, but appealed for forgiveness and said he has also forgiven anybody that offended him in the past.

Maku then noted that

though he is contesting for Governorship, but assured to work with others to deliver the party in 2023 no matter the outcome of the forthcoming primaries.

He stated that the state had suffered a lot from bad governance, lack of performance and total neglect of the people under the government of All Progressives Congress (APC) in the last 12 years.

He therefore assured that they are on rescue mission under PDP and appealed to the people to vote out the non performing party in 2023.

Responding, the PDP Chairman in the state, Mr. Francis Orugu said he is the

happiest person today for having Maku back in the party, because his leadership has been working since 2019 to bring him back he described Maku's return as home coming and said that it would add value to PDP ahead of the forthcoming primaries.

Orugu then assured him that the leadership of the party would provide a level playing ground for all aspirants to realise their ambitions. Orugu also commended Maku for always speaking truth to power and called on other stakeholders of the party to always speak for the suffering masses.

Politics

Make nomination forms free for people with disabilities

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

AN appeal has gone to the All Progressives Congress (APC) to make nomination forms free for persons living with disabilities in the country who are wishing to contest the 2023 general elections on the platform of the party. The Executive Secretary, Kogi State Office of the Disabilities commission, Zacchaeus Dare Michael, who made the appeal in a chat with Our Correspondent in Lokoja, praised the National Executive Committee of the Party for making the forms free for women wishing to contest. He described the PLWD as more vulnerable in the society, saying one way to integrate them into the society was to make the nomination forms free for them. He said that about 25 million persons in the country had one form of disability or the other, and that one key area of the law signed by the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.)



Adamu

as regarding the PLWD law, was inclusiveness. He described the PLWD as a segment of the society that had been neglected for too long, saying it would be difficult for them to purchase the party's nomination forms in view of their vulnerability and financial limitation. He wondered where they would get the money to purchase the forms, adding that even though many of them were graduates and intelligent,

raising the money would be a challenge. Mr Dave urged that the forms be made available for them to contest in whatever capacity they might want to, pointing out that in that way, they could be integrated into the society. The Secretary described the PLWD as majority voters during elections, saying that it would encourage them to participate actively in political process.

THE Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC Plateau State Chapter, Hon. Rufus Bature has assured Chief Amos Gizo, a gubernatorial aspirant under the party's platform that the party would be just to all aspirants under his watch. This was contained in a release signed by the APC state publicity secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD.

Hon. Bature gave the assurance recently while responding to the speech of Chief Amos Gizo who came to the Ewarewah House party secretariat to declare his intention to run for the governorship of the state. The APC Chairman said the exco of the party would act as an impartial umpire with a view to ensuring that the best aspirant emerges as its gubernatorial candidate.

He said Plateau state needs a person with the people's interest at heart and a person who feels their pains. He described the gubernatorial aspirant, Amos Gizo as a seasoned and experienced politician who has been in the game for a long time. He urged him to act what he preaches believing that the people would assess him properly with a view to giving him their mandate. He said the role of the party is to provide a level playing ground and to advise and

'We will be just to all'

caution all aspirants on how to go about their campaigns without rancour or bitterness. "As a party, we will talk together and work together. We will be fair to all contestants and allow all to express their franchise", the Chairman assured him. He appreciated Amos Gizo's assurance to ensure the party's supremacy when elected as governor. Earlier on, the 65 year-old gubernatorial aspirant who said he has been in politics for 46 years, had appealed to the party exco to give him its trust to emerge as the party's gubernatorial aspirant. "Give me your trust. When you give me your trust, you are giving it to yourself" he appealed. He said he had come out to contest after wide consultation across the state and is convinced that it is time for him to throw his hat in the rings. Chief Amos Gizo described

himself as a man of many parts, a politician, a traditional ruler, a journalist, a farmer and a teacher. He assured that the dignity of the party would be restored and all structures of governance would be answerable to the party and not the other way round. He added that with his declaration to the party exco, he would now confidently go out to campaign vigorously. Amos said he is confident of winning regardless of whichever means is applied for the primary election, be it consensus, direct or indirect. He said when elected, he would be fair and equitable to all zones of the state in power sharing. According to him youth and women of 70 percent of all political positions without discrimination and that he would work with whoever the people of each Senatorial District presents to him.



Bature

Agah visits scene, victims of attack

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE member representing Bassa/Jos North federal constituency in the National Assembly, Hon. Musa Agah Avia has gone round the scenes of the attacks in Rigwe Chiefdom to assess the level of damage done in the communities as a result of the incessant attacks meted on the people by suspected Fulani herdsmen. A statement by media Director to Hon. Musa Agah said that the places visited are La'ake, Ariri and Jebbu Miango. The member expressed dismay over the colossal lost the victims suffered and how the sacredness of human life has been bastardized.

The statement explained that the member and his team moved to the Palace of Bra Ngwe Irigwe to pay homage and condole him over the unfortunate happenings in the land. Hon Agah in his remarks, attributed the killings to system failure on the part of government and lamented the rate of lives lost on daily basis in the country due to government failure to do the needful in securing lives and properties of citizens. He however commended the commandant of NSCDC who demonstrated absolute commitment and

zeal in curbing the attacks and assured him that his doors are widely open for collaboration and synergy. He saluted the courage of the commandant and prayed to God to help him as he does his best in restoring normalcy in the land.

The victims of the attacks who are receiving treatment in ENOS Hospital Miango were visited by the member and he made a donation of two hundred thousand Naira (#200,000) for their treatment.

Lawmaker makes case for unity among ethnic groups

MEMBER representing Kokona West in the Nasarawa State House of Assembly, Honorable Danladi Jatau, has made case for community relations among the diverse ethnic groups in Kokona Local Government Area of the state. Speaking after the meeting with the Eggon community stakeholders of Kokona West Constituency, held at the Government Secondary School Sabon Gida recently, the lawmaker underscored the significance of community relations in fostering mutual relationship, peace, unity and development.

government. Jatau who was highly elated with the remarkable and encouraging support he has been enjoying from his constituents assured that he would continue to do his best toward justifying the confidence reposed on him.

He however stressed the need for his people to continue to live in peace support the constituted authorities with a view to continue to attract more development and patronage. Some members who spoke during the meeting thanked

the lawmaker for always engaging them in the scheme of things and assured their support to both the governor and the lawmaker to enable them return back in 2023 to continue to their good works.

2023: Group solicit support for Emefiele

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A group within the All Progressives Congress (APC), Emefiele Mobilisation Team, has called on Nigerians to support the call for the Central Bank Governor, Mr Godwin

Emefiele, to run for the presidency in 2023.

The team leader and

PDP sweeps Adamawa LG polls

GYANG PAM

THE ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Adamawa State has won all the 21 Local Government seats.

Releasing the result on Sunday at the Chambers of the Adamawa State Independent Electoral Commission, the Chairman Alhaji Isa

Shettima disclosed that voting took place in all the 226 wards of the state.

It would be recalled that the main opposition parties declined to take part except in Toungo Local Government where the African Democratic Party (ADP) took part.



Agah

IMAGES

LALONG AT WORLD BANK PROGRAMME IN ABUJA

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, Nasarawa State Governor, Engr. Abdullahi Sule, Deputy Governors, Ministers of Agric, Environment and Water Resources last week attended the World Bank Programme on Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ASReSAL) Project at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja



Governor Lalong (right) Country Director of the Project, Shubham Chaudhuri (left) with the Plateau State Commissioner, Water Resources and Energy, Hon. Sa'ad Ibrahim Bello at the programme



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, Minister of Water Resources, Engr. Suleiman Adamu (right) and the Minister of Environment (State) Hon. Sharon Ikeazor



Minister for State, Environment, Hon. Sharon Ikeazor delivering her speech



A cross section of Commissioners of Water Resources, Agric and Environment from States at the ceremony



A cross section of Team from Plateau at the project launch



L - R: Minister of Agric, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar, Kano State Deputy Governor, Nasir Yusuf Gawuna, Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammad H. Abdullahi and the Country Director, World Bank



Members of the high table in a group photograph



Kano State Deputy Governor, Nasir Yusuf Gawuna delivering his speech

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Politics

Politics of zoning and good governance

One of the greatest cravings of developed and developing countries is to achieve good governance which is a normative and administrative concept. The concept of good governance gained prominence in the 90s after the end of the cold war. The World Bank first adopted it as a condition for lending to developing countries like Nigeria. AYUBA YILGAK'HA writes.

THERE is no universally accepted definition of good governance but several attempts have been made to conceptualise it. Good governance concerns the ability of government to create an atmosphere that promotes freedom of citizens to participate in government activities, accountability and transparency in government and its decision making process or processes, the application of rule of law and predictability of government actions. This conceptualisation portrays good governance as a multifaceted government process.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) described good governance as referring to systems which are capable, responsive, inclusive, and transparent. This means good governance is more about institutional efficiency than individual capabilities. African Development Bank (AfDP) conceptualised good governance as the manner in which power is being exercised in the management of state affairs and relationships with other nations. This implies that good governance is all about good management of state resources and relationships with other states. It is a responsive government that is capable of promoting inclusiveness, transparency and accountability in governance for the purpose of achieving holistic and sustainable development in a nation or state.

Amongst major triggers of good governance is a leader that will co-ordinate state affairs. There are various means through which leaders could emerge in a society. This depends largely on the political culture of the people which the leader belongs. The political culture of homogeneous societies significantly differ from that of heterogeneous (pluralistic) ones.

The political culture of heterogeneous societies is much complex and unpredictable and could generate conflicts amongst the citizenry if not properly moderated by sound ethic moral and or laws.

Plateau State is a miniature Nigeria, a pluralistic society. In the perception of Lijphart (2008), "A pluralistic society is one that is sharply divided along religious, ideological, linguistic, cultural, ethnic or racial lines into virtually separate sub-societies with their own political parties, interest groups and medium of communication. He further stated that usually such societies are polarised by ethnic differences and require careful



Mahmood

power distribution and social engineering to avoid outright failure.

Some of the carefully crafted political power and resource distribution strategies, aimed at achieving political stability in a pluralistic society like Nigeria are revenue sharing formula, federal character and zoning system which shall be the focus of this discourse.

Zoning or zoning system is described in Nic, Eloise Sa'eed (2019), as "A political practice in Nigeria under which political parties agree to split their presidential and vice-presidential candidates between the north and south of the country and also to alternate the home area of the president between the north and south of the country." It is a gentleman power sharing, shifting or rotating agreement between power brokers in Nigeria.

The history of the origin of zoning practice in Nigeria is traceable to the Second Republic in 1979. This followed the return of democracy and the formation of National Party of Nigeria (NPN) which operated on the basis of zoning principle which was designed to ensure that no part of the country was permanently excluded from power and that political parties were to maintain national outlook at all times (Nic, Eloise, & Sa'eed, 2019).

In the course of time, zoning system was replicated at regional (state) levels although the implementation was not uniformly and faithfully followed by the respective states.

Due to its heterogeneity, Plateau State was one of the states where zoning was embraced and is being sustained. There are three zones in Plateau state namely the northern, Central and Southern zones. In 1999 Plateau Central Zone produced the governor in the person of Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye with a Deputy Micheal Botmang of blessed memory from the northern zone. After being in power for eight (8) years, the Northern zone took over in 2007 via Da David Jonah Jang with deputy, Her Excellency, Dame Pauline Tallen from the Southern Zone and later Ignatius Lonjang who eventually became Senator but later died. The incumbent governor, Rt Hon. Dr Simon Bako Lalong took off from the Southern Zone with a deputy from the Central Zone in person of Prof. Sonny Gwanle Tyoden. This completed the first round with popular understanding that the next governor will come from Plateau Central zone, thereby marking the beginning of a new round of zoning in the state.

It's important to note that the Southern Zone had had Chief Solomon Daushep Lar of blessed memory in 1979 and Sir Fidelis Tappun in the 90s and Late Joseph Dechi Gomwalk from the present Plateau Central under military regime. The JD's regime cannot be factored into the analysis because there was no zoning in his days. More so that his administration was military and unconstitutional.

The task at hand is to examine

the possible implications of the zoning system for governance in Plateau State going forward. This is necessary in view of the current media hype on the issue. For the benefit of hindsight, zoning system has not satisfactorily resulted in automatic good governance or rapid and sustainable development even in the zones the governors hail from.

The main thesis of this discourse is that come 2023, the best chance of Plateau State is not in zoning opportunity but to present our best to contest for the governorship seat of the state. When the state gets it wrong at the leadership recruitment level, every other effort made shall be of no value.

At best, zoning could help in stabilising the political space but it might not guarantee the best for leadership responsibilities. Give me just one example of state that got it right in governance purely because of zoning arrangement and not the leadership capabilities of those saddled and I will be convinced.

After election, zoning will not mean any good but the capacity of the man on the saddle to deliver good governance to people of the state and Nigeria. Therefore, the citizens must be objectively thorough in the screening and recruitment of those they want to govern them.

In screening and recruiting, here are some basic lead questions simulated to guide our choices:

Does he or she has requisite experience to lead and govern under complex chaotic situations? Does he or she has the courage and emotional stability to stay focus to confront our most daring security problems?

Does he or she has the strategic plan to change the fortune of the state from civil service to business oriented state? Does he or she have the capability to crack the potentials of the state in the area of tourism and intertainment, mining and agriculture?

Does he or she has the stamina to unite, inspire and propel Plateau citizens to selflessly work for the greatest good of the greatest number? If the feedback you got from all or most of these questions is in the affirmative, then there is hope in the capacity of the contestant being examined.

Given its human and natural resource endowment, Plateau state is calibrated a civil service state that has experienced ethno-religious and political conflict which occurs intermittently and has lasted since the return of democracy in 1999.

When we keep religious sentiments aside, denominational differences aside, tribal sentiments or biases aside and class sentiments aside, there is no limit to the greatness we can achieve as a state.

We have the capacity to collectively change the narrative and put the state on the steady path of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

It was Frantz (1963) who wrote, "Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it." As a people we must consciously discover what we want and settle for it. The task of making Plateau work well is a collective responsibility that we cannot afford to betray.

Politics is a decision sensitive endeavour. Using it objectively could be an instrument for holistic liberation. Like cataracts, however, it could also make blind and become leadway to serfdom when played with counterproductive and biased sentiments or considerations. It is in this light that Harbhajan Turbanator, a Twitter handler on November 9, 2017 tweeted: 'Cataract is the third biggest cause of blindness after Religion and Politics which remained the first two.' If a state must get it right, citizens must watch the brand of politics they play and the religious sentiments they whip.

Citizens especially political actors cannot afford to fan flame tribal and/or religious biases for the purpose of achieving political power and influence and, at the same time, serve as rallying point for all. Credible leadership starts and ends with being fair to all before, during and after elections.

With or without zoning, the greatest chance for Plateau prosperity is imbedded in the extent to which the citizenry is objective in searching and saddling the best possible man whether he or she be from the sun, moon or stars. I don't care if he is from the southern hemisphere, north pole or equator. What matters is achieving good governance and development.

Good politics which could guarantee good governance is the prime focus here. Political stability occasioned by the practice of zoning system is one of the most cherished gains of participatory democracy but certainly not all that there is to gain in Politics. A stable political system which suffocates from bad governance is an accident waiting to happen. God forbid.

Minister raises hope on road project

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Minister of Transportation, Rt.Hon. Chibuike Amaechi has said with the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari to re-design the Lagos-Calabar Rail Corridor, hopes are that construction work would commence soon.

Amaechi said, the project when started would pass through Ogun State and proceed to the South- South region.

According to Amaechi, the project will commence from Lagos through Apapa, to Epe, and to the Lekki deep seaport in order to ease the logjam being witnessed in Apapa.

He gave the hint recently at the launch of the Ogun State Strategic Transport Master Plan and Flag-Off of Gateway Bus Pilot Scheme at the Ogun State Government House, Abeokuta.

While also identifying the importance of transportation to mankind, the minister said, "One thing about transportation is the intermodality. No matter what you do about railway, it must end at a terminal point. When you come down from that terminal, you must move either by leg or by car. Not only have we done the Lagos-Ibadan railway, we'll soon commence the construction of the Lagos-Calabar railway and it will pass through Ogun State, as it goes to the South South".

"The President has approved that we should re-



Amaechi

direct the initial design of the railway from Lagos through Apapa, to Epe and the Lekki deep seaport in order to ease the logjam that we are having in Apapa but the debate about it is that the Lagos-Calabar should no longer go to Lagos through Apapa, it should go to Lagos through Epe and the Lekki deep seaport.

"So, we have instructed the contractor, CCECC to do a fresh design that takes it from Ore, and from there to Lekki deep seaport", he said.

Amaechi also advised the

people to support President Muhammadu Buhari whom despite criticism of borrowing money to construct the railway, approved that the rail corridor be re-designed for the over all benefit of the masses.

He also acknowledged former President Olusegun Obasanjo for his initiative on the country's rail master plan implemented by the present administration and hopes that incoming government would continue with the people-oriented project.

AS the battle towards grappling the Presidential ticket of the People's Democratic Party, (PDP) hots-up between the top contenders former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and the present Governor of Rivers States Chief Nyeson Wike, they have been advised to drop their differences and team - up together in the best interest of the party and Nigeria.

A Chieftain of the party in Nasarawa State Alhaji Mohammed Nasir (KB) gave the advice while speaking with newsmen saying that their Unity has become highly imperative for the party to regain its lost glories by chitching the federal power come 2023.

He stated that since the party is in dire need to return back to power in order to salvage Nigeria and Nigerians from the president socio- economic and security challenges the used for all the major political stakeholders to put the general interest of the party above their individual ambitions or interest becomes highly critical.

"Given the quest of PDP to return back to power in order to salvage the country and its citizens from its present woos, the need for the major contenders to come and join hands and ensure cordiality between them becomes highly necessary" he re-stated.

Nasir further stated that since Nigerians have already host confidence in the ability the All Progressive Congress (APC) led administration to fix the country against the myriad challenges bedeviling it, the two major contenders (Atiku and Wike) should not see their ambitions as not a do-or die affair rather a source of making sacrifice and demonstration of the highest degree of patriotism for the sake of Nigeria and its

Atiku, Wike advised to team up

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

suffering populations.

The PDP Chieftain stated that since at the end of the day there cannot be either two Presidential candidates or the President, the two should see the need for co-operation and the display of sportsmanship attributes with a view not to set the house in disarray and make its victory at the polls difficult or even impossible.

As Nigerians are yearning for change to restore the country to the old days of glories and prosperity the two leading contenders must join hands to allow one of them contest so as to make our much desired victory a realizable one for the collective betterment of all and Sundry" he passionately appealed.

He however contended that since the North-Eastern part of

Nigeria has never produce the President a combination of Atiku, Wike would produce the desired result as both of them have enough acceptability and political marketability amongst Nigerians.

"I have the confidence that joining Atiku / Wike would give us the desired results since all of them have the acceptance and political market value to be elected and also have the capacities to provide the desired leadership that would in turn take Nigeria out of the woods" he contended.

While appealing to teeming supporters of the PDP to remain calm and committed to the ideals of their party, he expressed optimism that victory is going to be on their side.



Ayu

Improve welfare package for traditional rulers

From ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE emir of Bauchi and chairman Bauchi State traditional council, Dr Rilwanu Sulaiman Adamu, has appealed to the State government to improve welfare package for traditional rulers in the state.

Dr. Rilwanu Sulaiman, also appealed to Governor Bala Mohammed to consider the role of traditional rulers in the society and review their salaries upward.

The plea was made recently during a vote of thanks on behalf of district heads and 20 local government Chairmen who enjoyed car gifts each, from Governor Bala Mohammed at the Ramat House Bauchi.

The Emir appreciate and commended Governor Bala Mohammed's giants stride in Bauchi State, thereby executing meaningful projects and Programmes that has turned the State around to the expectation of the good people of the state, that has direct bearing on the lives of the masses as dividends of democracy.

Alhaji Dr. Rilwanu applauded the Governor for

prudently managing the resources of the state to the advantage of the generality of the people of Bauchi state.

The traditional ruler who expressed gratitude to Governor Bala for his respect to traditional institution, pointed out that the salaries when reviewed upward, will promote effective service delivery.

Governor Bala Mohammed While speaking earlier, flagged-off the distribution of the official vehicles to 20 Local government Chairmen and district heads across the state.

He said that the gesture was meant to assist them discharge their responsibilities effectively as traditional rulers who are the custodians of the people with ease.

Bala also appealed to District Heads to assist the government in promoting the ongoing school enrollment drive so as to address the menace of Out-of-school Children in the

state. The Governor also called on traditional rulers to support the effort of his administration by

promoting peace and harmony for rapid development of Bauchi state and Nigeria as a whole.

Bello mourns CEO Dangote cement

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has described the



Bello

death of Former, CEO/Group Managing Director, Dangote Cement PLC, Engineer Joseph Makoju as a colossal loss to

the state and Nigeria in general.

The Governor said that the news of the demise of the renowned technocrat which occurred on Monday came to him as a rude shock.

Governor Bello in a condolence message, through his Chief Press Secretary, Muhammed Onogwu, also described the administrator as a man who has left indelible footprint in Nigeria's political and economic environment. He noted that Engr. Makoju would be dearly missed as an elder statesman whose role in giving worthy counsel to leadership could never be undermined having served as a Special Adviser to three presidents of Nigeria.

The governor recalled that Engineer Makoju's sound knowledge, administrative ingenuity and commitment to

nation building was felt when he served as Special Adviser (Electric Power) to former President Goodluck Jonathan, Honorary Adviser on Electric Power to the current President/Commander-in-Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, as well as West African Power Pool Executive Board.

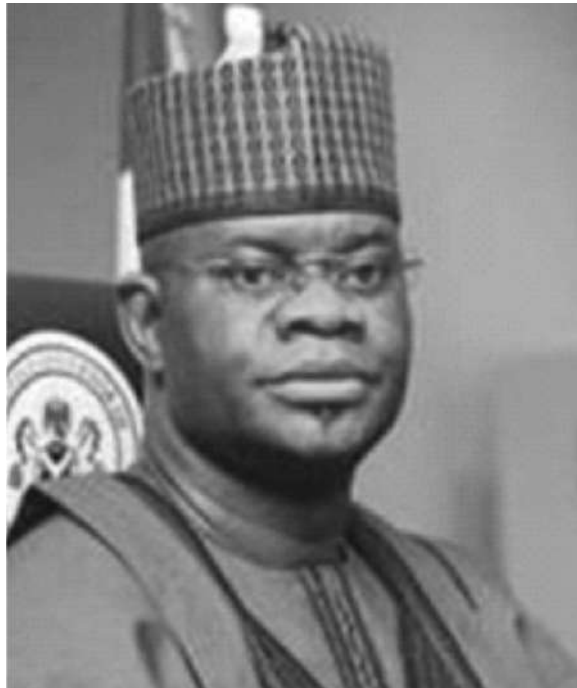
He opined that the Okene born astute technocrat's remarkable track record in the private sector left legacies that has brought great honour to his home country, Nigeria. The Governor commiserated with the Family, friends, and associates of the elder statesman while he prayed God to grant those he left behind the fortitude to bear the loss.

Engineer Joseph Makoju, died on Monday at the age of 73, following an illness.

News

Kogi govt. opts for selective pensions payment

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja



Bello

RETIREES in Kogi State are currently living in palpable fear as government has resorted to selective payment of their March, 2022 pensions.

The development began on Wednesday, 6th April, 2022, when a handful of pensioners especially those banking with First Bank, UBA and Union Bank reportedly got their alerts for payment of their March pensions while majority are yet to be paid.

The difficult situation that had inflicted pains on the senior citizens, reared its ugly head in February, 2022, when they were paid 70% of their pensions instead of 100% and to worsen it now, the selective payment for the month of March.

Our Correspondent gathered that the state government may have run short of funds after paying the civil servants.

Investigations also revealed that chunks of money seems to have been diverted for the declaration of the Presidential ambition of governor Yahaya Bello two weeks ago.

The worst scenario is

the usual lack of openness of the state government, as no word of explanation has come from the Director General (DG), in-charge of pension, Mrs. Mariam Ahmed.

A visit to her office by Our Correspondent at the State Secretariat, yielded no fruitful result as she was said to be attending a meeting.

She also did not pick calls put to her; neither did she acknowledge text messages.

Further investigations showed that those that were selected for payment are in gross minority of pensioners in the state.

In a telephone chat with

our reporter few days ago, the state Commissioner of Finance, Asiwaju Asiru Idris said that government was not owing pensioners and attributed the current difficulty in payments to network failure assuring that all pensioners will be paid.

According to the Commissioner "the delay in payment of March pensions is due to logistics problems of transferring the money from Access Bank to UBA."

He reiterated that Governor Yahaya Bello led administration will continue to give priority to regular payment of salaries and pensions.

Unknown gunmen shoot businessman, abduct wife

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A dealer in building materials, Chinwe Obi, has

been shot and his wife, Rosemary, abducted by suspected gunmen in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital over the weekend.

The couple were said to

be on their way home after closing from work when the incident occurred at Peace Community junction.

It was learnt that the gunmen had trailed Obi and shot at his car, forcing him to stop.

They were said to have taken his wife and left him behind in the vehicle with the injuries he sustained while struggling with them.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, SP William Aya, said the command was on the trail of the kidnappers.

Aya also said that the Commissioner of Police, Edward Ebuka, visited the scene of the incident and assured that the perpetrators would be fished out.

He however, called on anyone with useful information to contact the



IGP Alkali



Food and rising rate of insecurity

THE rainy season is here and there is the need for our farmers to begin preparing the land for the planting of new crops so as to fight the rising cost of food. Putting food on the table has become such a difficult task because agricultural activities have been disrupted by the ever present threat posed by insecurity. Farmers are no longer free to access their farms because they might get killed by some trigger happy miscreants who for no congenit reasons have decided to go on a killing spree. These misfits have inadvertently declared war against the people and government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

And, unless something is done quickly to put an end to the insurgency, there is a looming food crisis in the horizon. Already, the cost of feeding a family is so high that ways have to be sought to ensure survival. Governments at all levels need to put on their thinking caps and find creative ways to bring to an end this embarrassing situation. The first responsibility of any government is the provision of a secured and peaceful environment for the people so that enterprise and industry would flourish. Without doing this, the country faces the threat of self destruction.

We can not wish away hunger. A hungry man, it is often said, is an angry man. If governments allow the people to lose their senses because of hunger, it might be difficult to control them. We would at that point have returned to what Thomas Hobbs refer to as the state of nature where human selfishness if left alone, could lead humanity to self-destruct. A situation where only the strong would survive. That is exactly what is happening in Nigeria today. A gap has been created and some people have elected to fill that gap not for the general good but for their own selfish

reasons. It, therefore, behooves on us all to help steer back our society from the precipice so as to return our country to the path of growth and development. When we allow small groups to form quasi governments on the basis of their sentiments and selfishness, it would lead us to perdition and destruction. It is, therefore, high time we all rise up as a people, to fight and defeat the monster that is the insurgency and defend our heritage.

Government must endeavour to make our environment safe again. There should be no ungoverned space left unattended to. It is because some space are left ungoverned that the miscreants find the space and latitude to operate and unleash mayhem on our society. To do this successfully, government needs to deploy technology so as to know whenever activities that are inimical to the growth and development of the people are being carried out.

Also government owes it a responsibility to equip our security agencies with the latest equipment to enable them match and surpass the capabilities of the insurgents. That is not all, our security forces must be motivated to put in their best while prosecuting the fight against insurgency. If the condition of services are made better or improved upon they are likely to do their best while fighting on behalf of the country. Also, government must show the way for the people to follow. What this means is that since we are in a period of austerity, government expenditures must be such that flamboyance must be curbed. A situation where holding a public office becomes the quickest means to wealth is unacceptable and should be discountenanced. We must encourage hard work and industry and make occupying a political office unattractive. If political office holders know that they are going to provide service rather than line their pockets it would save us the troubles associated with the competition for such offices. There must also be a change in the attitude of the followers. They must stop bothering political office holders with their personal problems. You do not expect a system to work when you keep asking the people running the process to serve your needs not that of the generality of the people. If we continue on this path, then we would not only be encouraging them to live above their means but continue to deep their hands into the common till to meet our demands. As the rains set in, therefore, governments at all levels must endeavour to put in place measures to curb the activities of the insurgents to allow farmers to go back to the land, till it, and meet our food demands. Anything short

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News

I'm ready to support Buhari on security

From Abbas Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has described as unfortunate and lamentable the inability of the federal government to secure the country despite the huge resources at its disposal.

He said, "It's unacceptable for the federal government to continue to say that they cannot secure this country, they cannot secure our communities, we have the resources to do it".

The governor was speaking recently while dashing out cars to district heads at the Ramat House in Bauchi, where he sympathised with President Buhari whom he acknowledged really wanted to secure the country but for lack of support from his government's machineries things are going wrongly.

"I really pity our father, the President and Commander-in-Chief because he really wants to do it, but he is not being supported. I as a governor, head of sub-national administration, I'm ready to work for the federal government to make sure we secure our state and our country," he assured.

Bala described security provision as a collective responsibility which must not be abdicated, saying, "Part of this is to afford the dignity of the people around especially the traditional institutions, the



Mohammed

security agencies, the human capital we have, that is the civil servants".

"We are doing it because it is a multi-dimensional approach, and we have to do it with scarce resources. Unfortunately, we have come at a time when the resources are not much, we cannot be kind and say we cannot do it".

"Leadership is given by God, and God has given me leadership, and I know God knows that I can do which is why I must use the little resources and do the best that I can, and that's what we are doing. We are trying to enshrine transparency". Kaura

explained. He revealed that Bauchi State had been adjudged as the most transparent state in terms of internal revenue generation, and it is even positioned as number one in the country as conveyed through the Nigerian media. Bala hinged his government's enhanced performance on improved revenue generation. Recalling that the free distribution of cars to members of the traditional institution followed a request to that effect by the Emir of Bauchi, Dr. Rilwanu Suleiman Adamu, during last year's iftar

European Union (EU) Ambassador in Nigeria on Monday paid a courtesy call on the management of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Ltd, seeking to strengthen its partnership with Nigeria in the energy sector.

Speaking on behalf of the group, the EU Ambassador in Nigeria, Samuela Isopi, said as a result of the current geopolitical situation in Europe, the continent was interested in strengthening its cooperation with Nigeria particularly in the area of possible increase in the supplies of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

"Nigeria is the fourth gas

APC urged towards success at grassroots

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAH, Keffi

MEMBERS of the All Progressives Congress APC, Kokona Local Government Area of Nassarawa State have been urged to work towards the success of the party at the grassroots.

A chieftain of the party in the area, Mr. Samuel Sani, made the call while distributing food items and textbooks to the party members in the area recently.

Presenting the food items to the beneficiaries, Mr. Samuel Sani who is vying for the State's House of Assembly seat to represent Kokona West constituency said the donation was inline with

Energy:EU, Nigeria to strengthen partnership

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

supplier to Europe. At least 40% of the Nigerian LNG is currently exported to Europe. We are not only major clients for Nigeria, we are also major partners in the Oil & Gas sector because some of the companies that are working with you are from Europe. So we share the same interest and same objectives," Ambassador Isopi added.

Responding, the GMD/CEO NNPC Ltd, Mallam Mele Kyari

assured the European delegation that the company would continue to deepen its historical relationship with EU companies in Nigeria in order to add more value to its business, particularly towards increasing gas supply to the global market and enhancing domestic gas utilisation.

Other diplomats from the European delegation on the visit were: Ambassador of Portugal, Luis Barros; Ambassador of Spain, Juan Sell; Ambassador of Italy, Stefano De Leo and Deputy Head of Mission (France), Olivier Chatelais.



Adamu

APC manifesto meant to improve the plight of the masses in the society.

He explained that the items were his

contribution to the human development particularly to the Muslim faithful who are presently observing the holy month of Ramadan fasting.

He however called on the beneficiaries to make the judicious use of the items and assured of his continued to support the people to the best of his abilities and solicited for their support to make his ambition a realizable one.

Sani, then used the occasion to inaugurate his campaign council which includes councilors from the six electoral wards that constitute Kokona West Constituency, ward party chairmen and their EXCOS among others.

Fintiri, Bindow declare interest for governorship seat

From GYANG PAM, Yola

TWO major events took place on Monday in Yola the Adamawa State Capital one was the acceptance of Governor Ahmadu Numan Fintiri to contest again come 2023 and the show of intent to contest for the Governor seat by Senator Muhammadu Umaru Bindow for one term in the state. Bindow, a one time Senator who lost to Fintiri in the 2019 general election is determined to take a shot at being governor for a second

time, was at the APC party office to convince party officials on why he should be given the chance to contest against the incumbent Governor Rt. Hon. Fintiri.

Speaking on the occasion of inaugurating the congress won by the PDP in last Saturdays local government elections, Governor Fintiri had reminded the crowd that barely three days when party faithful presented him with a form, he had

assured he would make his decision on it known which he has just done.

Speaking at the party office (APC) Bindow appealed for support as he and his former deputy Engineer Martins Babale were ready to serve the state again.

According to him, during his tenure, his administration constructed about 370 roads.

He says, "we are aware that during our time, we may have made certain mistakes but we make mistakes as humans and we pray, we are forgiven".

Senator Bindow believes if he is given the chance again the APC will not only consolidate but would run the state to the best of their ability.

Bindow stressed that he was aware of interest by other governorship

candidates but that it was his hope that the others would see reason to support his candidature.

In his remarks, State Chairman of the APC Alhaji Ibrahim Bilal Urged for close collaboration among party members adding that whoever wins should be given total support by the others.

He added that all party faithful should support each other.

Technical workshop identifies need for training, awareness creation

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

A technical workshop jointly organized by PRAWA (Prisoners Rehabilitation And Welfare Action), LITE-Africa (Leadership Initiative For Transformation And Empowerment), and DCAF (Geneva Centre For Security Sector Governance) has identified need for training and awareness creation as gaps in the implementation of Voluntary Principles (VPs) in Nigeria.

The workshop was organized to discuss the opportunities, challenges, strategies and processes for enhancing VPs implementation. The technical workshop which held in Abuja gathered participants from various Federal Government ministries and Parastatals which were organized into breakout work groups. Reports from the ministry of Justice and National Human Rights Commission breakout work

group noted that the Police Act is still the only act currently in use by the Nigeria Police until the National Assembly come with new laws. It further noted that as part of its effort to ensure that the Nigerian police mainstream human rights in its operations, a panel of enquiry has been set up to unravel and investigate police operations which has recommended punishments for individual offenders as well as compelling the police to pay hundreds of millions of Naira to victims as compensation.

Reports from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development recommended training for Agro Rangers deployed to enable farmers access their farms especially in the restive northern Nigeria on accounts of

Banditry and Kidnappings. The Federal ministry of Interior and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) who licence private security companies noted that they took advantage of this to ensure that private security companies mainstream Human rights in their operations.

The Ministry of Mines and Steel Development breakout work group reported that they have a duty to ensure that the Community Development Agreement (CDA) signed between the host communities and the mining companies comply with mitigating human rights violation. The group also harped on the role of inter-ministerial Committee to harmonise policies and regulations where there is overlap in jurisdiction.

The workshop identified existing gaps and needs for guidance, tools, and resources. The objective is that participants identify

implementation priorities and develop a road map for addressing regulatory needs.

Some of the identified gaps is the need to build the capacities of government technical staff and stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities in internal policies and procedures on security and human rights risk mitigation.

Also identified is a need to amend enabling laws as well as the recreation of new laws to promote VPs implementation at the national level.

Another is the need to create awareness so that host communities will know what options are available to them when there is a breach or infractions of the CDAs signed between them and the companies.

The VPs support companies especially those involved in natural resources extraction in complex environments to effectively manage the risks associated with their projects.



Fintiri

Foreign News



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken holds a joint news conference

US monitoring rise in human rights abuses

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken says the United States is monitoring what he describes as a rise in human rights abuses in India by some officials, in a rare direct rebuke by Washington of the South Asian nation's rights record.

"We regularly engage with our Indian partners on these shared values (of human rights) and, to that end, we are monitoring some recent concerning developments in India including a rise in human rights abuses by some government, police and prison officials," Blinken said on Monday in a joint press briefing with US defence secretary Lloyd Austin, Indian foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and India's defence minister Rajnath Singh.

Blinken did not elaborate. Singh and Jaishankar, who spoke after Blinken at the briefing, did not comment on the human rights issue.

Blinken's remarks came days after US Representative

Ilhan Omar questioned the alleged reluctance of the US government to criticise Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on human rights.

"What does Modi need to do to India's Muslim population before we will stop considering them a partner in peace?" Omar, who belongs to President Joe Biden's Democratic Party, said last week.

Modi's critics say his Hindu nationalist ruling party has fostered religious polarisation since coming to power in 2014.

Since then, right-wing Hindu groups have launched attacks on minorities, claiming they are trying to prevent religious conversions. Several Indian states have passed or are considering anti-conversion laws that challenge the constitutionally protected right to freedom of belief.

Bottom of Form

In 2019, the government passed a citizenship law that

critics said undermined India's secular constitution by excluding Muslim immigrants from neighbouring countries from naturalisation. The law meant to grant Indian nationality to Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs who fled Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan before 2015.

In the same year, soon after his 2019 re-election win, Modi's government revoked the special status of Indian-administered Kashmir in a bid to fully integrate the Muslim-majority region into the country.

To keep a lid on protests, the administration detained many Kashmiri political leaders and sent many more paramilitary police and soldiers to the Himalayan region, also claimed by Pakistan.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) recently banned wearing the hijab in classrooms in Karnataka state. Hardline Hindu groups later demanded such restrictions in more states.

PROTESTERS commemorate ex-leader's overthrow with protests against the current government that grabbed power after a coup.

Sudanese protesters take part in a rally against military rule on Monday [AFP]

Crowds of Sudanese protesters gathered in parts of the capital, Khartoum, and other cities on Monday to mark the third anniversary of former leader Omar al-Bashir's removal and to protest the prospect of renewed military rule.

Bashir was overthrown after three decades in power by a group of his top generals, who later entered into a power-sharing government with the civilian groups that had led months of protests in 2019.

That arrangement ended on October 25 when the same

Sudanese protesters mark third anniversary of Bashir's removal

military leaders, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, staged a coup, which has plunged the country into economic and political turmoil. "Bashir's downfall did not mean a final victory for the revolution, because Burhan is a continuation of his regime," said 38-year-old protester Ahmed Ibrahim.

"We will bring down the military peacefully and democracy is Sudan's future," he told the Reuters news agency at a Khartoum protest.

Protesters blocked main roads, burning tires, banging drums, and chanting

revolutionary poems.

Protests against the coup have taken place despite a security crackdown that has killed 94 people and injured thousands, according to independent medics. Security forces have denied targeting civilians.

Khartoum protesters broke their day-long fasts in the street, as they did in major protests last week, and numbers swelled after sunset.

Protests were also seen in other large cities, including Bahri, Omdurman, Port Sudan, Madani, and El Obeid.

Brazil invites EU monitors to upcoming elections

BRAZIL has for the first time invited European Union representatives to observe its upcoming elections, its electoral authority has said.

The move comes after President Jair Bolsonaro made unfounded claims of fraud and questioned the validity of Brazil's electronic voting system following regional elections in 2020.

Fears that the far-right president may reject the results of the election in October, in which he will seek a second term, have been further spurred by more recent comments demanding the adoption of paper ballots and accusing the election authority (TSE) of favouring his main opponent, the left-wing Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The invitation to the EU aims "to amplify the transparency of its electoral system and make cooperation possible", the TSE said on Monday.

The electoral authority said



Bolsonaro

talks were also under way with other groups that had previously observed Brazilian elections, including the Organization of American States and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries. It also invited the United States-based Carter Center, among others.

European Commission Vice-

President Josep Borrell, who handles EU foreign policy, replied last month thanking the TSE for the invitation, saying he had to consult the bloc's 27 member states and the European Parliament, a person with knowledge of the matter told Reuters news agency.

That source and another, who requested anonymity to discuss diplomatic deliberations, told Reuters the EU plans to send a mission to Brazil in May to assess the viability of being an official observer for the October election.

Recent polls show Bolsonaro, who has been criticised for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with the country's Senate accusing him of crimes against humanity over his approach to the public health crisis, trailing far behind Lula.

Bolsonaro supported a misinformation campaign led by former US President Donald Trump after his election loss to President Joe Biden.

When Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, in a bid to stop the certification of Biden's victory, the Brazilian leader wrote on social media that there were lots of reports of fraud in the US vote.

Bolsonaro's close ties with the country's armed forces have worried voters that he may copy Trump's refusal to accept defeat.

Ramaphosa likens anti-migrant attacks to apartheid actions

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has blasted vigilante groups for harassing and attacking migrants, likening their behaviour to strategies adopted by the apartheid regime to target Black people.

Last week, a 43-year-old Zimbabwean man, Elvis Nyathi, was attacked by a mob and set alight by a group of vigilantes searching for foreign nationals in Diepsloot, a township near Johannesburg.

The vigilantes had gone door to door demanding to see people's identity documents after seven people in the township had been murdered the previous weekend.

On Wednesday, hundreds of residents protested against rising crime rates in Diepsloot, accusing police of failing to contain crime, which they blamed on undocumented immigrants.

"We have seen people being

stopped on the street by private citizens and being forced to produce identification to verify their immigration status," Ramaphosa said in his weekly newsletter on Monday.

"This was how the apartheid oppressors operated."

"Under apartheid, black people were deemed suspects by default and stopped by police when found in so-called white areas," he said, referring to the system of oppressive white-minority rule that was abolished in 1994.

Black people "were forced to produce a dompas (a passport-like document that restricted their movements) and if they could not do so, they were jailed."

Ramaphosa warned that neither the vigilante groups nor politicians inciting local communities to attack foreigners, would be tolerated.

"We cannot allow such injustices to happen again." The murder of the

seven South Africans in Diepsloot was a tragedy, he said.

"This loss of life is deplorable, as is the killing of a fellow African from Zimbabwe allegedly at the hands of vigilantes," Ramaphosa said.

But he warned: "Today, our anger may be directed at nationals from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Nigeria or Pakistan. Tomorrow, our

anger may be directed at each other."

The president warned that scapegoating migrants for poor service delivery, unemployment and crime could ignite xenophobic violence.

"Attacking those we suspect of wrongdoing merely because they are a foreign national is ... immoral, racist and criminal. In the end, it will lead to xenophobia," he said.



Ramaphosa

Foreign Commentary

Australian election enters lifeless democracy

Australians have just learned their election will be held on 21 May. At a crucial time for the country, NICK BRYANT sees it as a contest that will be defined, to a large part, by what it lacks.

There has long been something Biblical about the prime ministership of Scott Morrison, a Pentecostal Christian who declared on the night of his bolt from the blue victory in the 2019 election: "I've always believed in miracles".

Since then, much of his term in office has read like chapters from the Old Testament. There have been fires, floods and the pestilence of a global pandemic. Even his defiant stance towards China has a Manichean frame: a good versus evil struggle between freedom and authoritarianism - the "great polarisation", he calls it.

Recently, he sought to imprint his faith-based politics on Australian law, by pushing unsuccessfully for a Religious Discrimination Act offering legal protections to people of faith who made "statements of belief" a charter, claimed its opponents, for the homophobic and transphobic.

Morrison, who stands at the head of one of the world's most formidable election-winning machines, isn't yet Lazarus, whom the Bible says Jesus raised from the dead. Still, there would be certainly be a water-into-wine feel to a second Morrison victory.

More so than a modern-day Lazarus, my sense is that Morrison has come to resemble a Midas-like figure from Greek mythology. Yet rather than gold, many things he touches end up being tarnished.

His staged photo opportunities, a hallmark of his tenure, are a case in point. After posing for the cameras mopping up an indoor basketball court during a visit to the flood zone in Brisbane, he came in for an acid shower of criticism because the press availability looked contrived and choreographed rather than part of a meaningful clean-up.

On a visit to a hair salon in Victoria, he washed a female customer's hair, which instantly brought to mind his controversial statement during the 2019-2020 bushfire season that he "doesn't hold a hose".

A soft focus profile on the Channel Nine news programme, 60 Minutes, also became the stuff



Scott Morrison famously defied opinion poll to win in 2019

picked up a ukulele and serenaded his family with the Dragon classic, April Sun in Cuba. The interview, which was intended to rehabilitate his battered image, ended up inflicting even more self-harm.

The former marketing man's problems have not merely been presentational. His government has been hit by the high-profile resignations of the Education Minister Alan Tudge and Attorney General Christian Porter. His close friend, Brian Houston, the founding pastor of the Hillsong megachurch, had to resign after an internal investigation revealed he had engaged in inappropriate conduct towards two women.

In parliament, the prime minister has struggled to advance his legislative agenda. Even the unveiling of the new budget, a pre-election cash splash for voters, was overshadowed. On budget night, the outgoing Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, in a valedictory speech brutal even by Australian standards, called him an "autocrat" and "a bully with no moral compass".

Watch Australian senator's



Anthony Albanese (right) is not promising radical change

scathing criticism of PM Morrison

On the eve of calling the election, Morrison was also haunted by a past controversy, surrounding his selection 15 years ago as the Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Cook, the scene of the 2005 anti-Muslim Cronulla riots. Morrison, it is claimed, raised concerns about his Liberal rival for pre-selection, Michael Towke,

questioning whether a candidate of Lebanese heritage was viable in Cook, especially after the Cronulla riots. Morrison called the allegations "bitter and malicious slurs".

The beleaguered prime minister has also never fully rebounded from the furore surrounding his family holiday to Hawaii in the midst of the bushfires two years ago. That was why the ukulele and his rendition of April Sun in Cuba misfired so badly. Many viewers naturally thought of his December sun in Hawaii.

Pointing to Australia's comparatively low death rate and robust economy, Morrison will argue that he has steered the country through Covid. But state premiers, who frequently usurped the prime minister, are often credited with the early success in dealing with the pandemic. In the second year of Covid, the federal government has faced criticism for the slow rollout of vaccines - the "stroll-out", it was dubbed - and failure to provide enough rapid antigen tests when Omicron hit last last year.

But for all the antipathy towards Scott "ScoMo" Morrison, it is hard to detect any great groundswell of enthusiasm for the Labor leader, Anthony "Albo" Albanese. A one-

time tribune of the Labor left, Albanese has moved to the centre since winning the leadership in 2019, and is now offering the electorate what he calls "safe change".

Labor put down its traumatic defeat at the last election to an unpopular leader, Bill Shorten, and unpopular policies, especially on tax reform.

This time, then, Albanese is fighting a "small target" campaign, in the hope of minimising Liberal lines of attack, neutralising the issue of issue of climate change (which at the last election hurt the party in the vital battleground state of Queensland) and trumpeting his centrism.

"Renewal not revolution" has become his mantra. Mindful that only three Labor prime ministers have defeated Liberal prime ministers in the post-war years, Albanese is doing everything he can not to frighten the voters.

So doubtless Labor party officials would have been delighted with the headline in the influential Rupert Murdoch tabloid, The Daily Telegraph: "I AM NOT WOKE." In the accompanying interview, Albanese assured voters: "Labor is the party of mainstream Australia and the values of mainstream Australia."

Along with his political shape-shifting, Albanese has a sharp new look. So much has been made of his slimline suits, designer glasses and dramatic weight loss that the phrase "Hot Albo" has entered the political lexicon.

But Albanese, a one-time backroom fixer, renowned early on in his career for his knockabout style, still needs to persuade a sizeable portion of the electorate that he is a prime minister-in-waiting. For some voters, he still has a plausibility problem.

Labor has run into other difficulties. Recently, the party was engulfed in a bullying scandal, following the death of one of its senators from a suspected heart attack. Before her death, Kimberley Kitching, who was aged just 52, had complained of bullying from senior Labor Senate colleagues.

There is also the risk of becoming too innocuous - as young voters demanding a more ambitious approach to the climate crisis will be voting for The Greens. "Safe change" is hardly an electrifying rallying cry.

A wild card in this election is the rise of independent candidates, who pose a threat to the Liberal Party in seats where Labor isn't ordinarily viable. A former ABC foreign correspondent, Zoe Daniel, is running against the Liberal MP Tim Wilson in the seat of Goldstein. In the blue-ribbon seat of Wentworth, which takes in Bondi Beach and Sydney's prosperous Eastern Suburbs, Allegra Spender, the daughter of a well-known fashion designer, the late Carla Zampatti, is challenging the sitting Liberal MP, Dave Sharma. In a hung parliament, independents could end up holding the balance of power.



Independent candidates Zoe Daniel (left) and Allegra Spender

Feature

Relevance of traditional rulers in policy formulation

In recent times there have been that increasing demand and outcry across the country on the need for effective involvement of traditional rulers in policy and decision making by government at all levels. Our Correspondent, AMEDU JOSEPH, in this piece, examines the constitutional roles of traditional rulers in Nigeria and the need to accord them more relevance in policy and decision making.

IT is widely believed that an inclusive governance is only possible when stakeholders sit at the decision-making tables and contribute to planning for national development in policies and programmes and as well, proffer solutions to national challenge.

Analysts have often expressed the opinion that when critical sectors are denied inclusion and left out of the decision making process, implementation of policies and programmes made on their behalf more often, are hampered making attainment of aims and objectives less feasible.

This, according to observers and political analysts, account for the seeming ineptitude in addressing the numerous national challenges such as insecurity, crime and criminality, economic and social hiccups, climatic vagaries and other problems plaguing the nation. Agitations for clearly defined constitutional roles for the traditional institution and the Royal Fathers in Nigeria to pave way for their inclusion in policy making processes have been on for a long time. That lack of legally provided functions for the traditional rulers, according to analysts, limits their exercise of power and authority on quite a number of issues that they ought to address to keep their domains and communities safe.

Traditional leaders control vital resources such as land and play a very important role to any service delivery and development strategies to be implemented in the rural areas. Although they do not have formal political power in the Grundnorm, in many cases they continue to command respect from their people and have considerable influence.

According to Wikipedia, traditional rulers play useful roles in mediating between the people and the state, enhancing national identity, resolving minor conflicts and providing an institutional safety-valve for often inadequate state bureaucracies.

Section 211(2) of the Constitution regards traditional authorities as primary agents of development.

They are seen as the representatives of the community and as such are entrusted with an important responsibility, namely that of harmonising community customs and traditions with the ethos of the Constitution. These agitations, salient as they could be have often been muffled by successive regimes and administrations.



Buhari

The squelching policies, often perpetuated and implemented by operators of the three tiers of government have kept traditional Institution in perpetual subjugation.

The traditional rulers have over the years, continued to agitate for constitutional provisions that would accord them their rightful place in policy making, development and governance.

Against this backdrop, Governor Yahaya Adoza Bello of Kogi on Saturday, March 5, at the Coronation and Presentation of Staff of Office to 104 graded, upgraded traditional rulers rose in defence of the Royal Fathers on the need to assign them constitutional responsibilities that would clearly define their position in the polity.

Bello said his administration had scored a high Mark in security of lives and property as well as enabling environment for human and material growth having, since inception, prioritised unity, peace, tranquility, progress and development.

He said all these couldn't have been possible without the cooperation, understanding and support of the traditional rulers starting from the Attah Igala, the Ohinoyi of Epira land, the Ohimege Koton-Karfe, the Obaro of Kabba and all other paramount rulers including the recently upgraded traditional rulers.



Gyang Buba

"We should be able to recognized them even as the fourth tier of government and I will continue to send that message across even to the National Assembly.

"If we don't include them in government activities then we are not ready to enjoy the desired peace, safety and development in our land

"Our traditional rulers are the owners of the land, they know every inch of our land, they own it and every crime committed are being perpetrated on the land and not in the air at all. "And since they are the owners of the land any crime and criminalities that takes place in their domains they should be able to know the perpetrators. "If Government refused to include them in its activities how can crime and criminalities be tackled.

It is evidently clear that I could not have succeeded in the fight against criminalities in the state without their cooperation and support", he Barr. Salami Ozigi Deedat, the state Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, speaking in same vein, said Governor Yahaya Bello's administration had given the traditional institution its rightful place in the state.

"The traditional rulers, being the custodians of our culture and tradition, need to be given priority attention which the New Direction Government has done

since its inception six years ago.

"The government also places high premium on the traditional rulers in the state which has accounted for the continued review of the structure of our chieftaincy institution by positioning it to be more effective and responsive through the engagement of programmes".

Deedat said. The Commissioner held that by placing the traditional Institution in its rightful position in governance, "Without an iota of doubt in the last six years, this administration has transformed the socio-economic, political and traditional landscape of the state.

He said that state government had ensured fairness, equity and justice in achieving its set goals adding that it was therefore, instructive and expedient for the traditional rulers to actively participate in the activities of their respective councils.

"As traditional rulers you are expected to ensure there is peace and tranquility in your domain and also ensure the rule of law prevails in the course of discharging your official duties. "You will be held accountable for any breach of peace and security in your domain.

Kogi state is known to be the most peaceful and secured state in Nigeria and you must join hand to sustain that feat", he further admonished them.

The Ohiniye of Epiraland, Alhaji asked my colleagues to respect government in power. The State has put a bigger challenge before us, that we should at all time do the right thing to sustain the absolute peace the people of the state have been enjoying in the last six years.

The Obaro of Kabba, Oba Michael Owoniyi thanked Governor Bello for believing in the traditional Institution and standing by them to do the needful and address challenges facing the traditional Institution in the state. The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar, charged the newly appointed, graded and upgraded royal fathers to girt their loins to do more saying, "To whom more is given, more is expected. The Sultan who was represented by the Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar said the presentation of Staff of Office was another gesture by the government telling them they needed to do more.

(Dr Ado Ibrahim) also speaking, said, I as a father I shall always asked my colleagues to respect government in power. The State has put a bigger challenge before us, that we should at all time do the right thing to sustain the absolute peace the people of the state have been enjoying in the last six years.

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"We all know by history that traditional institutions stand the best in terms of administration, knowing people, understanding people and know that they are supposed to do and at what time.

The occasion witnessed the presentation of Staff of Office to 104 newly approved, graded and upgraded traditional rulers, comprising 31 First Class, 30 Second Class and 43 Third Class Chiefs.

The Eje of Ofu, Alhaji Akwu Obaje declared on behalf of other traditional rulers that, urged that necessary steps be taken to assign constitutionally backed functions to the traditional institution to enable them contribute their quota effectively.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

What can you do about sensitive teeth?



By **ALFRED D. WYATT**

IF you pass on hot or cold drinks because you know they'll make your teeth hurt, it may be time to talk to your dentist about the possibility that you have sensitive teeth. Sometimes other things can aggravate them, too, like sweet and sour foods or even cold air. To be able to treat these tooth twinges, it helps to know what might be

behind them. Once you've nailed down the cause, you can find a solution.

Take care of your tooth enamel

That's a hard, protective layer that helps your teeth deal with everything you put them through. When it's gone, nerve endings that cause pain are exposed. If you have sensitive teeth, it's possible some of your enamel has worn away. To

prevent or put the brakes on that damage:

Don't brush too hard

Do you clean your teeth with a heavy hand? You might be taking off more than just plaque. Side-to-side brushing right at the gum line can make your enamel go away faster. You should use a soft-bristled brush and work at a 45-degree angle to your gum to keep enamel clean and strong.

Recommended Avoid acidic foods and drinks. Soda, sticky candy, high-sugar carbs -- all of these treats attack enamel. Instead, snack on: Fiber-rich fruits, and vegetables Cheese Milk Plain yogurt These will moisten your mouth and help fight acid and bacteria that can eat away at your teeth.

Saliva is one way your mouth deals with them. You can also drink green or black tea or chew sugarless gum. If you do eat something acidic, don't rush to brush. Wait an hour or so to strengthen before you scrub.

Unclench your teeth

Over time, teeth grinding wears away your enamel.

Sometimes, addressing your stress can stop the problem. If that doesn't work, your dentist can fit you for a splint or a mouth guard. If the problem is severe, you may need dental work to change your teeth's position, or

other problems, like gum disease.

Serious cases may need a gum graft. That moves tissue from somewhere else to cover the bare area. Gum disease. Plaque and tartar buildup on your teeth can make your gums pull back.

Sometimes, disease can set in. It can destroy the bony support of your tooth. Don't smoke. It can lead to gum disease. To treat it, your dentist may do a deep clean of your teeth, called planing or scaling, that scrapes tartar and plaque below the gum line. You could also need medication or surgery to fix the problem.

A cracked tooth or filling: When you break a tooth, the crack can go all the way down to your root. You'll notice pain when your tooth is cold. How your dentist fixes the crack depends on how deep it goes. If it's a small crack



a muscle relaxant.

Take a break from bleaching.

The quest for pearly whites may cause your pain. Thankfully, sensitivity from bleaching is usually temporary. Talk to your dentist about how the treatment might be affecting you, and whether you should continue it.

Get to the root of the problem.

Sometimes, tooth sensitivity can be a sign of other issues, like: Naturally shrinking gums.

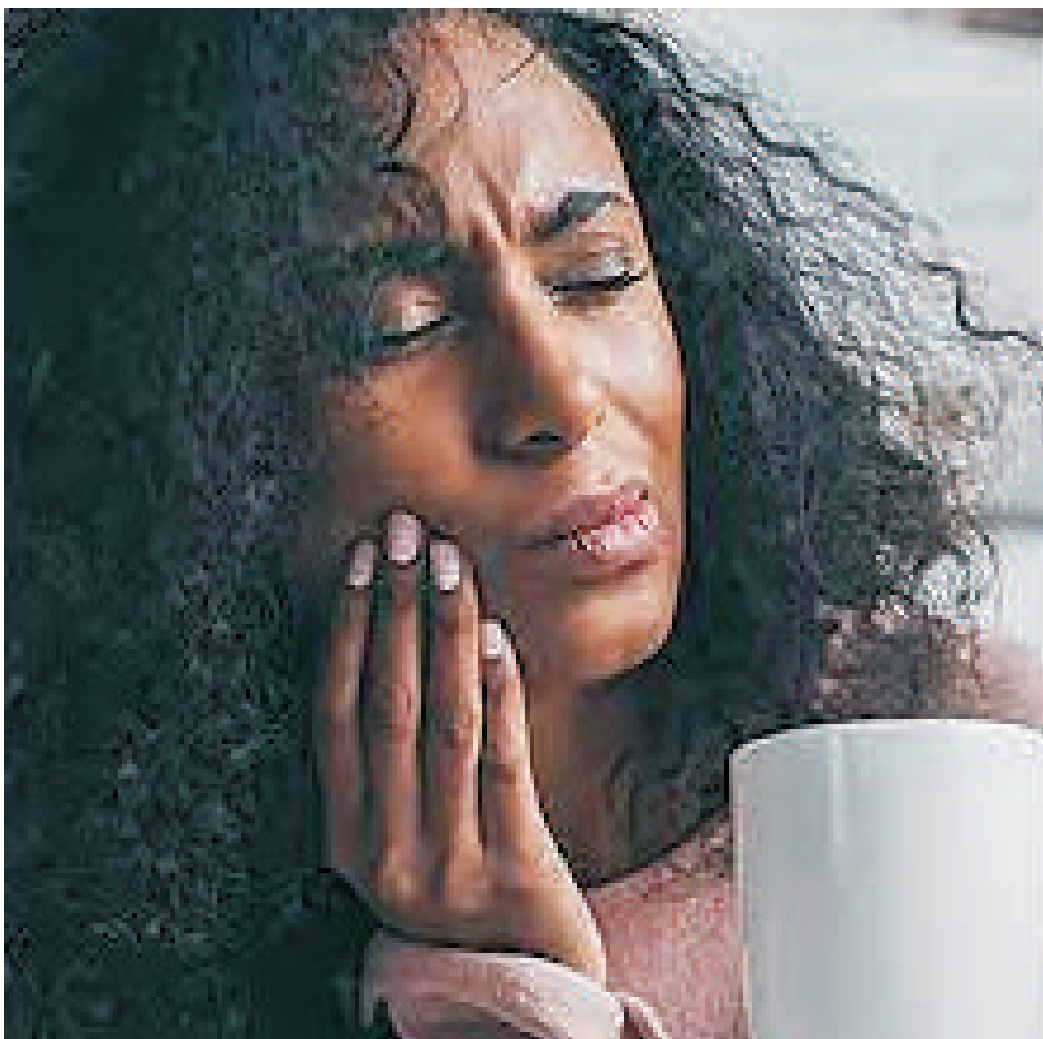
If you're over 40, it could be that your gums are showing signs of wear and tear by pulling away from your teeth and uncovering your tooth roots.

Those roots don't have enamel to protect them, so they're much more sensitive than the rest of your tooth. Tell your dentist if your gums look like they're receding. It can be a sign of

that ends before your gums start, your dentist can fill it. If it's below your gum line, your tooth will have to be pulled.

Treatment

Once you've found the problem, there are things your dentist can use to help ease your pain, including: Toothpaste for sensitive teeth Fluoride gel Fillings that cover exposed roots Sealants Desensitizing pastes (not used with a toothbrush) you can get from your dentist Mouth guard to protect teeth if you grind If your case is serious, your dentist might suggest a root canal. It's also important not to shy away from dental care because of tooth pain. Ignoring your teeth can make things worse. Brush and floss twice a day to help keep your smile bright and pain-free. And see your dentist for a checkup twice a year.



EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Kickstart your new life after divorce

By ANN HEATHCOTE

AFTER staying awake night after night, thinking, contemplating and sometimes even getting panic attacks, you have finally made the decision to file for a divorce. Still, you can't help but be worried about what your new life after divorce will be like. However, getting cold feet at the thought of not being able to be with the man or woman you wed, is natural.

After all, you committed to a life together and not a relationship with an expiry date. Thinking about a new life after divorce can be terrifying. Yes, there are reasons you should stay and work on your marriage. But, there are also benefits to pulling the trigger and moving forward with divorce. Check out these 6 ways.

Make yourself a priorit

After having spent time with someone you love and making him or her the center of your world, it is time to change the rules. Start by giving yourself the attention, care and love you deserve. Stop worrying about what their new life after divorce will be like and start re-examining your life. Start doing the things you once enjoyed doing but couldn't because of your obligations after marriage.

It may be as trivial as bingeing late night television or as big as getting yourself enrolled in a college course you always wanted to take. Also, make it a habit to pamper yourself. Go

for retail or beauty therapy, a spa treatment or a long drive, whatever makes you happy. Haven't gone to a movie alone or eaten at a restaurant by yourself? Well, do it now. It's important to start enjoying your company and start living life your way, with no conditions. Prioritize yourself.

Learn to let go

"The truth is, unless you let go, unless you forgive yourself, unless you forgive the situation, unless you realize that the situation is over, you cannot move forward." Hence, it's time to let go of the past and the grudges. The more you hold on to them, the more you will get into the rigmarole of why's and how's of things not working out. But, it's time to face the reality, and it's over.

Holding on will only hurt you more. However, it is absolutely fine to give yourself some time to let go. But, keep reminding yourself that your marriage is over and for a reason. Therefore, let this process be natural and if you occasionally remember the good memories you had with your ex, don't be hard on yourself.

Reconnect with old friends

It's normal to have friends in common with your spouse. However, after divorce, like a lot of things, friends get divided too. They tend to choose one of the two and rarely stay in touch with both partners. So, losing friends in a situation like this is normal, and it has nothing to do with



they make so worrying about it will only lead to pain. But, what you can do is connect with old friends that you lost touch with. It might seem like a task but a simple message or a call can reconnect you with your old buddies. And don't forget, you need to build your social circle so it is worth the effort.

Learn to manage Your own finances

Understanding finances and investments may not be your responsibility when you were married, but, after the split, it is. So, start managing your financial life and make a list of your income, expenditure, expenses and assets and



liabilities. This will help you keep tabs on your incoming versus outgoing flow of money and thus plan your monthly budget. However, if you are not working, then look at going back to your career or find a career that interests you. This will not only give you financial stability but will also keep you engaged. By making slight modifications and being conscious of the expenditure and savings will help you keep your financial life on track.

Take a break and travel

Going through a separation isn't easy and getting used to your new life after divorce can be fairly tough. To come out of this emotional mayhem take a short break and travel. It could be to a place you always wished to visit but couldn't till now or even a nearby resort. You can plan a trip with close friends or look at tour groups for single people and book yourself for an adventure. A trip by yourself or alone with your children might sound

scary but it is a great way to gain retrospection your life and realize that you are stronger than you expected. Always remember you survived a situation you thought you couldn't and are now even considering traveling with a group of strangers or alone.

Give romance a second chance with online dating.

If you have recently been divorced, then the thought of dating may seem bizarre. But, it there is no harm in using online dating sites to connect with others and possibly find a new relationship .However, remember two important things about dating after divorce: Do compare others to your ex. Be cautious and don't invest to much time and energy into someone until you know them well. And don't forget is all about you so make some rules and break some but give love a second chance it deserves.



Editorial

Towards curbing insecurity

THE recent attack by terrorists on Garga Community in Kanam LGA where so many lives were lost and property worth millions of naira destroyed is pathetic and condemnable. This is one attack too many and should be condemned by all well-meaning people. Our security agencies seem to be overwhelmed and are helpless in the face of these destructions by merchants of doom.

NIGERIANS on daily basis wake up to news of the slaughter of fellow citizens perpetrated by enemies of Nigeria who have turned the country into a killing field, making our collective progress a mirage. Insecurity has therefore, become the order and the perpetrators have not only become daring but make videos of their exploits and circulate them on social media. Banditry, kidnappings, Boko Haramism etc have become our lot. Lives and property are daily destroyed without remorse or respect for humanity. The confidence with which these affronts are carried out is worrisome.

GOVERNMENT is duty bound to protect its citizenry as enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. But this can only be achieved if government reconstruct the security architecture of the nation. Modern technology needs to be deployed in the fight against insurgency so as to keep our security forces ahead of the insurgent.

UNFORTUNATELY, these agencies are not only overstretched but need to be motivated to encourage them to lay down their lives to ensure the safety of Nigerians. It is only when they are well motivated that they can give their all, knowing that even when they lose their lives on the battlefield, their families would be well taken care of.

THE recent attacks on the Kaduna Airport, the bombing of the Kaduna bound train, the attack on Nigeria Defense Academy, and the jailbreak at Jos Correctional Facility attest to the effrontery and determination of these dare devil terrorists to employ dare-devil methods. That they succeeded shows that there are security lapses that need to be checked.

ALSO the activities of ISWAP and ISIS within and outside the West African region have created allies with allegiance to doctrines of religious coloration with the agenda to overthrow the government. This is evident in the hoisting of religious flags in some local governments overrun by insurgents. There have been rumours of the importation of foreign mercenaries with the mandate of causing mayhem in different parts of the nation. This might be responsible for the bloodletting that has become the lot of all parts of our country.

THUS the call by Gov Nasiru el-Rufai of Kaduna for the hiring of foreign mercenaries to fight insurgency, at this juncture is out of order. It would be recalled that our military carried out successful operations in Liberia, Sierra-Leone, South Sudan etc. What is needed is for our military to be equipped with modern weapons to fight the insurgents and like earlier stated, technology should be deployed to help out in the fight like it is being done in other climes. Equipping our security outfits with modern gadgets and hiring more hands in prosecuting the war would yield positive results.

Indeed, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), made it clear that the insecurity in the country is the greatest and most potent threat for the conduct of a free, fair and transparent election. And to buttress, some clerics have cried out that unless government secures the lives of Nigerians, people should not participate in the 2023 general elections because some areas might be vulnerable for attacks due to past antecedents. We, therefore, urge the government to do something fast to secure the lives of Nigerians.

AS the Easter celebration approaches too, we call on Nigerians to be security conscious, alert and report any suspicious activity in their communities. We urge security personnel to be vigilant in order to curb any action capable of destabilizing or threatening lives and property. Large gatherings of any sort should be avoided as this could be easy targets for terrorists attack.

I wish to beg for a space in your widely read newspaper to express concern on the deplorable condition of learning in most schools in the country. Over the years, successive governments in Nigeria have allocated huge budgets for educational development in the country. In most cases, these funds are made available so as to help transform our educational sector for the better.

Unfortunately over the years, most schools in Nigeria have not had a feeling of such unabated budgetary provisions. Realistically, while in few cases, such monies are released, lack of proper supervision has led to the diversion of such resources to private pockets. For

instance, it is a known fact that most public schools in the country lack basic facilities which should encourage these students to learn. As a result of this, many of our students have lost interest in education and ventured into social vices which are detrimental to the existence of the citizens of the country.

This aside, the deplorable

Provide conducive learning environment for students

construction of schools in the country today is also attributed to the nonchalant attitude shown in the quest towards creating conducive environment for educational



excellence and sustainability in the country. I therefore hope that relevant stakeholders would begin to attach more interest to our

educational sector for greater productivity.

Adams Usman Jenta Adamu.

On digging and laying of Airtel cables

THE ongoing laying of Airtel cables in and around Jos metropolis is a thing of great concern as drainages have been filled with sand dug by the labourers.

Now that the rains are about to come, it will be dangerous because this activities can cause flooding, since drainages which are suppose to serve as channels for free flow of water are ironically blocked.

The labourers should be guided by those in authority so that dropping the dug sand at the surface where the cables are laid should be avoided.

Permit me to also observe that, this constant digging side by side the drainage system might weaken the base of the drainages and might collapse. Therefore, I want to use this opportunity to draw the attention of the government and the management of Airtel to proffer a better alternative to avoid the waste that might cause because, it would cost government another money to reconstruct these drainages if quick action is not taken to address that.

In as much as this action could be a source of revenue generation to the state, it is also important for government to give

condition to whoever comes to lay similar cables in the state. Yes, the essence of laying these cables is to enhance effective network distribution across the state but the activities should not in turn destroy what government has

spent so much on.

To the authority of Airtel, it would be wise to lay their cables as soon as the ground is being dug, it should be covered immediately. This is because, first, it might cause them additional money when rains come.

Secondly, it will also reduce the cost of labour to the organization because when they allow it to be covered by rains, definitely, another set of labourers must be needed to dig and lay the cables.

Gohii Tuwan Jos North.

The danger of security delay in response to attack

IT is obvious that the most unfortunate stories that Nigerians often go to sleep and wake up with on daily basis is the unprovoked attacks that are being unleashed on innocent Nigerians without any reason as far as these attacks are concern.

These heinous and senseless attacks often meted on our people are always observed as a well calculated plan before carrying out the attacks.

More offending than not, it always leads to loss of lives and destructions of property.

Infact, what sometimes baffles some of us is the issue of non arrest of the perpetrators by our security outfits. Indeed, some of the things that always give some of us

concern is the fact that the assailants cannot disappear into the air.

This, however, has clearly shown that Nigeria's security are suppose to be trained more on tracking offenders for effective arrest of any gang or terrorist attack.

Again, why the arrest of those criminals who have become heartless in their human thinking is sometimes difficult can be attributed to the security's delay in prompt response to any distress call connected to attacks.

It is also unfortunate that our security sometimes end up arresting people who know nothing about the attack, especially those within some of the attacked communities. It doesn't make any

sense for security to arrest innocent people under attack. The question is: how can a family member who is counting the loss of his beloved and has suffered destruction of property during an attack be arrested?

When the real perpetrators are not always arrested so as to make them face the full wrath of the law of the land to serve as deterrents to others, the cases of criminality instead of reducing would be increasing in number. It is a minus for everyone if they attack and go back freely into their respective homes. When we don't call a spate a spate we shall never get it right.

JIDAUNA DARING.

STANDARD CARTOON

Congratulations and jubilation to APC, Plateau State for clearing 17 LGC chairmanship.

(What next LG Autonomy)



Opinion

Are correctional centres death or reformation homes?

By ELEOJO IDACHABA

BEFORE it became known as Correctional Centres, if anyone was incarcerated in any erstwhile Nigeria Prison Service, it was usually understood that the person had been confined to eternal damnation until when events showed that rather than being the most dreaded place, prisons (now called Correctional Centres) are actually reformation centres, especially judging by its name.

The wrong perception was so because in the past, anyone who once went into the prison, but was lucky to come out safely, had one debilitating story or another to tell; however, recently all that seemed like mysteries.

A fortnight ago, during the 11th convocation ceremony of the National Open University of Nigeria, (NOUN), its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olufemi Peters, announced that 25 inmates from across Correctional Centres in the country were part of the graduates. The announcement was taken like a pinch of salt until he further gave details. Giving a breakdown, Prof Peters said, out of the said 25 in number, one of them was a post-graduate student with a master's degree while the rest were first degree holders.

Prof. Peters said, "We went out of our ways to provide learning tools for those willing to study in those Corrections Centres in line with our mandate of breaking every barrier against education. Detention is not a barrier and thank God these Correctional Centres provided the platform for us to do that."

That was not all; not too long ago, a viral video of a young lady, Chidinma Ojukwu, took over the social media when she was shown participating in a beauty pageant parade at the Kirikiri Prison in Lagos

as against what most people thought are the peculiarities of prison life.

Chidinma, who was implicated in the death of Super TV boss, Michael Ataga, and sent to prison was recently crowned Miss Cell 2022 as part of events to mark the 2022 International Women's Day. Whoever saw the video would never have imagined that the beauty pageant was actually held within the four walls of Kirikiri Prison, but that was it. Although counter reactions trailed the viral picture/video, especially as it concerns the feeling of the deceased's family, the video portrayed Correctional Centres as another world of its own where reformation of characters takes place.

When former President Olusegun Obasanjo came out of prison in 1998, he told the entire world while interacting with some officials of the Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) that he became a regenerated human being while in prison. Recounting his experiences, the former president said, "I met Christ while I was in prison. There, the only companion I had was my Bible and old newspapers plus frequent visits from prison evangelists. That was how I gave my life to Christ."

Obasanjo is not alone in this as a former Governor of Abia State, Orji Uzor Kalu, once admitted shortly after his release from Kuje Correctional Centre Abuja in 2020 that he met God while in prison. According to him, even though he

was treated as an 'executive' inmate, his experiences showed that detention centres are also reformatory centres for anyone willing to live a better life after the confinement.

Corroborating this, a former Deputy Comptroller General of Prison, Uche Kalu said that it was a wrong perception held by many that whenever anyone is held in any of the confinement centres; that is the end of life.

"During my years in service, we made it a matter of policy to ensure that even though most prisons were old in outlook, we ensured that inmates undergo proper reformation programmes in order to avoid being a nuisance when they come into the society. A badly/poorly treated inmate is a potential danger to society if eventually such comes out of confinement. That is why I am happy that today the name now reflects the mandate. Oftentimes, that was part of the memo we presented before the board and graciously the board gave approval even with the limited resources at government disposal," he said.

When asked if the quality of infrastructure in the country was anything compared to what obtains in other developed countries, he said, "Although one cannot compare the quality of amenities in overseas prisons with Nigeria, we were also mindful of minimum standards in line with available resources."

A former inmate of Lafia Prison, now a furniture maker in Kugbo, Abuja, Adindu Adinuba, told this reporter that there is a difference between police detention cells and

what is known as conventional prisons. He said so in his capacity as someone who had experienced both.

He said, "In 2007, I was implicated in an incident involving burglary at a tyre depot in Mararaba and arrested by the police. Initially, I was locked up at Uke Police Station, but was later charged to court and later sentenced to prison. For the three months that I was in the police cell, life was hell. That was when some human right crusaders who heard about our case insisted that we be charged to court. That was how I ended in Lafia Prison.

"In prison, we had food; we were trained on various crafts like carpentry, roofing and tailoring apart from going regularly to the prison farm where we also learnt how to cultivate certain crops. I chose carpentry because I was actually interested in it before I got implicated. Luckily in 2014, having found nothing wrong in my case file, the former Chief Justice of the state released me and other inmates, but before then, I already learnt carpentry, so it was not too difficult for me to adjust when I came out. There is a difference between police station detention and prison."

A prison Evangelist, Pastor Celestine Mathew, in his view, said contrary to what people think is the state of inmates in prisons, it is actually a reformation centre spiritually and otherwise.

"I have been a prison evangelist since 2007 after the Lord told me that I should close my church in Benin and move to Abuja. Since then, I have been on missionary and evangelical visits to many

prisons around Abuja like Kuje, Suleja, Lafia, Koton Karfe and Kabba.

"I discovered that even the prison authorities have a liberal policy of allowing us to visit the inmates with the word of God be and so because of that, I have firsthand knowledge of how inmates are treated. Many of those who later left prisons are preachers today. Some are good members of the society while some are even part of our evangelical team to other prisoners whenever we visit them. Even though I do not pray for anyone to be confined before one can learn, life in prison is not a death sentence, but reformatory," he said.

According to a development architect, Olarewaju Osho, happenings in Correctional Services are shielded from most Nigerians.

He said, "Most Nigerians don't bother about it until they have a reason to pay a visit to any prison across the country.

"Even as a visitor, you can only see a tip of the iceberg. It is difficult to see or know many of the things going on behind the walls unless one is an inmate or a staff member. One of the other ways to know the truth about the state of affairs is to speak with an inmate or a staff member.

"Nigeria Prisons can truly become Correctional Centres where the return rate of offenders is drastically reduced to the lowest level possible. They can become nurseries of destiny transformation where people go in as offenders but come out as agents of change. To achieve this would never be business as usual. The time to try and force change is now."

The story of the 25 inmate graduates of NOUN and Miss Ojukwu may have changed the citizens' perception of Correctional Centres across the country.

NIGERIA'S highway experiences are a particular example of the rot that typifies the country's black-uniformed system.

The primary role of the police is to ensure strict compliance with existing laws and the maintenance of social order within a community. In this wise, the police reserve the authority by law to exert force in ensuring that the laws of the land are adhered to and that communal existence remains peaceful.

Also, the Police Force is expected to serve as agent of comfort and defence to the vulnerable members of the society who are susceptible to crimes, insecurity, brutality and denial of due process and human rights. However, the Nigerian experience with the police system generally has been chaotic, often characterised by several cases of human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, bullying, hooliganism, destruction of properties, aiding and abetting heinous crimes in various forms and degrees, and extortion, among others.

This is not to say that there aren't a few cases of right-doing by the police force. Rather, the negative experiences far outweigh the few good ones; many documented cases describe the impunity-laden system that characterises the force, and Nigerians have prayed to the government to reform the entire police structure, but this has fallen on deaf ears over and again.

Nigeria's highway experiences are a particular example of the rot that typifies the country's black-uniformed system. Motorists travelling on the highways across the country have recounted tales of woes regarding their experiences with the Nigerian Police Force? (NPF). Many a time, barbaric experiences have been proved to result from a coordinated effort by officers of the NPF with armed criminals or from

Notoriety of Nigeria's highway policing

By IFEOLUWA OGUNRINOLA

in-house mischief-making by the officers themselves.

Travelling from Lagos to Benin City late last month, I can recount a remarkable but unnecessary experience with the NPF. Somewhere around Okada, just after Igbinedion University, some officers ordered the vehicle conveying myself and some friends to park. Some other cars were ordered to do the same. About six in number, these officers were not looking like sane human beings. The man who ordered us to stop just kept commanding us at the top of his voice as he kept wiping salty sweat off his black and disfigured face. Another tall and dark officer holding a rifle and a stick similar to what herders use to direct their cattle kept shouting. He also ordered us to remove our bags and move to a nearby shed for searching. These officers looked dirty, smelly, and unkempt, and they also looked like armed robbers.

Best to me, authorities of the NPF have decried the stop-and-search routine by police officers, and they have ordered the discontinuance of the checkpoint and roadblock activities throughout the country. Various Inspector Generals (IG) of Police have in their respective times, given the order to cease all roadblock and checkpoint activities throughout the country: IG Mohammed Abubakar in 2012; IG Idris Kpotum Ibrahim in 2017, to mention a few. With this in my mind, I was quite shocked to have these untagged, unnumbered and unverified uniformed men order a stop-and-search protocol

forcefully.

While in shock and quite hesitant, the tall, dark policeman with a rifle and herder-looking stick charged towards me and threatened a strike if I refused to carry my belongings and head towards the nearby shed for a search. This was the fate of about four vehicles carrying up to 20 travellers. My colleagues and I got questioned about our profession and where we were heading as they searched every pocket in our bags. We did not argue with them. When other travellers attempted to argue with them, they were dealt with. Phones were smashed, slaps dished out, and the officers violently issued death threats. We left the scene as soon as we were over with the search.

We drove past several roadblocks often manned by uniformed policemen without name tags who often bullied anyone they stopped. Also, several other law enforcement officers filled the roads as they mounted their respective roadblocks intending to extort and intimidate passers-by. There was the presence of the Nigerian Army, the NPF, the road safety corps and the Customs. However, the most horrific experiences occurred with the police.

Usually, the sight of the police should bring a feeling of relief and safety to travellers on the road. Still, in today's Nigeria, the reverse is the case. People now experience an unprofessional display of force by these officers who shoot innocent people in a show of violent aggression, extort for self-gain, and cause road menace through illegal roadblocks and improper parking of vehicles. They

also contribute to road accidents and avoidable deaths by commanding vehicles to stop suddenly or dragging the wheels with cars that refuse to stop for them.

Several tales of intentional extrajudicial killings and deaths by the irresponsible discharge of bullets abound, and the offending officers usually find their way out of the situation. Also, no justice is usually served to favour the affected victims or their families. No wonder the famous #EndSARS movement struck an unforgettable chord both within and outside Nigeria, but the world seems to have reverted to its initial equilibrium, and the struggle against police brutality continues. Many Nigerians now go on long-distance travel by road only when it is extremely necessary and inescapable. Motorists also prepare for encounters with police officers by ensuring that they have several wads of cash on standby in N100 and N200 denominations to avoid unnecessary delays and drama.

Clearly, the entire police structure requires reform. Reforms that address recruitment structure, rules of engagement with the public, bearing and use of weapons, welfare for employed officers and their families, correctional measures for erring individuals within the force, and many other areas of structural consideration should be consciously prioritised. Without these effectively put in place, then it should be highly noted that the Nigerian Police is not your friend, and your contact with them must be documented and shared with the public, while your manner of approach and rapport with these officers must be as civil as you can afford.

Change of Name

<p>ZAKS</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZAKKA ALABI, now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKS RIVI DOOH. Correct date of birth 24/12/1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SIMON</p> <p>I, formerly known as SIMON LOUIS ZHENIM, now wish to be known and addressed as SIMON HELEN ZHENIM LOUIS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>GOSHWE</p> <p>I, formerly known as GOSHWE MONDAY BONIFACE, now wish to be known and addressed as GOSHWE MONDAY MUDIMKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ASIBI</p> <p>I, formerly known as OYHALA ANDU, now wish to be known and addressed as ASIBI REBECCA AYHOK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LILIAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DARIM LILIAN DACHUNG, now wish to be known and addressed as LILIAN BITRUS DALYOP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>UFULUL</p> <p>I, formerly known as BENJAMIN JOSEPHINE BENJAMIN, now wish to be known and addressed as UFULUL MAKUT JOJI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>CHUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVID EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as CHUNG EZEKIEL CHOJI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NNUBIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NNUBIA CHIKAODILI JOHNPAUL, now wish to be known and addressed as NNUBIA CHIKODI JOHNPAUL. Correct date of birth is 27/9/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>JOYCE</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOYCE THADDEUS IBILE, now wish to be known and addressed as JOYCE SILAS DAVOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SULEIMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SULEIMAN BALARABE, now wish to be known and addressed as SULEIMAN SULEIMAN BALA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>GENKA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GENKA MANJI ISHAKU, CHRIS ISHAKU GENKA, now wish to be known and addressed as GENKA CHRIS ISHAKU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>AMOS</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMMAKO YADUKSU, AMOS WACHA YADUKSU, now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS YADUKSU GIZO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>HANNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as HANNA FRANCIS ADI, now wish to be known and addressed as HANNA FRANCIS IJELE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MAURINE</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAURINE GUPAR, now wish to be known and addressed as MAURINE BALA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>ABDULLAHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ALIYU ABDULLAHI YUNUS, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULLAHI ALIYU YUNUS. Correct date of birth 27/6/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHRISTIANA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA JOSEPH PAM, now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTIANA CLEMENT GYANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NWANKWO</p> <p>I, formerly known as HENRY NWANKWO, NWANKWO HENRY ONYENEZI, now wish to be known and addressed as NWANKWO, HENRY OKWUCHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DALAP</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALAP COLLIN'S LANGYIT, now wish to be known and addressed as DALAP JOSHUA LANGYIT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ESTHER</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS ESTHER JOY OGBLEBA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ESTHER JOY OSASERI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BUTZHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as BUTDAM NICHOLAS NANWOR, now wish to be known and addressed as BUTZHI BYENYA ZWALDAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DINCHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as DINCI USMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as DINCHI USMAN KUMDUN. Correct date of birth 15/03/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DANLADI</p> <p>I, formerly known as NGWE DANLADI, DANLADI BARI NGWE, now wish to be known and addressed as DANLADI NGWE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ADEKUNLE</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHUNDUNG ADEKUNLE TEMITOPE OLONIYO, now wish to be known and addressed as ADEKUNLE TEMITOPE SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHUKWU</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHUKWU CHIKA FABIAN, now wish to be known and addressed as CHUKWU CHIKAODILI FABIAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>YINKA</p> <p>I, formerly known as YINKA JULIET AYENI, now wish to be known and addressed as YINKA JULIET ADEKOYA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ZUBAIRU</p> <p>I, formerly known as KYOKGYAAY MUSA UMAR, now wish to be known and addressed as ZUBAIRU MUSA UMAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MRS. SANDRA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS SANDRA GOTOM, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. SANDRA NENLAP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GYANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as JENNIFER GIDEON JOHN, now wish to be known and addressed as GYANG KANGYANG GIDEON ALL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YOHANNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHUNDUNG CHUWANG DUNG, now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA ROSE CHUNDUNG. Correct date of birth is 14/02/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GONTUR</p> <p>I, formerly known as GONTUR SUSAN, now wish to be known and addressed as GONTUR SUSAN SUWA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>SALAMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SALAMA SAMUNEL NENGA, now wish to be known and addressed as SALAMA SAMUEL NENGA. Correct date of birth is 12/12/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IBRAHIM</p> <p>I, formerly known as UMAR SAFINATU ZAIDU, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM SAFINATU. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DABOT</p> <p>I, formerly known as BOT JOSHUA MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as DABOT JOSHUA MUSA. Correct date of birth is 21/04/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PAUL</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAUL RUTH, now wish to be known and addressed as PAUL RUTH TETSON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HUDU</p> <p>I, formerly known as HUDU MUHAMMADU, now wish to be known and addressed as HUDU MOHAMMAD. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ATARAWASH</p> <p>I, formerly known as LYDIA INYAM EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ATARAWASH LYDIA BENJAMIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>OGHENEMINE</p> <p>I, formerly known as OGHENEMINE ESEJOVVO, now wish to be known and addressed as OGHENEMINE EJOGBAMU CHARLESRICH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SAUL</p> <p>I, formerly known as SUAL BAKO, now wish to be known and addressed as SAUL BAKO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PETER</p> <p>I, formerly known as DIBOAP LYDIA, now wish to be known and addressed as PETER LYDIA DAKOP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YUSUF</p> <p>I, formerly known as YUSUF SALEH, now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF SALEH UMAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AKPAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as AKPAN OZUAMAKA JUDITH, now wish to be known and addressed as AKPAN JUDITH UZOAMAKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MALLAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as IYA AMINU UMAR, now wish to be known and addressed as MALLAM IYA AMINU UMAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>EKAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as AYIM EKAM, now wish to be known and addressed as EKAM, AYIM GIBSON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LILIAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAKSIM STEPHEN, MAKSIM STEPHEN JEPLAH, now wish to be known and addressed as LILIAN NANKPAK ZHAKOM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUHAMMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUHAMMAD SUHAILU UMAR, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD SUHAILU MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DALUTA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALUTA YUSHA'U LLIYASU, now wish to be known and addressed as DALUTA SHEHU YAYI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BASIL</p> <p>I, formerly known as BASIL PETER SATI, now wish to be known and addressed as BASIL PETER ZAGI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABRAHAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABRAHAM DANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ABRAHAM DANIEL HWERE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>SARAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as SARAH YAKUBU DATIYI, now wish to be known and addressed as SARAH PAM NYANGO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ANGHARAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANGHARAT JUSTICE JUSTICE, now wish to be known and addressed as ANGHARAT JUSTICE MARKUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN RIFKATU DASUM, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL RIFKATU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAJAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAJAN MERCY MATILDA, now wish to be known and addressed as DAJAN MERCY CHINDONGNAAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KWAIKAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARY JERRY JERRY, now wish to be known and addressed as KWAIKAN MARY JERRY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YILVEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAWUM JOSHUA KUMBIN, now wish to be known and addressed as YILVEN JOSHUA KUMBIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>UDELE</p> <p>I, formerly known as UDELE MSONTER, now wish to be known and addressed as UDELE DAVID MSONTER. Correct date of birth is 10/04/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MRS. NICKY</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS NICKY MARIAH SAMBO, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NICKY MARIAH ANUYE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ANDY</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANDI JOSHUA, now wish to be known and addressed as ANDY JOSHUA DONGAP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YONTUKUN</p> <p>I, formerly known as HARUNA Y. JACOB, now wish to be known and addressed as YONTUKUN JACOB HARUNA. Correct date of birth is 16/07/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JUGU</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAGU EZEKIEL VOU, now wish to be known and addressed as JUGU EZEKIEL VOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BIRTUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANGYANG LINDA BITRUS, now wish to be known and addressed as BITRUS MAGDALENE DANGYANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

News

APM to establish facts on fraudulent activities

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

RECENTLY, members of the Allied Peoples Movement, (APM), a political party were seen at the FCT command opposite old CBN interacting with the law enforcement agents on the allegations against Yusuf Dantalle with a view to establishing the fact through structured investigations.

Earlier, there was a petition against him by the apex party leaders following his suspension as the National Chairman of the party which was based on fraudulent acts.

Yusuf Dantalle accepted the receipt of N16m from a candidate in tranches of N1m each to his personal bank account but added that the National Treasurer, and Ag. National Chairman Mrs. Rose D. S. Gyar was in the picture of all transactions.

However, when Mrs. Rose D. S. Gyar was dragged into it, she disclosed that out of the N16m, N1m was paid into the party's official account in FCMB, and added that she was always only informed when financial transactions are completed for her information only but not for her consent before the commencement of the transaction.

Further investigations revealed that the suspended Chairman performed the roles of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the party with the support of the suspended National Secretary, Ayodele Oyadeyi Adebayo.

While interacting with Mallam Muhammed Bagana, the BOT Chairman of the party on the pronouncement of the dissolution of the Board and his dismissal from the party during the February 5th, 2022 NEC meeting, he simply said resolutions at that meeting cannot stand because most state Chairmen who came to attend that meeting were not the duly recognised Chairmen by INEC who participated in the revalidation exercise of the party in 2019 but state chairmen that the suspended National Chairman and Secretary appointed without recourse to party constitution or INEC guidelines for such.

He further said that he was not invited to the party but he initiated the process of registering the party before he invited Yusuf Dantalle to come in as the National Chairman.

He is therefore the custodian of all party instruments particularly the certificate and seal of the party. He continued that he and his members of BOT would continue to serve as the conscience of the party to ensure that the party managers play according to the tenets of good governance while also upholding the motto of the party which is integrity, sacrifice, service.

the Ag. Party National Chairman, Mrs. Rose D. S. Gyar, while answering



Mahmood

questions from journalists, said, whether the party would to the path of Alternative Dispute Resolution or go through the legal route to resolve the matter with the established facts through investigation, only time shall tell.

"But, APM must note that time is of essence as INEC has rolled out its guidelines in accordance with the Electoral Act 2022 as Amended".

Reacting to the fraud allegedly committed by her predecessor, she said, "further to our publication of a press release on 15/3/2022 debunking the sale of APM by the Chairman of Board of Trustees of Allied Peoples' Movement (APM), Mallam Musa Bagana, our online crew has been trailing the activities of the party to ensure accurate information is placed in the public domain to ensure that Nigerians are given the

opportunity for an informed decision on the choice of their leaders in the 2023 general elections.

"You would recall also that it was widely reported that chaos arose at the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the party held on 5th February 2022 where the suspended National Chairman, Yusuf Mamman Dantalle, and the BOT Chairman, Mallam Muhammed Bagana washed dirty linens in the public. The BOT accused Yusuf Dantalle for embezzlement of party funds, defrauding unsuspecting citizens and using his personal account for financial transactions of the party.

"However, the truth must prevail at the end of the tunnel and anyone found guilty would have to go in for it in accordance with the law", she added.

THE Emeziele Mobilization Team (EMT) has commended the coordinating Centre of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria, for the expulsion of erring members over the smear campaign against the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Dr Godwin Emeziele.

The EMT is a group of patriots under the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) who have been calling on Emeziele to run for the 2023 presidential election.

The CSOs had in an online publication accused the CBN Governor of compromising the apex bank through his political activities. The EMT Publicity Secretary, Comrade Shaibu Udale Ochedi, in statement made available to journalists in Lokoja on Tuesday, extolled the leadership of the mainstream CSOs for the expulsion of the erring group to salvage its reputation.

Ochedi noted that Emeziele had made policies in the area of education, health, agriculture, industry and social credits which have brought about positive transformation in these sectors and strengthened the Nigerian economy. He recalled that Emeziele made Zenith Bank one of the biggest in Nigeria today from his days as Managing Director, adding that his professional acumen brought about the introduction of first Central Bank Digital Currency by any country in Africa.

Ochedi emphasized that the apex bank Governor also introduced the e-naira which has improved payment system in Nigeria, reduced cost of handling cash, it is more efficient and cost effective means of payment.

The publicity secretary further stressed that the renown banker has successfully promoted financial inclusion across

EMT commends CSOs for expulsion of erring members

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

board, and ensured a stronger banking system since assuming Office as Governor of the CBN. According to him, the CBN Governor has embarked on development financing with a view to providing credit support to Agriculture, Energy, Health Sector etc., and had recently orchestrated the lunch of the largest Rice Pyramid in West Africa. He, therefore said that one would have expected that an astute professional like Emeziele in his line of job should have been excluded from the dust-filled, reckless stone-throwing and pull-to-the-gutters style of politics that has characterized the body polity.

hence, all these achievements do not matter to them. "Let it be known however, that whatever their shades of attacks on Mr Emeziele, previously and in the nearest future, we, in the EMT remain unperturbed, undeterred and resolutely firm in our push to convince him to run for the highest position in the land. "And until our call for this national good is heeded by Mr Emeziele to contest for President of Nigeria, no amount of politically contrived machinations shall properly get our response. "Until then, our prayers remain that, Mr Godwin Emeziele, the best hand for Nigeria we have identified, accepts our national clarion call.



Emezele

Da'a signs 2022 Appropriation Bill

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

the people at the grassroots

"We have demonstrated by sponsoring a free comprehensive medical and surgical services, which was well appreciated and a lot of accolades have been coming from our respective stakeholders."

He further explained that the administration would focused on people oriented project. And urged the people of the locality to give the present administration their support and cooperation so as to move the local government forward.

Da'a commended the legislative arm for their passion, doggedness, commitment and zeal for excellence for taking their time to scrutinize the 2022 Budget. He called for more cordial working relationship between Executive and the Legislators at all times

He equally appreciated the legislators for speedy passage of the budget, saying the gesture has no doubt confirmed their drive

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a has signed into law the 2022 Appropriation Bill which was presented to him for consideration.

Hon. Da'a, while appending his signature to the budget in his office said that the total budget size presented for this fiscal year was N2,983,564,532.00 only

He added that after proper scrutiny of the various components of the budget by the legislative arm of the council, the sum of N3,247,654,532.00 only, was approved and forwarded to him for his assent.

He reaffirmed that this year's budget which is christened "Budget of Hope and Transformation" was a deliberate step towards guaranteeing solid foundation for the success of the programmes of the present administration.

Da'a noted that the council has kick-started the process of giving hope to the citizens in their little way, which is expected to be channelled to

for good governance and delivery of the dividends of democracy to the people

The leader of the Qua'an-Pan Legislative Arm, Hon. Jonah Yaksuk Damar, while presenting the approved

budget to the Executive, explained that few adjustments were mad, in order to meet with the global socio-economic practice.

On his part, the LG. APC Chairman, Hon. Haruna

Kangmi Jibrin, expressed delight over the achievements of the council. He pointed out that he was optimistic that more dividend of democracy would be delivered at their doorstep.

... flags off furniture distribution to boost education

By JIDAUNA DARING

AS part of efforts to boost education sector, Chairman of Qua'an -Pan Local Government Council (LGC), Hon Ernest Abner Da'a has flagged-off the distribution of furniture to primary schools in the Locality.

Hon. Da'a who was represented by his Deputy, who is the Supervisory Councilor of Education, Hon. Helen Henni Wapmuk, disclosed that the present administration in Qua'an-Pan would not relent in it's efforts towards the development of the education sector within the locality.

He charged the Local Government Education Authority to do justice to the distribution process, urging the various schools managements to make judicious use of the furniture towards the transformation of the pupils in the early stage of their education.

He stated that the ongoing screening exercise for the teaching and non-teaching staff of the education in Qua'an-Pan was a deliberate attempt towards improving effective service delivery in

the education sector. Da'a thanked the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), and also the state government for creating conducive learning environment for the pupils.

Earlier in his welcome address Education Secretary, Mr. Danjuma Z. Landa said that provision furniture was an intervention programme of SUBEB in conjunction with UBEC in order to promote standard education at the primary level.

News

Dandereng declares to contest

CHAIRMAN of Jos South Local Government Council, Gideon Dandereng has officially declared his aspiration to lead the people of Jos South, Jos East at the Federal House of Representatives.

Dandereng stated that the desire is borne out of the need to further deliver the dividends of democracy at the Green Chambers.

The APC faithful made his ambition known when he took the Greater Movement team to Jos East.

Addressing party faithful, Gideon Dandereng who is the Chairman of Jos Local Government Council said having served the people at the grassroot in different capacities, he believes the vast experience he has gathered over the years will culminate to greater success for the people of Jos South, Jos East at the Green Chamber.

The chairman stressed that his achievements are evident in the numerous projects he has initiated and completed with others awaiting commissioning in Jos South Local Government Area.

He emphasized that if given the support come 2023, his constituents will witness massive infrastructural development devoid of any sentiments.

Dandereng Promised to

From DANLADI DUK

rebuild trust between the Berom and Izere People.

Earlier, Director, Dandereng Campaign Organization, Jos East, Evangelist Daniel Izang, while presenting the Federal House of Representatives hopeful under the ruling party, said that Gideon Dandereng has been tested and proven to be a man of integrity, hence the need to be given the opportunity to serve at the Green Chamber.

Chairman Dandereng Campaign Council for the Greater Movement 2023, Pam Danzoss, informed the gathering that the APC in Jos

South has adopted Dandereng as a consensus candidate even before the party's primaries in view of his past record and solicited for their support.

Others who spoke separately accepted the candidature of Gideon Dandereng, describing him as a peace ambassador and the liberator of the entire Jos South, Jos East Federal Constituency.

The Greater Movement 2023 has continued to engage critical stakeholders ahead of the primaries.

Present at the event was the APC Party Chairman of Jos South and his Jos East counterpart as well party chieftains.



Dandereng

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has expressed confidence that he could announce the expansion of Nigeria's maritime territory without achieving it through war, litigation or purchase.

He made the declaration yesterday, when he received the Extended Continental Shelf report at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, noting that the move for the expansion is fully on course under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

He said: 'I am looking forward to the day that I can announce to Nigerians that additional maritime territory has been approved for Nigeria by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf,' the President said while receiving a progress report from the High-Powered Presidential Committee on Nigeria's Extended Continental Shelf Project.

A statement issued by Femi Adesina, said the President assured the Committee, chaired by the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, SAN, of his full support on Nigeria's submission to the United Nations for additional maritime area, under the recognised international convention.

He commended the

"We'll acquire more territories for Nigeria"

Committee on the progress made so far and the dedication invested on the work within a short time, assuring them of all the support to conclude the project in good time.

Underscoring his special interest on the project, the President told the Malami-led committee: "I have always had special interest in this project right from the first day I heard of it, because this type of project where Nigeria will gain additional territory without conflict has never happened before in her lifetime.

"I am therefore glad that it is happening within our lifetime. This is one of the many reasons I have been ardently following your progress over time.

"It is my intention to support the submission to the United Nations for additional maritime area, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to claim for Nigeria every bit of space that she deserves under UNCLOS.

"It is pleasing to know that most wars that have taken place in the world since time immemorial including present times have always been territorial, and Nigeria has this one and only chance to gain territory without war, litigation, or purchase.

"More so when this territory lies within the area dubbed as 'the Golden Triangle' in the Gulf of Guinea, which contains unquantifiable resources some of which have not even been discovered."

In his remarks, Malami thanked the President for his strong support to the project, noting that it was dormant for more than 30 months before the president rescued it.

"I thank you for making this project where Nigeria will gain additional territory without conflict has never happened before in her lifetime. The Nigerian experts had almost given up on it, you rescued it, and it is where it is today because of you," he said.

The Attorney-General of the Federation told the President that "by the grace of God" the Committee is delivering and gaining more grounds for Nigeria on the project.

The statement informed that the President listened to administrative presentation on the project by Surveyor Aliyu Omar, the Secretary of the Committee and the technical part was presented by Prof. Lawrence Awosika, a marine geophysicist and former Director with the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research.

Change of Name

<p>YUSUF I, formerly known as UMAR HAMISU AHAMAD now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF HAMISU UMAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SILAS I, formerly known as MABAS JUDITH SALE, now wish to be known and addressed as SILAS JUDITH NYALWAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>VICTORIA I, formerly known as VICTORIA KENNY ZANG, now wish to be known and addressed as VICTORIA KABIG JERE ZANG TOK. Correct date of birth is 24/12/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
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<p>IBRAHIM I, formerly known as IBRAHIM DADIT, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM NEHEMIAH GOFWAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>ALHAJI I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI AMUM ABDULLAHI, now wish to be known and addressed as ALHAJI AMU. Correct date of birth is 15/02/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>ESTHER I, formerly known as ESTHER HABILA PANSIKIT (MISS), now wish to be known and addressed as ESTHER HABILA TURAWA (MRS). All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>
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<p>Space for sale</p>	<p>Space for sale</p>	<p>Space for sale</p>
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UDO GADI YOUTH CLUB JOS

This is to inform the general public that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Abuja for registration Under Part "C" of companies and Allied Matter's Act, 2020.

- TRUSTEES ARE:**
 1. OKAM SAMUEL OKORO CHAIRMAN
 2. ANORUE PRECIOUS CHIGBO
 3. IKECHUKWU ABONYI HILLARY
 4. ONYEMA CHIZOBA SABASTINE SECRETARY

- AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**
 1. To Render assistance to Widow's Orphans and less Privileges in the society.
 2. To promote our cultural heritage.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar, General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication

Signed Secretary

NEW MORNING CHRISTIAN CENTRE (NMCC)

The general public is hereby notified that the above-named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters act 1990.

- TRUSTEES ARE:**
 1. Maikudi, Joshua Kusa
 2. Choms, Gyubok Katuka
 3. Danfillo, Ishaku Sallau
 4. Miller, Dennis Gaston
 5. Umaru, Dije John

- THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:**
 1. To provide an environment where young people are inspired to learn and practice character, and to positively influence their peers, as well as others, on the basis of Biblical social values.
 2. To provide an environment for learning good governance, civil responsibility and community development.
 3. To inspire young people to develop their personality based both on a proper understanding and acceptance of themselves as unique individuals with capacities to positively influence the society.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar, General of the Corporate Affairs commission, plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED CHAIRMAN

APC National Chairman, Deputy quit Senate

THE National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Senator Abdullahi Adamu has formally resigned from the Senate.

Senator Abubakar Kyari, representing Borno North also resigned from the Upper Chamber.

Adamu and Kyari, in separate letters read by Senate President Ahmad Lawan on the floor, said their action became necessary following their emergence as National Chairman and Deputy National Chairman (North) of the APC respectively.

Senator Adamu, until his emergency as the National Chairman of the APC, chaired the Senate

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

Kyari, on the other hand, was the Chairman of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Adamu's letter reads: "It is with utmost respect and appreciation I inform you that consequent upon my victory as National

Chairman at the just concluded convention of our great party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), on the 26th of March, 2022, I hereby resign formally as the

Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria representing Nasarawa West Senatorial District with effect from 1st April,

2022. "I feel a sense of duty and obligation to convey through this letter, my appreciation for the cooperation and guidance I received from you as Chairman of the National Assembly throughout my official and private association with you.

"As I leave the Senate, I cannot easily forget the change and style of leadership that you brought since becoming the Senate President of the Ninth Senate. "Your ability to forge the deep-rooted bi-partisan approach on all issues which you chaired deliberations speaks volumes of your chemistry as a leader.



Adamu

Venting our frustrations on the stadium



BY KENNETH DARENG

THE World Cup play-off between Nigeria and Ghana at the Moshood Abiola Stadium Abuja which ended in a one all draw that eventually gave the visiting team the advantage against the host Nigeria to qualify for the tournament the host Nigeria is a day most football enthusiasts will live to remember for a long time to come. It was a day the hope of Nigerians on the country's quest to participate at the 2022 world cup in Qatar came to an end.

The outcome of the match

which saw Ghana going through to the Mundial was quite devastating for the Nigerian Super Eagles who had earlier boasted that Nigeria was going to be at Qatar for the World Cup. The fans had also thought that it was just a question of when and how the scenario was going to play itself out.

Unfortunately, Super Eagles exit became a day of frustration, anger and disappointment which put an end to be the dream of Nigeria to be part of the global event. That sad commentary also came with a rude shock across the entire football spectrum which turned up to be a day of rage among the expectant supporters.

At the end of the World Cup qualifying match, Nigerian football supporters expressing their reactions decided to embark on the vandalism of the Abuja Stadium facilities which ran into several millions of naira.

Apart from the destruction of the stadium facilities, there was a case of the death of Dr Joseph Kabungo, a CAF medical officer who also lost his life after the game. Apart

from the fact that several millions were lost as damages, many other people got injured in the stampede. According to media reports, the national stadium was jam-packed with spectators who were just anxious of a result that would see the Super Eagles through to the World Cup.

Apart from several football fans who were injured day, the damaged was so enormous that it will take some time to heal the wounds as it will also take the Federal Government several millions of naira to replace the damaged seats and other valuable installations in the stadium.

No wonder, the Senate resolved to investigate the vandalism of facilities with a view to determining the extent of damage. In addition, the Senate had also mandated the Committee on Sports and Youth Development to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the failure of the Nigerian team to qualify for the World Cup in spite of the huge funds deployed by Government and Corporate organizations across the country.

No doubt, this destruction



will cause the government millions of naira to embark on the repairs. But It is pertinent at this critical period to also examine the crux of the matter and also prick on our conscience as to how we can avoid pitfalls of allowing ourselves to be agents of our own destabilisation. One can then imagine the level of our development where each day comes with its own unique challenges where citizens would prefer to destroy what may even be beneficial to them and their future generations at the slightest provocation.

Perhaps, it is also auspicious for Nigerian football fans to know that destroying our national assets in the name of ventilating anger over a game will neither change the outcome of the match, nor make any sense otherwise.

What has been the reality in

our country is, and if one may even ask is, how much does an average fan contribute to the development of any local team in the neighborhood and how many fans can boast of buying tickets to watch a particular match? We all know in the case of the Nigeria/Ghana match that the Nigerian Football Federation, [NFF] purchased over 20,000 tickets for the fans to watch. Where then is the show of gratitude on the part of someone who got into the stadia free of charge and later be the very one at the forefront of vandalism,

From my point of view people lacking in character and patriotism should not be called fans but disgruntled fanatics who have no role to play nor add value to the game.

**SMS ONLY 08098181805
kennethd1966@gmail.com**



By PETER H. TITLE

INTERESTING but fearful events are unfolding daily in our society. Apart from the normal banditry, robbery and ritual killings which has become a daily reoccurrence, the people including security personnel have device other means of looking for livelihood through all avenues. But the omnipotent in His infinite wisdom is catching up with them and will continue to extend same to those who thought they are untouchable based on the wielded shield accorded them by the corridors of power. The saying that "Every day for the thief and one day for the owner" has come to bare recently, when a big fish was caught in the web in Nigeria.

The 'Super Cop' as he was referred to was before now seen as an upright and saint personnel in all ramifications based on how he was being portrayed to Nigerians by his immediate constituency. (The Police Force). He was

Why a hunter became the hunted in the society

described as, a no nonsense officer, was seen as a crack detective of high repute, viewed as an officer per excellence. And that, at the mentioned of his name, everything around shivers.

Unfortunately, those qualities garnered over the years by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), in charged of IGP-Intelligence Response Team (IRT), Abba Kyari, did not only fizzle out but was just a mirage. The encomiums poured on the officer was indeed the opposite. His case is akin that of the hunter becoming the hunted. He was shamelessly caught in the act which before now, no human being would have believed that the officer would be involved in such a shameful act.

Though, the officer had been in the news for some times before now. Reasons? Allegations of his involvement in shady deals and prominent amongst them was that of Ramon Abbas (Hushpippi), the cyber crime kingpin based in the United States of America (USA) with the former accused of collecting large sum of money in order to let the accused off hook.

Based on Hushpippi's allegations, the accused police czar was suspended by police service commission in order to pave way for investigations. Nigerians, therefore went to sleep believing that Kyari was on suspension not knowing that he was still in controlled of the

special unit of the police under the office of the Inspector - General of Police (IGP).

It was indeed unfortunate that, what the public were fed of regarding DCP Abba Kyari was the direct opposite. He was shielded by the police force while doing his job but making dubious fortune out of it.

Another allegation, was that of Evans. Remember him? The popular Lagos based kidnapper caught by Abba Kyari. He accused Kyari recently that some of the statements he made were under duress adding that he was forced to do so at gun point by the police detective.

According to him, he was mercilessly dealt with as well as seeing other detainees being killed by the police officer. Their valuables he explained including posh cars were confiscated and became the officers personal belongings. Evans explained further that as a result of torture in the hands of Kyari, he almost lost his eyes sight.

One is therefore left to ponder as to how a deputy commissioner of Police would have the kind of wealth that he has. Of course, he cannot acquire that through his salary and other emoluments. We learnt that when you see a state of an art edifice in Maiduguri, Borno State capital, it either belonged to DCP Abba Kyari or nobody.

It was as a result of all these that the United States, intelligent unit, FBI, yours sincerely learnt send and communicated with Nigeria

Security Agencies to investigate and turned their search light on Abba Kyari based on Hushpippi allegations, but it was thrown to the dogs. Nothing done and nothing heard.

Then came a bang and surprise to Nigerians, precisely on the 14th February, the most trusted and saint police officer as was seen then was caught with 25kg of cocaine. It was even made public that their transit operation was Brazil, Ethiopia and to its final destination Nigeria. It was revealed too that they have been in the business for a long time. Thanks to National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), for a job well done.

With a recent seizure of Tramadol syrubb worth over N 3 billion by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) which was also linked to the police officer, it is therefore clear that if they dig more into the activities of suspect, more revelations will come out.

Apart from Kyari, others undergoing grilling according to reports include, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Sunday Ubuah, ASP Bawa James, Inspector Simon Agrigba, John Nuhu while ASP John Umoru (also known as too much money) is still at large but was said to have been sighted in the United Arab Emirates (Dubai) recently.

Since DCP, Abba Kyari is a fraud in uniform, and for Nigerians to have faith in the system regarding his

investigation and trial, it will therefore be a good omen that all national honours given to the prince of criminals be withdrawn immediately. Every organisation that had given him an award should withdraw it as well as distance themselves from him in order to save their reputations.

Though seizures made and culprits apprehended, a lot needs to be done by all security agencies in the country to stem the tide in its entirety and ensure that they crux of the matter is brought to bare and every person found wanting be penalized accordingly. Definitely, heads must roll, we know and the unexpected will be heard too because names of top brass within and without will be mentioned. Nothing should be swept under the carpet if at all they want Nigerians to have faith in their leadership style and the system as well.

The issue at hand is weighty which must be dealt with, with all seriousness it deserved. Religion, ethnicity and other colorations that may attached be set aside to ensure justice is brought to bare so that the citizens will have faith in the system.

Also, those saddled with the responsibility of investing Kyari and others must be people of proven integrity because it is fact that whoever is coming to equity must therefore come with a very clean hands.

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IT was like the scarlet of wings that shades into pink at the tip last Friday, when what seemed to be a simple declaration of intention by the retired Customs Comptroller, Nde Dimka Victor David, to vie for Plateau State number one seat turned out to be more or less a political rally with thousands of supporters trooping into Kanke Local Government Area to show their solidarity.

Certainly, home is quite a home especially when one knows his root and believes in the values and practices of his people. Dimka, being the son of this beautiful mountainous soil saw the need to go back home to declare and receive the blessings from the gods of his ancestral land and that of his elders for him to run for the number one seat of his Plateau state.

Truly, his triumphant entry last Friday really attest to the fact that, the gubernatorial aspiration of DVD was on a serious course seeing the enthusiastic supporters' massive turn out at the event. They all positioned themselves in different locations waiting to receive the man of their choice.

Some as early as 7am to 8am were at the boundary between Pankshin and Kanke LGAs, a village called Danchor, waiting patiently to receive him amidst dance by Sombi dancers. Others were seen waiting at the Local Government Secretariat, APC Party Secretariat and another group were at the Kabwir football pitch, venue of the declaration and there was this show of desperation as they formed themselves in groups waiting and discussing over the aspiration of DVD.

On arrival at the boundary, Nde Dimka, dropped to greet all party elders as the mammoth crowd followed him around cheering and chanting victory slogan demonstrating how prepared they were to throw their weight behind the aspirant. This generated a heavy traffic back and front leaving motorists with no option than begged for alternative routes.

On his way down to first pay visit to the Council Chairman of Kanke LGA, Hon. Gotip Henry Jan, as part of the ardenaries, he again ran into another group of supporters at Tashan Kabwir (Bauchi Junction) which forced him to drop from his car, breaking the convoy to appreciate them for the show of love and support which was an indication of fact that, he was truly their son, hope of cure and their liberator.

While at the Yakubu Gowon Secretariat in Kwal, the front line politician was received by the Executive Chairman of Kanke Local Government Council, Hon. Gotip Henry Jan. He said, "as the Chief Security Officer of our local government and a father to all, I saw the need to first pay you a visit and inform you of my intention to vie for number one seat of the state.

"I know that there are other candidates, but I want to say without any fear of contradiction that, I am a man of character, a man that is tested and a man that

can be trusted and so, this journey cannot be taken without your blessings and your cabinet", DVD enthused.

Responding, the Executive Director General, Nde Menshak Chairman of Kanke LGC, Hon. Gotip, expressed confidence over the caliber of sons that came out to contest and prayed that they bring home victory saying, "if you see DVD, you see a governor in the making. The name DVD is a household name and he is the best weapon APC has because of his antecedents and wealth of experience in security issues and

Williams Gombwer who promised to give him the necessary support to fly the party flag high. DVD Movement Campaign led the Aspirant to the Kabwir Pada, Office of District Head of HRH Nde Dominic Gofwen to pay homage and seek for Royal Blessings.

Behold as he arrived the venue of the occasion, crowd could not led him drop from the car because every supporter wanted to touch him so, he decided to



DVD declares gubernatorial intention



Dimka, his wife Maureen and Hon. Gotip the Chairman, Kanke LGC during the declaration

can fix the security problem of Plateau State".

Dimka, demonstrating his humility as a sign of respect to the Local Government Legislative Arm, visited the LG Chamber to intimate them of his intention and was warmly embraced by the House as blessings and prayers were showered on him giving him a free ground to go and contest with their blessings.

Thereafter, he proceeded to the Local Government APC Party Secretariat Kwal and was received by the Party Executive Council led by its Chairman, Nde

open roof of the car as he went round waving everybody that graced the occasion. It took the efforts of security personnel to control the mammoth crowd.

While talking to Journalists shortly after paying visit to his Ward Chairman Hon. Goma Nenman Sunday, Dimka said, "I want the plateau people to have a secure, prosperous and united plateau that is anchored on the fear of God. My triumphant entry, is for the doubting Thomases and those that have not been to Kanke to see that, I am a son of the soil and am loved by my

people. That is to say including the Journalists that will go and spread the gospel that this man indeed is on ground.

"I call on other contestants to know who is a true leader. If they have me to be somebody that can deliver Plateau, then, let them collapse their structures and come to me so that we will move the DVD train for the good of Plateau State. I am a Fellow of Security Institute and you know everything now is security.

"If you say I should talk about three good things that matter now is, one-security, two-

security and three-security before we begin to talk about prosperity, unity and development which are three concepts that are in the vision of DVD to bequeath to Plateau State a peaceful, prosperous and united plateau", he enthused.

It was indeed a filled day for the people of Kanke Local Government Area as they witnessed an unexpected crowd. The Aspirant was presented with the APC Flag by the Local Government APC Chairman amidst cheers and rapsberries as he urged him to fly it wherever he goes.

IMAGES

LALONG AT WORLD BANK PROGRAMME IN ABUJA

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, Nasarawa State Governor, Engr. Abdullahi Sule, Deputy Governors, Ministers of Agric, Environment and Water Resources last week attended the World Bank Programme on Agro-Climatic Resilience in semi-Arid Landscapes (ASReSAL) Project at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja



L - R: Governor Lalong, Governor A. A. Sule, Minister of Agric, Dr. Abubakar listening to speeches



Kogi State Deputy Governor, Chief Edward Onoja making a remarks



World Bank Country Director, Shubham Chaudhuri delivering his speech



A cross section of participants at the programme

OBITUARY



Late MR. RWANG PAM

With a heavy heart, the Board, Management and entire Staff of Plateau Publishing Corporation announce the death of one of our hardworking and dedicated Staff **MR. RWANG PAM** which sad event took place on Tuesday 5th April 2022 after a brief illness. Until his demise, the deceased was the Head of Dispatch Clerk with the Marketing Directorate.

Burial Arrangement is as follows:

Corpse will be taken from Ola Hospital Zawan on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 8:00am to the family Compound at Old Dagwom Gyel Palace Rankyel Gyel.

He is survived by his Wife, Children, Grand Children, brother and sisters.

Signed:
Management

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Odd World

People in stitches after pregnancy announcement

A woman has opened up about how she broke her pregnancy news to her best friend while simultaneously asking her to be godmother, through an adorable gift that left her friend feeling emotional.

It can be a nerve-racking moment - revealing to your best mate that you're pregnant.

But one woman proved just how important female friendship is after sharing a heartwarming video of her presenting a gift to her female friend on Galentine's Day.

The celebration traditionally takes place the day before Valentine's Day - and one woman used the day to announce her pregnancy while asking her to be godmother to her unborn child.

Hilariously, a waitress in the restaurant got the wrong end of the stick after coming over - leaving people in hysterics at her comment.

TikTok user Alexys - who goes by the username dyslexya - shared a clip of her best friend opening up her gifts, which included a cute box of chocolate with a cat picture on it.

Reaching into the gift bag once again, the friend pulled out a black cup wrapped in pink tissue paper. She initially looked stunned, reading a message that followers couldn't see.

Then she finally opens up the lid, revealing a positive pregnancy test inside.

It was at this moment that the waitress came over, getting

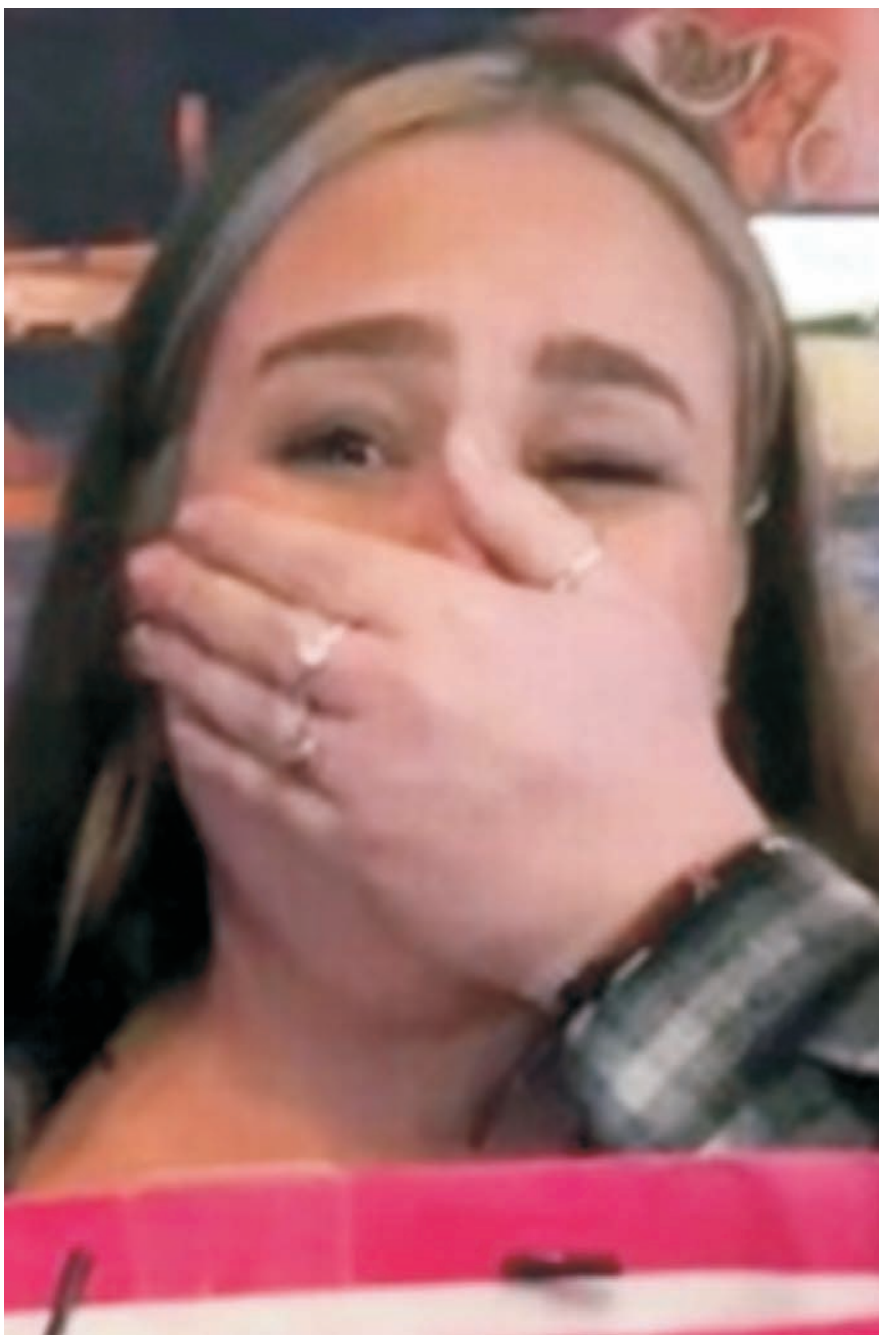
completely the wrong end of the stick and - to their great amusement - asking if it was "something kinky".

All the while, the friend appears to be nearly speechless with joy and surprise, tearing up as Alexys captured the moment on camera.

In the comments section, Alexys - a boudoir photographer - explained that the cup bore the words, "Spooky Godmother" in purple glitter.

The emotional clip has been liked more than 1.4 million times and left people feeling very emotional at the sweet clip.

One follower added: "What a sweet best friend!!!" while another approvingly commented: "And this is why she's the godmum".



'Leaders with ideas not in power'

ONE of the most respected erudite scholars of recent times, Prof. Patrice Emery Lumumba was once quoted as saying, "The tragedy with Africa is that those with ideas are not in power, while those in power have no ideas. When the people have a chance, they still vote for those with no ideas." For many who have followed with keen interest the silhouette criticisms offered by this scholar, it is daunting on us that some African states are far off the track of progress and or systematic integration. Therefore, much needs to be done in terms of implementing strategic policies of good governance to salvage our nation states from plummeting into anarchy, chaos and or total collapse.

During several of his lamentations, Prof. Lumumba always apportioned blames on our leaders who due to acts of administrative ingenuity contributed to the socio-economic and political retardation of this continent. Evidently, the continuous clinching to power of these visionless and corrupt leaders in Africa have but only succeeded in turning back the hands of time.

Some of these leaders who got the opportunity of leading their nations on the platter of gold have regrettably not been able to justify such opportunities. Between the early 1960's to late 70's, successive military takeover of governments across the continent saw the growing number of military dictators which led to the emergence of stooges and evil men of thoughts brutally engaging many democratic oppositionists leading to the death of hundreds of thousands. Few lucky ones were however able to escape into exile after knowing too well that their lives were in danger.

Most of these despots including the late Idi Amin of Uganda, Mubutu Sese Seko, Charles Talyor, Muammar Qadhafi including Joseph Kony, the Ugandan warlord, all never gave a thought about the nation's collective wellbeing.

In fact, Kony was one of the tyrannical warlords who disrupted, dehumanized and terrorized the people of the continent through his brutal leadership style. No doubt, his atrocities left a deep-seated hatred and ethnic divide amongst the citizenry.

Interestingly, Nigeria also experienced such acts of brutality when the military held sway. While several innocent citizens of this country were unjustifiably jailed and or killed, others who escaped these despotic regimes went on exile to save their lives.

In most recent years however, the transition of most of these African nations into democratic nation states have further entrenched democratic governance with great expectations. Many scholars had however hoped at initial stage that the democratization of African nation states would create fundamental stability and add value to the people of the continent. Thus, the coming of democracy to most nations of the continent after so much struggle and sacrifice was initially regarded a great relief to pro-autonomy and visionary scholars.

While democratic establishments in

some countries have led to the actualization of concrete pillars revamping basic institutional structures for greater prospects, some unfortunate nation states have equally been left aloft at the mercy of their corrupt and visionless leaders. Today, many of such emerging leaders based on greed and acts of personal aggrandizement have looted resources meant for the betterment of their citizens. Consequently, while their citizens continue to wallow in dehumanizing abject poverty, they have only concentrated on buying expensive castles abroad and participating neck-deep into more acts of economic sabotage.

In Nigeria, I have taken more time to scrutinize the long list of our leaders who have governed this nation for decades but not made the desired impact. In the midst of both economic and human resources Nigeria is blessed with; more than half of the nation's population is today living far below poverty line. Aside the biting difficulties of unemployment, insecurity and economic uncertainty, our educational sector is in total muddle. Just within a month, our national grid failed us twice sending strong signals that all is not well with our power sector.

Aside the rampaging activities of terrorists that have refused to allow us have a sound sleep; hardly a day passes by without any of us being told of one act of kidnapping and or armed robbery in this country. These unpleasant phenomena are completely overwhelming us because of the simple fact that we are yet to put our act together. To say the least, many have attested to the obvious fact that the citizens of this country have not allowed God to bless us with good leaders.

When our founding fathers were struggling to liberate this nation from the claws of colonial subjugation, they dreamed of a nation which after them would navigate itself and become a giant of Africa. Many of these past leaders of ours never anticipated for once that after they had gone, this country would be left fumbling in such an woeful and disgusting manner today.

After Nigeria's independence, the tales of this nation state has frighteningly continued to create an atmosphere of uncertainty as well as bash the hopes and aspirations of many. Today, Nigeria has become a nation state which requires all our prayers for it to overcome these difficult contemporary challenges. Some of these problems bedeviling us as a people were however unfortunately created by us.

Even as many citizens are yet to comprehend where the leaders of the country went wrong for us to deserve these unending calamities, some of them buried under the rubbles of a near failed state do know that only the citizenry can open a new chapter when the needful is done. Therefore, all we need to do to change Nigeria's disgusting narrative is to vote leaders with visions and intellectual capacity. Though it may take a long time to bring the nation back on track, with sincere commitments, sacrifice and total disregard to religious and regional sentiments, we can navigate the nation out of its present predicament for the better.

View Point

Curbing brain drain in the health sector

One of the burning issues currently bedeviling health sector in the country is the phenomenon of brain drain challenge in the health sector. Between 2016 and 2018, Nigeria has lost about 9,000 medical practitioners to the Western communities. Prof. Innocent Ujah, President of the Nigerian Medical Association, (NMA), recently raised concern over the phenomenon which now manifested as brain drain challenge while speaking during the Maiden Annual Lecture of the Nigerian Medical Association, with the theme "Brain drain and Medical Tourism." GODWIN MOSES writes.



Ujah



Osagie



Mamora

NIGERIA, a nation of over 250 million people has doctor -to-population ratio of 1 doctor to 5000 patients. This is grossly inadequate and unacceptable.

The future of Nigeria and its health sector is at stake. As a matter of urgency, government should pursue transformative policies and direction to deliver on strategic areas of needs which would foster growth and development in the health sector. To protect the interests of the country, we must fall back to engage Nigerian Medical Association, NMA, with a view to addressing issues around funding, salary remuneration, provision of enabling environment and equipment to practise.

Arguably, the political class who consistently embark on medical tourism or often go on trips abroad under the guise of scouting for foreign investors have failed to improve our health sector. This is responsible for the brain drain challenge threatening the Country's health sector. As a nation, curbing brain drain challenge in the health sector and medical tourism will continue to elude us unless something is done to restrict those presently serving in public offices or holding political positions, and members of their families by way of legislation or

policy from accessing health care services abroad till the end of their tenure as this might likely prompt them to do the needful.

The three points identified around brain drain challenge in the health sector are: Under funding. Include poor salary remuneration for medical practitioners and insufficient work equipment. Other reasons include poor work conditions such as deteriorating states of health facilities, shortage of manpower caused by brain drain and underemployment. Practically, challenges of brain drain in the health sector is surmountable in spite of paucity of funds and different competing economic sector demand.

Ethnicity, religion, judicial compromise and lack of political will are the bane of Nigeria's fight against corruption. If leaders or those in corridors of power do diligent work on prosecuting corruption cases to the letter, remove loopholes, block misappropriation and mismanagement of funds in all sectors of the economy, and ensure strategic deployment and timely releases of budgeted funds to health related areas; if they prioritise key health infrastructure projects with multiplier potentials; it will not

only curb the challenge of brain drain in the health sector, and medical tourism but will also return the country on the path of economic and institutional growth and development.

Other measures to reduce medical tourism and brain drain challenge include identifying opportunities for tapping into the potentials of Nigerian medical practitioners abroad, sustain and increase partnership with development partners, reform and restructuring of health care service facilities at all levels- Primary health Care, Cottage

Hospitals and the Tertiary health Care institutions.

Contrary to speculations, Nigeria's medical practitioners credible performance in the management of Ebola and Covid-19 pandemic is an attestation to the competency of our gallant medical practitioners. If accorded the needed motivation and encouragement in terms of proper funding, better salary remuneration, provision of adequate work equipment, they would professionally meet the medical need and expectations of many Nigerians to the point where the Country would attract

people from elsewhere for medical tourism. Till then, achieving Sustainable Development Goal; Number 5 is one of the key areas in which government needs to rebirth.

As we mark World Health Day, let's play our quota to stop pollution, desertification, and other harmful practices to safeguard our planet (environment).

Godwin Moses is of Media Action for Health, Environment, and Sustainable Development. (MAHESD)

"Contrary to speculations, Nigeria's medical practitioners credible performance in the management of Ebola and Covid-19 pandemic is an attestation to the competency of our gallant medical practitioners. If accorded the needed motivation and encouragement in terms of proper funding, better salary remuneration, provision of adequate work equipment, they would professionally meet the medical need and expectations of many Nigerians to the point where the Country would attract people from elsewhere for medical tourism".



A worrisome insecurity situation

THE present insecurity level in the country is taking worrisome dimensions with attacks, kidnappings and killings of innocent commuters and citizens becoming a norm.

Plateau is listed among North Central states like Benue, Niger affected by killings and attacks by bandits which usually leaves a lot of devastation. North Eastern and North Western states too are experiencing the same fate including some communities in the south east and western states. Nigerians are yet to recover from the Kaduna train attack that resulted to death and mass kidnappings, many of the victims are still in captivity in the hands of the Bandits.

Government frowned at two attacks that occurred in Plateau last week. The first was in Bassa Local Government and it is one too many in recent times in that area. Lives were lost and properties destroyed. Some communities in Kanam and Wase Local Governments were also attacked by the Bandits over the weekend leaving casualties and a high level of destruction on houses and other properties.

Governor Simon Bako Lalong apart from ordering security to go after the terrorists vowed to make it difficult for them and other criminals to set their bases in any part of



the State and use same to launch attacks on innocent citizens. He described their actions as irresponsible vowing that those behind it will be made to pay a heavy price. He also directed security forces to dominate the areas and stop the bold flow and carnage.

There was also assurances from Little Rayfield that the State Security Council had adopted far reaching measures to strengthen all security measures and enhance the capacity of the security agencies to respond to all situations that cause a breach of the peace in any part of the state, including a promise for justice on the attackers. The State Emergency Management Agency and the Peace Building Agency were mandated to immediately visit the affected areas, assess the situation and provide relief as well as trauma management.

There was also another sad news as the famous Primary School, Kent Academy located in Miango Bassa Local Government Area was affected by a fire inferno, which was caused as a result of electrical issues. The fire had engulfed the school administrative block, and various classrooms, but Lalong condoled the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), owners of the prestigious school over the huge loss promising to support the institution to get back to its feet again.

But the general outcry by the populace on the high insecurity level is to halt the vicious cycle by arresting the attackers and allowing citizens live their normal lives without such intimidation.

Kwande, Dangote celebrate

Last week, Nigeria's former ambassador to Switzerland and elder statesman Alhaji Yahaya Kwande clocked 93. It was also the birthday of Nigeria's richest man and leading business mogul, Alkaji Aliko Dangote who was 65.

For adding a feather to his cap age wise, Lalong commended Kwande for the blessing of good health and for advancing in age so gracefully. He urged the elder statesman to continue impacting positively on Plateau and Nigeria as a whole with his peace advice strategies and philanthropic works and keep being the accomplished selfless politician he has been.

Governor Lalong also congratulated the business tycoon and industrialist Dangote for impacting greatly on Nigeria's economy describing him as a source of pride to Nigeria, Africa and the entire world.



Kwande

News

Kanam killings, one too many

THE Senator representing Plateau Central Senatorial District, Hezekiah Ayuba Dimka on Tuesday, condemned the Sunday attack on some communities in Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State, even as he called for the presence of security in the area.

On Sunday, April 10, 2022 more than 100 persons were killed in the attack, and scores abducted as confirmed by the Executive Chairman, Hon Dr Dayyabu Garba when Senator Dimka visited Dengi, the headquarters of Kanam LGA Monday.

Senator Hezekiah Ayuba Dimka described the horrendous killings and wanton destruction of property as too many, disheartening, sad and unfortunate, however, reiterated his call on the federal government to come to the rescue of the state.

Commissioner of Police called on security agencies to intensify efforts by investigating the masterminds of the killings with a bid to bringing them to book as a deterrent others.

He said, "I wish to most heartily on behalf of the people of Plateau Central condemn these dastardly acts of taking the lives of innocent people and destruction of property and to condole with the families of those who lost their loved ones in the course of these senseless attacks".

Hon Garga told the Senate Committee Chairman on Drugs and Narcotics that he was touched by the barbaric act perpetrated on his people by the bandits who used the land donated to the state government for ranching at Garga to infiltrate the communities that were attacked last Sunday.

Corroborating what Dimka, a retired Senator Dimka said, Hon

-Sen. Dimka

Dayyabu Garga said if the general area was inhabited by security, such an act may not be perpetrated, noting that the terrorists took advantage of the thickly forested area to unleash havoc on the communities.

Presently, the local community in Garga is facing a huge presence of about 6000 internally displaced persons who have taken refuge in homes and primary schools in the area.

Some of the victims are on admission in various hospitals in Dengi and Jos. Already mass burial of the victims took place in the various communities amidst wailing of sympathizers.

Senator Dimka donated bags of millet, sugar, salt and maggi as contribution to alleviate the sufferings of the affected communities.

THE Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP) in Nasarawa State has expressed its gratitude to Governor Abdullahi Sule for clearing all their outstanding arrears of pensions in the state.

Similarly, the Governor has been commended for facilitating the payment of all the 13 local government areas pensioners in the state an action that has made them up to date far as their entitlements are concerned.

The state Chairman of the Union Alhaji Hudu Baba Abdullahi made the disclosure while speaking with newsmen in his office in activities of the union and the response of the state government towards their entitlements.

"So far our members are 100% cleared and based on that we are grateful to the state government for living up to its obligations and called for its sustenance to enable the pensioners continue to reap the fruit of their labour" he stated.

On the issue of retired workers gratuities, the Chairman also commended the state government for the monthly release of 50 million which is being kept safe for three months until it reaches

NUP commends Governor Sule for payment of arrears

N150 million then it would be used to pay the retired workers gratuities on first come first serve basis.

He however explained that certain amount or percentage out of the said monies is being kept a side to take care of their most vulnerable members especially the sick, widows and those with pressing needs among others.

Abdullahi also disclosed that on the part of the Local Government retirees, all the 13 councils do make available N30 million monthly which is saved for the three months until it reaches N90 million then it would be distributed to their retirees in the same pattern with that of the state government.

The NUP Chairman stated that with such arrangements many retirees were settled and smiles were brought back to their faces they assured that on their part they would continue to pursue the welfare of their members with a view to make sure that their labour and contributions to their fatherland during their youthful ages did not go in

FROM MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

vain. "We are highly committed to the welfare of our members to enable them have a sigh of relief by reaping the fruit of their labour," he assured.

Abdullahi who further expressed his gratitude to Governor Abdullahi Sule whom he described as pension friendly Governor, however stated that just like Oliver Twist who always asked for more, they are appealing for an increase in the gratuities payment as well as for the sustenance of the monthly pensions both the state and local governments. In order to keep their confidence alive and also make them fully assured about the commitments of the State Government. towards their welfare

To the pensioners and all retirees, the chairman appealed to them to always remain calm and report all their complaints to the union for prompt support and assistance and also pray for the state and the sustenance of their welfare.

Sports



Ten Hag

What can Man U expect from Hag?

ERIK ten Hag was never really one of those people who made it clear he had massive ambitions to be one of the world's top coaches. He is a very humble man and a modest coach.

That has a lot to do with his background. He comes from the east of the Netherlands where there's a very down-to-earth mentality and where people speak with a very strong accent. They are a bit less flash there and they look up to those from Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague, the places where the big offices, industry and the country's parliament are.

But despite that background - and he does have a strong accent - Ten Hag's situation is different. Financially there is no motivation and no need to go for the big jobs at any stage in his career because he comes from a very rich family, and his father and brothers are multi-millionaires. They own a real estate company and other financial firms.

His father wanted him to go into that company but from a young age Erik was such a brilliant footballer - he was a star for FC Twente as a defender - that he made it clear he had no interest in pursuing that line of work.

However, that family wealth means he doesn't need the big jobs. He knows he doesn't need football to survive so he can follow his own principles, where other managers might compromise to stay in their jobs.

His football philosophy has always been like Pep Guardiola's and Johan Cruyff's. He likes to attack, to create things on the pitch.

I followed PSV Eindhoven for some time when he was the

assistant manager there, just as he was Steve McClaren's assistant at FC Twente. He was instrumental at those clubs. He never tried to push in but the managers were so reliant on him because he was tactically so strong. It was a joy for them to have him and that says a lot about him.

When he was at Bayern Munich as their reserve-team boss he loved it. It was almost like a dream come true for him to have a manager in Guardiola who was working the same way he wanted to work. He said to me once that he loved spending time with Guardiola, loved talking to him. He had to produce players ready for the first team as the reserve manager so that's why the whole set-up worked for him.

Players can find it hard with him because, like Guardiola, he comes across as a bit obsessive. To get a style like you do at Ajax - Dutch Total Football, basically - it needs lots of work and lots of attacking players. It leaves a lot of space and you want your defenders playing really high up. It entails a lot of risk and you have to be a bit of a maniac to instil in your players that every pass has to be just right, that there can be no mistakes.

But his man management is excellent and all his players say they have learnt so much from him.

Whereas many coaches focus on the first XI, Ten Hag will spend an incredible amount of time on the training pitch. At Manchester United he won't just pay attention to the star players like Cristiano Ronaldo or Harry Maguire, he'll also go to the 19th or 20th most important player. He's taken on players with different characters and he doesn't mind how many hours he has to spend with them, he will give all his time to them.

That's where he gets the respect from the players because they see

the effort he puts in to improve them individually. Even with those who have the most difficult background - some kind of baggage, maybe - if he thinks the talent is there he'll make sure they fit in.

He is not scared to take on the Manchester United job. But he will want to be in a tracksuit many hours a day. He doesn't consider himself an office man - if he did he'd have gone in to his dad's company. He would hate to constantly be on the phone to agents, and I have a feeling that is one of the main discussion points about his potential appointment. That's where he'll want a sporting director or an assistant with the ability to do that.

For me, it would be a mistake for him to go down the route of thinking part of his job is fitting into the traditional English way of management.

He will not want to go in there thinking he has to take on the whole of Manchester United. He will want to focus on giving the club an identity again - and he will do that best by putting on a tracksuit.

Another potential issue is that Ten Hag has never felt that comfortable in front of the camera. That will be a challenge and he might find it difficult to get his message across. If he went to a German club - and there is serious interest there - he'd be totally in his comfort zone because where he lives is on the German border. Everyone in that area has German as a second language. English, however, is anything but his comfort zone and in my opinion a manager who takes charge of one of the biggest clubs in the world based in the UK, with all the publicity and media around him, should be able to command the

English language really well. It won't stop him from being successful but it would help enormously if he improved. I understand he's been practising his English a lot.

At the beginning of his time with Ajax my own newspaper was very critical of him because of certain tactical choices and the players found it hard to get used to his very long training sessions and long talks on the pitch.

Yes, he built a good team but by Dutch standards he was given good players. Immediate success was demanded of him but what bowled people over was how Ajax played in the Champions League in 2018-19 against Real Madrid, winning 4-1 at the Bernabeu to knock them out, and against Juventus in the quarter-finals.

But perhaps what impressed the most was that when Ajax sold their best players, Matthijs de Ligt to Juve and Frenkie de Jong to Barcelona, he had given the club and the team such an identity that it was easy for new players to fit in.

If United fans want to know about his approach then one reflection from the man himself might be illuminating.

His idol was Dutch international Epi Drost, who came from the same area and same club as Ten Hag and was his coach at FC Twente.

"Epi had a soft spot for me because I was by far the youngest in the squad," Ten Hag recalled. "He let me play in the U23 team as a 15-year-old. He was a mega fan of skilful and adventurous football. He would stimulate creativity because that was the most important aspect of the game. I learned so much off him."

If I have to compare him to someone I'd liken him to Ronald

Koeman. They both played as central defenders, leaders at the back who oversaw the game and the team from that position. As managers both are massive fans of Total Football but Koeman has never wanted to be as adventurous as Guardiola. If there is one big difference between the Manchester City boss and Ten Hag, it is that the Dutchman has that same slightly more realistic approach that Koeman does. They have one more eye on the defence than Guardiola would.

If he does go to Manchester United then the people he works with will quickly learn that he is a very loyal person - that is one of his key characteristics.

When he started out in the FC Twente academy at around the age of 14, he was quickly moved up to the U18s and he played for many years with the same guys, most of whom stayed mates with him and still are.

But while he was there two of his best friends died, one in a plane crash in Suriname. Andy Scharmin, a boy who was destined to play for the Netherlands,

was selected for an exhibition game by Suriname, who didn't have a formal national team, and he chose to go. The plane he was on crashed and killed a large number of the team. He was one of Ten Hag's closest friends - they did everything together. That was a massive upset in his life.

Another friend took his own life, and a third suffered a horrific injury. All three had looked destined for an international career. That affected him quite a bit and he did draw inspiration from wanting to succeed where his friends never got the chance to.

Sports



Plateau United held by Kwara United in Ilorin

NPFL: Plateau held, Akwa end 3SC winless run

PLATEAU United, on Monday, missed the opportunity to go top of the Nigeria Professional Football League after playing a 1-1 draw at Kwara United in their match-day 22 fixture, while Akwa United ended a five-game winless run, beating Shooting Stars 2-1.

Fidelis Ilechukwu's side faced a tough test in Ilorin and needed to grab the maximum points to leapfrog leaders Rivers United, who have a date at Katsina United on Wednesday.

However, it was Samad Kadiri who grabbed the opener for Kwara in the 14th minute, but the lead lasted just two minutes as Wasiu Jimoh grabbed the equaliser for the visitors.

The result comes as a blow for Plateau, with Rivers having a chance to go four points clear if they win at Katsina.

Meanwhile, at the Godswill Akpabio Stadium, Uyo, Akwa United recorded their first win in six league games with a 2-1 triumph over struggling Shooting Stars.

Babatunde Bello put Akwa

in front in the 14th minute, before Naibe Akpesiri made it 2-0 in the 69th minute. However, it was a nervy ending for the champions after Chidera Eze put one back for the visitors in the 81st minute, but the Uyo-based side held on for a win.

Abdulazeez Yusuf (33), Ahmed Jimoh (40), Sani Abbani (74) were on the score sheet as hosts Gombe United humbled Nasarawa United 3-1 at the Pantami stadium, with Aliyu Abdullahi scoring the consolation goal for the visitors in the 51st minute.

Para Games:

Team Plateau starts on a good note

The first edition of the National Para Games commenced on the 9th April, 2022 at the Moshood Abiola National stadium, Abuja.

Plateau State, alongside twenty-one other states, converged in Abuja to fight for

medals in 15 sports.

Plateau has so far won 1 gold, 2 bronze, to send a clear message to other contenders that it is there for business.

According to Alfred Gonyok, PRO, PSSG in a statement made available to NIGERIA

STANDARD Sport desk, medals were won in Para-Badminton by Mary Nathan and Naomi Chatles, who scooped the gold in the doubles wheelchair event after they subdued their Imo counterparts.

NIGERIA Football Federation has lined up four foreign coaches including a former Barcelona and a former PSG coach for the Super Eagles.

Newsnow said that, Austin Eguavoen took the Super Eagles to the second round of the African Cup of Nations and failed to qualify them for the World Cup.

According to sources close to the NFF, the federation is lining up four choices including Jose Peseiro, whom they had lined up to take over the Super Eagles after the African Cup of Nations.

Former Barcelona manager, Ernesto Valverde, former PSG and France coach, Laurent Blanc and former PSV Eindhoven manager, Phillip Cocu are reported to be lined as possible options for the vacant Super Eagles coaching role.

Valverde won the La Liga with Barcelona and Blanc won the French Ligue 1 with PSG.

The final choice of the NFF is yet to be known as they have been given an ultimatum by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development to find a foreign coach for the national team.

The favourite at the moment is rumoured to be Peseiro which the NFF



Pinnick

NFF line up former Barcelona, PSG coaches for Super Eagles

President, Amaju Pinnick claimed the federation had struck an agreement with in the past.

The NFF has also lined up new coaches for the U-20, U-17 and U-23 teams with regular names still believed to be favourites.

Ladan Bosso is expected to retain his Flying Eagles job while former Nigerian midfielder, Nduka Ugbade is expected to be named the Golden Eaglets' coach.

Fatai Amoo may be headed to the Dream Team where he will be in charge of the

Nigerian U-23.

Former coach, Eguavoen will retain his job as the technical director for another two years as stipulated on his contract.

Eguavoen was reportedly in attendance when the NFF met the ministry last week Monday to chart a new course for Nigerian football.

Nigerians had called on the NFF to sack Eguavoen as TD too as he's not expected to be in greater control of technical duties of the federation after failing to lead Nigeria to the World Cup.

Qatar 2022:

Mexico line up Super Eagles friendly

2022 FIFA World Cup qualifying nation Mexico have scheduled a friendly match with Nigeria as part of their preparations for

the tournament slated for Qatar in November.

Newsnow said that, while El Tri qualified for the Mundial alongside the United States of America and Canada from North America, the Super Eagles failed to make their seventh appearance at the planet's biggest football fiesta.

Nigeria made it to the final African qualifying round for the tournament. Still, the three-time Afcon champions lost out on the away-goal rule to Ghana last month, with the Black Stars joining four other representatives - Senegal, Cameroon, Tunisia, Morocco - from the continent.

The fallout of the disappointing elimination is still rocking Nigerian football, with the Super

Eagles coaching crew already sacked and the President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Amaju Pinnick, under pressure to resign.

But with the search still on for the next Technical Adviser for the Super Eagles, the NFF has sealed an agreement with their Mexican counterpart for a friendly between the two national teams.

Led by Gerardo Martino, El Tri will face Nigeria's Super Eagles in September as part of four friendly games lined up to prepare Mexico for the challenges at the World Cup, according to Medio Tiempo.

In Qatar, Mexico have been drawn in Group C against Argentina, Poland, and Saudi Arabia.



Plateau State contingents at the Para Games



Super Eagles

Sports



Eguavoen,

Eguavoen says long-term contract necessary for new Super Eagles handler

AUGUSTINE Eguavoen, former Super Eagles' Technical Adviser/Interim Coach, on Friday in Abuja called for a long-term contract for whoever will be the team's new chief coach.

Eguavoen told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) needs to do this to ensure the new coach gets the Super Eagles to fly high again.

"I will just say anybody coming in should be given a long-term contract, just like a long-time project," he said on the sidelines of the presentation of Certificates of Occupancy of houses to members of the victorious Super Eagles team which won the 1994 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Tunisia.

Eguavoen said it was going to be difficult to lead the team to success without having a long time to prepare it.

But he noted that the new coach would still have to rely on the present crop of players. "You can't just raise a new team. It's always going to be difficult. Any coach that is coming in now will still work with 90 per cent of these players we have now," the former Super Eagles full-back said.

Eguavoen who apologised for his inability to lead the Super Eagles to qualification for the Qatar 2022 World Cup said the team he handled was still a good side.

"First of all I will like to apologise for our inability to qualify for the World Cup. It's very painful that we didn't

qualify and I know how much we love football in this country.

"But we didn't lose the game. We only lost the ticket, and the fact that it's a World Cup ticket makes it more painful."

He said the fact that lack of time did not allow him to impose his football philosophy on the team was partly responsible for the failure to pick the World Cup ticket.

"I think we didn't have enough time. If we had enough time to bring in new players and see them in friendly games and the coach is able to establish his DNA, I think it would have been better. But we need to move on," the coach added.

Eguavoen, who is still the NFF Technical Director said all attention should

now be on getting a new coach who would ensure qualification for the 2023 AFCON in Cote d'Ivoire.

Already, 46 countries including Nigeria have lined up to compete in the group stage of the 2023 AFCON qualifying competition which begins in June.

NAN reports that the NFF Executive Committee had on Tuesday mandated the federation's Technical and Development Sub-Committee to "within the next five days" recommend a new coaching crew for the Super Eagles. (NAN)(www.nannews.ng) Norway's Casper Ruud won his seventh career title when he beat second seed Diego Schwartzman of Argentina 5-7 6-2 6-3 in the Argentina Open final.

Osimhen, Lookman, Aribi score, Iwobi impressive

In the English Premier League, EPL, new Super Eagles arrival, Ademola Lookman was on the scoresheet on Sunday as Leicester City defeated Crystal Palace 2-1 at the Kings Power Stadium.

Lookman who made his international debut for the Super Eagles on March 25th against Ghana during the 2022 World Cup play-off, scored the opening goal in the 39th minute.

Lookman has scored 7 goals with 6 assists in all competitions for the Foxes this season.

His compatriot, Kelechi Iheanacho who scored against Manchester United in their previous league game had 14 minutes of action after he was subbed-in in the 76th

minute.

At Goodson Park, Super Eagles attacker, Alex Iwobi put up a fine performance as Everton beat Manchester United 1-0 on Saturday to boost their chances of escaping the drop.

The former Arsenal star, Iwobi, was in action for 90 minutes in the keenly contested encounter. The 25-year-old has made 20 league appearances for the Toffees this season with two goals to his name. He has seen more time on the pitch under new manager Frank Lampard than he had previously.

In the Spanish LaLiga, Samuel Chukwueze provided an assist, as Villarreal settled for a 1-1 draw with Athletic Bilbao

The Federal Capital Territory Football Association, FCT FA wishes to congratulate Naija Ratels on their qualification for the 2022 Nigeria Women's Football League, NWFL Super 6.

A press release signed by FCT football association media Department made available to journalists in Abuja.

The FCT FA in a congratulatory message sent to the club's management and players on Thursday, commended them for doing the federal capital proud by picking one of the six slots in the final phase of the 2022 NWFL season.

The Chairman of the Association, Adam Mouktar Mohammed lauded the management for ensuring that the club which played in the championship league last season is now in contention to win the NWFL league and represent Nigeria at the prestigious CAF Women's Champions League next season.

Alhaji Mouktar however, commended the coaches, management and players for working harmoniously to achieve the feat.

"We want to sincerely commend, thank and at the same time congratulate the management, coaches and players of Naija Ratels for qualifying for the 2022 NWFL Super 6.

"Given that this club was established over two years ago, it is a thing of joy that the management have been able to record

Abuja FA congratulates Naija Ratels for promotion

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

pragmatic progress so far. "Just last season, Naija Ratels were in the second tier league of Nigeria women football and today, against all odds, they are in contention to win the league.

"Aside winning the league, they are also in contention to pick the sole ticket to represent the country in CAF Women's Champions League next season.

"We are gladdened by this feat and I make bold to state that the board and staff of the FA will continue to provide enabling environment for the success of the team and every other team within our jurisdiction to

succeed.

"The good people of FCT appreciate the proprietor Barr Paul Edeh Joseph for choosing Abuja as his base and for choosing to run a women's team in our domain. This has helped the football loving people of FCT the opportunity to watch women football again after the disbandment of the Almighty FCT Queens years ago," he said.

Despite losing their final League match 3-2 on Wednesday, Naija Ratels qualified for the Super 6 after placing 3rd in Group A with 18 points from 12 matches.

They played a total of 12 matches, won 5, drew 3 lost 4. The young dynamic ladies scored 19 goals and conceded 15 with 4 goal difference.



Addmola lookman scored for Leicester City on Sunday

in Saturday's La Liga encounter.

The home draw was a huge set back to the Yellow Submarines in their quest for continental ticket at the end of the season.

In the Italian Serie A, Super Eagles striker, Victor Osimhen scored a goal and provided an assist, but that could not save his club, Napoli from suffering a 3-2 home defeat to Fiorentina on Sunday.

Osimhen has now scored 16 goals with one assist in all competitions this season.

In the French Ligue1, Terem Moffi scored 2 goals with 2 assist as Lorient trashed Saint-Etienne 6-2 on Friday. Moffi remains Lorient's

top scorer this season with 7 goals and 4 assists in all competitions.

Super Eagles winger, Simon Moses was in action as Nantes held Brest in a 1-1 draw in Sunday's Ligue 1 game. Moses made his 25th appearance, and has scored three goals with seven assists in all competitions for Nantes this season.

In Scotland, Super Eagles

midfielder, Joe Aribi was on target as Rangers defeated St. Mirren 4 -0 away from home on Sunday.

Aribi scored a spectacular strike in the 76th minute from outside the box with the left foot. Aribi has scored eight goals and registered six assists in 31 Scottish Premier League games for Rangers so far this season.

International friendly
Falcons 2 Canada 2

SPORTS FACTS
Michael Jordan makes a lot of money from Nike. He makes more than what all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia annually make



Quest



writer

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

FRAGMENT

"This reminds me of our own educational visit where back in 1967, at completion of the primary school. Just to remind curious readers that those days, primary school took 7 years to complete. There was the 4 years of junior primary school (Classes 1 to 4) and 3 years of senior primary school (Classes 5, 6 and 7). Not everyone was able to make it to the senior primary school though. You took an examination and only those who passed crossed over to the senior primary school. The rest dropped off completely and remained home to do other things. Senior primary schools were fewer as those who passed the examination had to move to where there was a senior primary school to continue. It appears this was zoned."

PROF. JOSIAH MUTIHIR

Educational visits: Perceived benefits

A passage through the Yakubu Gowon Airport, Heipang, Jos Plateau State these days reminds me of the term 'educational visit'. One sees nicely dressed students of mainly primary schools in different beautifully designed school uniforms lined up according to height or gender adorning the airport. They are there to watch a plane land and or take off at the airport. I am sure they are also given a cursory tour of the airport facilities to also observe and learn how the pilot relates with the ground control while in flight. Fantastic idea, particularly for those who have only read about an airplane in the books or have been told about it by their well-respected class teachers.



Educational visit is defined as a journey by a group of people to a place way from their normal environment. These visits provide educational opportunities for children and can benefit the community. Educational visit however is also referred to as educational tour, field trip or school trip.

The purpose of this field trip or educational visit is usually observation for education, or to provide students with experiences outside the everyday school activities.

This reminds me of our own educational visit where back in 1967, at completion of the primary school. Just to remind curious readers that those days, primary school took 7 years to complete. There was the 4 years of junior primary school (Classes 1 to 4) and 3 years of senior primary school (Classes 5, 6 and 7). Not everyone was able to make it to the senior primary school though. You took an examination and only those who passed crossed over to the senior primary school. The rest dropped off completely and remained home to do other things. Senior primary schools were fewer as those who passed the examination had to move to where there was a senior primary school to continue. It appears this was zoned.

Suffice it to state clearly that where I come from, there were no creches, child-care centres, nursery or pre-primary schools.

In fact, the yardstick for qualification for enrolment into junior primary school was that your right hand passed over your head could touch your left ear, or vice versa using the left hand.

On completion of the senior primary school curriculum, the school educational coordinator informed the graduands of an arranged educational visit to Jos, for which we had to pay a token, and to bring along lunch packs for the trip. This we told our parents, and my dear father gave me money to pay for visit. Don't ask me how much was paid in those days. It must have been in 'kobos'.

We left Panyam early in the morning and drove through the small towns along the way to the almighty Jos. Remember this was the first trip for all of us out of our locality. So, every sight was important. None of us could afford to doze off even for a minute as everything looked new and exciting. The road was untarred all the way to close to Barkin-Ladi, so it was very dusty, but since this was the norm, we were unaware there was any form of dust on our heads, faces and clothes.

Out first port of call was the Champion Sweets Confectionery. Here, we were flabbergasted. We had taken

'sweets' before but did not know it was made of a combination of food items. We probably thought it was manufactured but could not imagine how. Here we saw it as an admixture of many things, firstly in fluid form, then hardened & solidified, pulled into a string form then cut into small pieces and wrapped. We had never seen that process and quantity of 'sweets' before. We were given take-aways of the sweets as souvenirs, though they barely got to our homes. We were simply amazed to put it lightly.

NASCO Fiber Factory: At the time of our visit, Plateau State and Kano State were producing large amounts of cotton and groundnuts on commercial basis and even for export. Jute bags were required to package the cotton and groundnuts for transportation to Jos in trucks. These were then repackaged and moved by train to the Lagos Sea port for export to Europe. The popular vehicles used for this purpose in those days were the 'Mercedes Benz 911' brand of truck. There were no articulated trucks at that time at least in Plateau State. The fiber factory produced these jute bags in large quantities. We were privileged to see the machines that worked tirelessly

to produce the bags from the raw materials (jute) to the finished products (bags). An interesting site, though this did not satisfy our appetite. Blankets were also produced here and served the purpose of counteracting the extreme cold on the Plateau at that time. Privileged homes acquired these blankets for use; and these blankets were requirements by students enrolling into boarding secondary schools.

Jos Airport: The Jos Airport was still at the old site (the now Airforce Boys' Secondary School. Only small aircrafts were handled here. Fortunately, a plane was scheduled to land that day. We were taken to the 'control tower' where the control team communicated with an incoming plane until it landed in our presence. We saw the esteemed passengers alighting from the plane, and also saw the 'miracle' pilots. We had now seen a plane live, and the truth that human beings like us, and not dummies or robots, were in these planes.

NASCO Biscuits: This process went on similar to that of production of the 'sweets'. The quantity witnessed was so much that instead of us developing more appetite for it, the appetite

literally vanished. What a paradox!

Vom Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI):

On our way out of Jos, we went through the Institute. We were taken to two areas of their activity, which were very interesting.

Milk producing Cows:

These, we were told, were imported and looked quite different from the cows we had seen before. They were stout, not too tall, fat, large breasts almost touching the ground. The bull was something else that needs description another day.

The Poultry:

We saw chickens that our minds had never imagined before. All the while, we had only seen our own stray chickens that fended for themselves and were literally all bones from wandering around to find what to eat. These ones were restricted, and in their thousands, plump and some could not even walk by themselves. These they said were broilers. The next room also had a well-organized setup with chickens that were said to be layers. The eggs laid by these chickens were twice the size we were used to.

By the time we concluded our planned visit, there was no iota of doubt that we had fed our eyes properly, became interested in certain professions and had been truly educated in aspects that are beyond being penciled down here. We had been converted from village children to town children and our experiences became the talk of the day among our peers who were unable to make the trip.

I call on schools (Primary and Secondary), Polytechnics, Universities, and other training institutions that are not organizing these trips to do so as they have tremendous benefits to the students. For the higher institutions, it is a perfect avenue for collaborations, linkages and future staff replacements.

Mutihir is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Jos.