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Security architecture undergoing reformation

An end to terrorism and banditry in Northwest is in sight, the Presidency assured Nigerians Monday.

Pointing to the success recorded in the fight

against insurgency in Northeast, it said the escalation of terrorist activities in the Northwest would also be brought under control soon.

The Presidency said there was ongoing re-equipment

and reorganization of the security and intelligence forces.

The North has been reeling under serious terrorism and bandit attacks which have taken a turn for the worse.

There have been daily attacks, including kidnapping for ransom, insurgency, killings and incessant farmer-herder clashes, among others.

In a renewed wave of terror, gunmen on March

26 attacked facilities at the Kaduna Airport, killing an airport worker.

Two days later, terrorists blew up rail tracks on the Abuja-Kaduna route, killing eight passengers, injuring

41 people and abducting

-Presidency

many.

On Sunday, Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese Matthew Kukah slammed the Federal Government for

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Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (right) with Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, Sen. Prof. Nora Ladi Daduut, Sen. Hezekiah Ayuba Dimka and Hon Yusuf Adamu Gagdi on Monday during a stakeholders meeting at the Victoria Gowon Multipurpose Hall, New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, RAYFIELD, JOS

'Mobile shop owners, wolves in sheep clothing'

By PETER TITLE

ACTIVITIES of the Mobile shop owners, mostly dominated by young people from Michika selling all sorts of confectionery, soft drinks and drugs related items are becoming a source of worry and a menace to the society most especially the youths in Plateau State.

They have been described as wolves in sheep clothing.

As a result of the patronage from the youths, their businesses (mobile shops) have flourished to the extent that they go to rural markets selling their wares. This new trade is detrimental to the youths and the society as a whole, residents of Plateau cry out.

An investigation carried out by **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reveals that the mobile shop owners are found at popular spots such as West of Mines Street in Jos North, Apata, Ojukwu Street, Old Airport, Tudun Wada, Kufang, Hwolshe, Bukuru, Rayfield among other places selling what could be termed illicit drugs to the public most especially in the evenings.

Our man reports that, the mobile shop owners could be seen napping in the morning but once it is 4:00 p.m. they come to life with their business activities.

Investigations further revealed that despite the nature of their shops, there is no item that one would demand for and would not get. From sex enhancers to illicit drugs, and that one could easily be attacked by

them if they notice that one poses as a danger to their business.

According to our reporter, a family man who purchased a sex enhancer from one of them at the West of Mines nearly lost his life after taking it. He collapsed while having sex but thanked the people in the hotel, as well as the management of the place who resuscitated him to life.

As a result of that incident according to our source, the culprit repented and vowed never to engage himself in such acts.

Another source also narrated to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** that women often fall victims of the mobile shop owners also. It was revealed that any

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\$418m Paris refund: States warn FG

THE 36 states of the federation have warned the Federal Government not to tamper with funds accruing to them and the 774 local government councils under the guise of satisfying an alleged \$418 million London/Paris Club Loan refund-related judgment debt.

In documents seen on Monday by Channels Television, the states said they

were not parties to any suit on the London/Paris Club refund, and as such were not liable to any person or entity in any judgment debt being relied on by the Federal Government.

Speaking through the body of Attorneys-General of the Federation (AGF), the states warned further that should the Federal Government proceed to make any such deduction, it would be acting illegally and in

contempt of their appeal challenging the judgment.

They gave the warning in an April 4 letter as part of their response to a November 11, 2021 letter from the Minister of Finance, Budget, and National Planning, advertising the commencement of the deduction for the liquidation of the alleged judgment debts.

The reply of the states was signed by the body of AGF

interim chairman, Mr Moyosore Onigbanjo of Lagos State and Interim Secretary, Dr Abdulkarim Abubakar Kana of Nasarawa State as well as the Attorneys-Generals of Rivers, Abia, Taraba, Benue, and Zamfara states, for and on behalf of all the state Attorneys-General.

It reads in part: "Their Excellencies have drawn our attention to your letter

referenced above, which the various states of the federation received at about the end of March 2022.

"The letter notifies the states of your intention to commence deduction from allocations due to the states from the federation account for the liquidation of the London/Paris Club Loan

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IGP Alkali

News

Security architecture undergoing reformation

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allegedly failing to halt the worsening security situation.

Describing the security system as "broken", he accused the government of prioritizing the integration of repentant terrorists over freeing kidnap victims.

The Bishop likened Nigeria to a fully-occupied emergency unit in a hospital.

But, the Presidency appealed to the families of the train attack victims to be patient, assuring them that efforts were on to rescue their loved ones.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity Mallam Garba Shehu told correspondents that much was being done and that the result would soon be apparent.

On the Boko Haram/bandits' alliance and the impression that the security agencies had failed to carry out

-Presidency

President Muhammadu Buhari's orders, Shehu said the current security crisis was a recent development.

Quoting the international terrorism index, he said the Northeast security crisis, which the administration inherited, had been degraded by 90 per cent.

"This is why the military – the defence establishment, is re-strategising. They are reorganising with new technologies.

"We are hoping that in the coming weeks, people will see the real difference. We're hoping incidents, such as the rail bombing, will never again happen," Shehu said.

On success recorded in Northeast, he said: "Virtually all the major roads in Borno State have been re-opened. All the major markets have been re-opened.

"Trading across the border has resumed and if

you see what the international terrorism index indicated recently, more than 90 per cent of Boko Haram terrorism is no longer happening.

"So, that is to say, that things are happening and Nigerians should appreciate the fact that the military, the intelligence and the police are working hard and they are getting results.

"I'm not denying that there has been a spike recently in some states, particularly Kaduna, Plateau, Niger Benue, and to some extent, Zamfara, which has witnessed a calming down of the situation for some time.

"Essentially, you're talking about the government's success in degrading sustainable threats, such as Boko Haram.

"That is not to say that there are not occasional threats; they might strike from time to time and this is in the nature of symmetric warfare.

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woman, who falls in love with one of the mobile shop owners, runs the risk of being drugged and raped.

Another spot that is a source for concern, according to our investigations, is the M.T.D. in Bukuru, Jos South Local Government Area. Unpleasant incidents happened at that spot now and then in spite of the location of a police station in the area.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that there is a particular Joint (beer parlour) at M.T.D. where medical

'Mobile shop owners, wolves in sheep clothing'

students, doctors and children of well to do in the society patronize. It is a business friendly spot for the mobile shop owners who usually supplied them with all sorts of cigarettes and other drugs.

A woman who sells food around the place and who confided in our man said, a well respected medical doctor, is addicted as a result of his patronage of that Joint. She revealed that it took the intervention of his mother who used to lay seize on him, for him to

come out of it.

The public is therefore calling on the Police and National Drug Law Enforcement Agency to always patrol the joints to get rid of the mobile shop owners and punish them accordingly as they have become a menace to the society.

Efforts made by our correspondent to have an interface with the Plateau State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) could not yield result as he was said to have gone out on an official assignment.

W/Bank alerts on danger of rising debts, inflation

THE World Bank has identified debt and inflation as two big problems facing global growth, just as Nigeria grapples with mounting debt issues and skyrocketing 15.92 per cent inflation.

The Bank disclosed that high debt and deficit levels have put countries under severe financial stress, noting that 60 per cent of low-income countries are already either in debt distress or at

high risk of it.

World Bank Group President, David Malpass who stated this at the Spring Meetings 2022 Media Roundtable opening remarks reiterated that "We expect the debt crisis to continue to worsen in 2022".

Malpass said, "I want to say a few words on debt and inflation. These are two big problems facing global growth. Due to high debt and deficit levels, countries are under severe financial stress. Sixty per cent of low-income countries are already in debt distress or at high risk of it."

He recommended his suggestion at the April 13, virtual conference on debt transparency and sustainability, as steps to improve the implementation of the Common Framework.

These included: "Establishing a timeline for forming creditors' committees. Suspension of debt service payments and penalty interest. Expanding eligibility. A simple rule so that it can be evaluated and enforced. Engaging commercial creditors at the beginning of the process."

On inflation, which is

causing immense strain, the World Bank President advised that policies need to be adjusted to enhance supply, not just increase demand.

"I want to turn now to the inflation problem, which is causing immense strain. Policies need to be adjusted to enhance supply, not just increase demand.

"Markets are forward-looking so it's vital for governments and private sectors to state that supply will increase and that their policies will foster currency stability to bring down inflation and increase growth rates. This is especially important as global supply chains shift away from dependency."

The World Bank President called on Central Banks to use more tools under current policies, stressing that the inequality gap has widened materially, with wealth and income concentrating in narrow segments of the global population.

Malpass warned that "Interest rate hikes, if that's the primary tool, will add to the inequality challenge that the world is facing, and added, "Central banks can use more of their tools, not just interest rates. Capital is being misallocated now."

According to the World Bank President, "one of the focal points should be using all the central bank tools so that capital is allocated in a way that helps increase supply. That will be an effective way to address inflation.

"Some of the tools include: Changing the duration of their portfolio; it would be very helpful to shorten it. Encouraging supply through their regulatory policies. Providing forward guidance that fosters currency stability. Other tools as well to powerfully address the inflation problem."

In addition to the high priority that is needed for energy and food production, he said "we must have a global effort to strengthen security and stability. This involves a commitment to security and peace. It involves constant efforts to strengthen institutions to improve their coordination, and to raise living standards."

He decried the issue of fragility as a major risk within the developing world and pledged to discuss all the topics with shareholders and member countries in the spring meetings.

\$418m Paris refund: States warn FG

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refund-related judgment debts on behalf of the 36 states of the federation and the 774 local government councils.

"Please note that the states of the federation were not parties to any contract or suits concerning the London/Paris Club refund, from which the said judgment debts arose.

"Consequently, the 36 states of the federation are not liable to any person or entity in any judgment debt."

The letter noted that the deduction of the allocations due to the 36 states of the federation from the federation

account to liquidate the London/Paris Club Loan refund-related judgment debts is the subject of an appeal filed by the 36 states at the Court of Appeal, Abuja.

It explained that: "The appeal challenges the Federal High Court's (per Honourable Justice Inyang Ekwo) judgment delivered on March 25, 2022 between A.G Abia State v. President, Federal Republic of Nigeria & 42 Ors. and, therefore, the issue is sub judice."

In addition, it noted that the states have also filed a motion on notice for an order of injunction pending appeal.

The letter added that the body's legal representatives had published a public caveat in national dailies notifying the public of the pending appeal, which also advised concerned parties "to desist from dealing with the subject matter thereof pending the hearing and determination of the Appeal and the application for Injunction pending appeal."

It said that given the above, "The law requires you to refrain from taking any step whatsoever that is capable of interfering with the rest of the suit, which is now a subject of an appeal.

"Accordingly, Nigerian case

law enjoins you to refrain from effecting any deduction whatsoever from the allocations due to the 36 states from the federation account for the liquidation of the London/Paris Club Loan refund-related judgment debts purportedly on behalf of the 36 states of the federation and the 774 local government councils, pending the hearing and determination of the appeal by the states of the federation.

"Doing otherwise in the face of the pending Appeal and Motion on Notice for injunction pending appeal shall be at your peril."

National Assembly urges court to retain section 84 (12)

THE High Court lacks the powers to order the deletion of Section 84(12) of the Electoral Act 2022, the National Assembly has told the Court of Appeal.

It urged the appellate court to order the retention of the section, adding that Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court in Umuahia erred in law when she ordered the Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami (SAN), to delete it.

The section provides that "no political appointee at any level shall be a voting delegate or be voted for at the convention or congress of any political party".

In an appeal against the judge's verdict, the Federal lawmakers raised five grounds of appeal on why the court should set aside the March 18 judgment.

It is also asking that the case be heard before the political parties hold their national conventions to select candidates for next year's general elections.

Not determining the appeal before the deadline for the submission of the list of candidates will defeat the purpose of the law, the National Assembly said.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has given the parties June 3 deadline to complete the conventions.

The lawmakers, through their 18-man legal team, led

by Dr. Kayode Ajulo, based their appeal on five grounds, namely:

-The trial judge erred in law and thus acted without jurisdiction by hearing the suit of Chief Nduka Edede without joining the necessary parties.

-The judge erred in law and consequently violated the National Assembly and the Clerk to the National

Assembly's (appellants') right to a fair hearing when being conscious of the existence of their interest -The provisions of Section 66(1)(f), 107(1)(f), 137(1)(g), and 182(1)(g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) relied upon by the judge only relate to public servants and does not include

political appointees.

-The judge determined the merit of the first respondent's (Chief Nduka Edede's) suit without considering his locus standi to institute it.

-The judge erred in law and exceeded her jurisdiction when she ordered the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (SAN), to delete the provision of Section 84(12) from the Electoral Act, 2022 with immediate effect.

The National Assembly said: "The record of appeal confirms that the subject matter of the first respondent's suit before the trial Federal High Court revolves around the determination of the constitutionality or otherwise of Section 84(12) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

"The section regulates the internal democracy of political parties in Nigeria, with particular reference to the conduct of conventions or congress of any political party in Nigeria.





Business & Economy



Aliyu

Partial grid collapse and Nigeria's worsening power crisis

ON April 8, 2022, the national electricity grid suffered a system collapse. And it happened not once, but twice in a spate of three hours. Authorities of the Power Ministry attributed the incident to vandalization. Many parts of the country were thrown into darkness as a result of a resultant power outage. **UMAR FAROUK AHMAD writes.**

THE grid, which has collapsed five times this year, exacerbated the challenges facing the country. The vandalism, which led to the recent grid collapse, happened on a transmission tower on the Odukpani – Ikot Ekpene 330kV double circuit transmission line.

In the wake of the incident, 400MW out of 5000MW of the power produced from the grid was lost.

According to Isa Sanusi, spokesperson to the Minister of Power, Abubakar Aliyu, "This consequently led to a cascade of plants shut down across the country."

For the benefit of hindsight, the recent grid 'crumbling' was a partial system collapse.

Surprisingly, many people think national grid collapse results in a total blackout. But it is not so in reality.

According to the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the grid collapse is divided into two basically; which include the total grid collapse and the partial grid collapse.

The total system collapse according to NERC means a total blackout nationwide while the

partial system collapse is a failure of the section of the grid.

In terms of the effects of a grid collapse, a blackout leads to many problems, including heavy economic losses, and power system equipment damage, among others.

What is electric power system?

An electric power system is a network of electrical components deployed to supply, transfer, and use electric power.

An example of a power system is the electrical grid that provides power to homes and industries within an extended area.

The electrical grid can be broadly divided into the generators that supply the power, the transmission system that carries the power from the generating centers to the load centers, and the distribution system that feeds the power to nearby homes and industries.

A national grid is a network of electrical transmission lines connecting several generating stations to loads over a wide area.

It is designed to operate within certain limits, stability limits, in line with voltage, current, and frequency.

So, whenever these limits are out of the stability range, the operation of the grid will become unstable and can then collapse.

It could also mean a total or partial loss of power on the network, usually caused by a fault significant enough to lead to high frequency.

Weather conditions can also affect the distribution network causing grid instability.

Nigeria has 30 power generating plants connected to the national grid with the capacity to generate 13,500 MW of electricity.

These plants are managed by generating companies (Gencos), independent power providers, and Niger Delta Holding Company.

The grid, managed by the government-owned Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), distributes 4,000 MW, very much less than the 40,000 MW needed to sustain the basic needs of the population.

This deficit is also worsened by unannounced load shedding, partial and total system collapse, and power failure.

To meet demand, many households and businesses resort to purchasing generating

sets to power their properties. This source of energy provided 6,000 MW in 2008.

Causes of Power Grid Collapse

Natural disasters have always been the root of the world's severe power outages. Floods, earthquakes, etc. can fully destroy critical power infrastructures and result in a power outage.

Dust also creates havoc and leads to power outages. Sealed circuit boxes can help in protecting critical electrical equipment and can help in preventing unplanned power outages.

Also, animals coming into contact with the power lines, such as large birds, cause power outages.

The other causes were

primarily man-made outages that show up in the form of vandalism, and vehicle and construction accidents with power poles.

Solutions to Grid Collapse

The smart power grid is the best solution to power grid collapse. It can monitor itself using digital technology. This allows it to balance power loads, troubleshoot outages, and manage distribution without the need for direct intervention from a technician.

Also, Higher voltage lines must be built to catch up with the rising demand imposed by ever-increasing air conditioners, computers, and rechargeable gadgets.

Ahmed wrote From Wuse, Abuja.

slimumar14@gmail.com

"The total system collapse according to NERC means a total blackout nationwide while the partial system collapse is a failure of the section of the grid. In terms of the effects of a grid collapse, a blackout leads to many problems, including heavy economic losses, and power system equipment damage, among others."



Business & Economy

Increasing fuel subsidy puts Nigeria's economy at risk - World Bank



Ahmed

THE World Bank says increasing fuel subsidy puts the Nigerian economy at a high risk as subsidy payments could significantly impact public finance and pose debt sustainability concerns.

The Washington-based lender said this in a new biannual report known as Africa's Pulse.

According to the bank, Nigeria is projected to have a 3.8 per cent growth in 2022, adding that as an oil-dependent country, weak oil production hampers economic recovery.

It added that the increasing fuel subsidy poses a high risk to the country's economic growth, despite the increase in oil prices.

The bank said, "Growth in Nigeria is forecast to increase to 3.8 per cent in 2022 and stabilise at 4 per cent in 2023-24. Real GDP growth was revised up by 1.2 percentage points for both periods compared with the previous forecast. Nigeria's economy is still dependent on the oil sector. Oil-related revenue contributes 40 to 60 per cent of fiscal revenue, while oil and gas account for 80 to 90 per cent of total exports.

"Weak oil production, below the OPEC quota, held back the recovery process. Although at a slower pace than the average seven per cent during the boom period, growth prospects for the Nigerian economy are somewhat bright thanks to high oil prices coupled with reforms initiated by the passing of the Petroleum Industry Act and the completion of the Dangote refinery expected in 2023.

"Risk remains high on increasing fuel subsidies, which could weigh heavily on public finance and pose debt sustainability concerns. Nevertheless, public debt as a percentage of GDP is currently moderate."

According to the World Bank, the high level of oil prices will affect countries that are shielding the impact on their

consumers through fuel subsidies, such as Nigeria and Ethiopia.

It added that the high cost of fuel subsidies, due to the increase in oil prices, may deteriorate the country's fiscal balance.

In 2021, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation said fuel subsidy gulped N1.43tn, although there was no record for under-recovery in January.

The National Assembly has approved N4tn as fuel subsidy bill for 2022, which is an increase of 179.72 per cent over the previous year's subsidy bill.

However, experts have warned the Federal

Government that the N4tn fuel subsidy bill would adversely affect the country's economy.

The Country Director, World Bank, Shubham Chaudhuri, had said Nigeria's decision to postpone the full deregulation of the downstream sector of the petroleum industry by 18 months might cost the country over N4tn in subsidy payments on petrol in 2022.

The World Bank Country Director, however, noted that while the World Bank could come up with advice on subsidy removal, its role was certainly not to dictate as it had no ability to do such.

Chaudhuri said, "With economics, really, you are not meant to make a political decision. What you are meant to do is to lay out what are the cons and consequences of different decisions.

"So that is what we are doing, we are just being very clear that this would come with a fiscal cost and the fiscal cost is the number, perhaps N4tn this year."

He said despite the fact that the price of oil had gone up, the rise in global crude oil prices was not helping Nigeria that much.

Industry figures seen on Sunday showed that the price of Brent, the crude against which Nigeria's oil is priced, was \$118.11 per barrel at 5.06pm Nigerian time, as it traded at the same rate the preceding day.

THE Director General of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Mallam Farouk Salim has said corruption remains the bane in the agency's fight against substandard goods in the country.

The DG also believes that corruption has become a global trend and is not only peculiar to Nigeria.

He stated this over the weekend in Abuja at a colloquium on the theme "Finding a common definition of corruption for Nigeria" organised by Corruption Observatory, a non governmental organisation

Fight against substandard goods hindered by corruption -SON

that advocates good governance.

Represented by the Director, Management Systems Certification, SON, Engr. Felix Nyado, the DG said for corruption to be curbed, "Both public and private institutions should go through an annual audit whereby organisational operations are assessed to identify loopholes.

"A whistleblowing management system standard is crucial, a policy, which the

SON introduced to ensure that whistleblowers are protected against persons involved in production of substandard goods in the country," he added.

Founder of Corruption Observatory, Engr. Ivie Richard advised the government to strengthen the level of compliance with rules and regulations.

He also advised Nigeria to subscribe to international standards on whistleblowing.

Dangote refinery is boosting Nigeria's local content policy

- NCDMB

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) have said that the ongoing construction of the 650,000 bpd Dangote Petroleum Refinery in Lagos is a major boost for Nigeria's local content policy drive.

The leaders of the two organizations who were on a tour of the project recently, also believed that the facility will redefine Africa's largest economy's domestic production of petroleum products.

They further noted that the completion of the refinery will secure the future of young engineers



Dangote

in Nigeria and put them at par with their counterparts in the global oil and gas industry.

Olalekan Olafuyi, National Chairman, SPE, who spoke after the tour of the refinery and petrochemical projects, said the visit was necessitated by the need for members to see the reality of the massive project.

According to him, "much has been heard and written about the refinery. Coming here has given us the opportunity to see the level of construction works, application of world-class technology and massive equipment which are new to the Nigerian downstream oil and gas industry.

"We are amazed by the level of work already done and we are eagerly waiting for its completion. We are happy with what we have seen. Dangote is doing a great job. It is remarkable that a Nigerian company is building a world-class project."

Also speaking, Patrick Obah, the Director of

Planning Research & Statistics, NCDMB, stated that the Dangote Refinery, Africa's biggest oil refinery and the world's largest single-train facility, will contribute to the implementation of the Nigerian content policy through its engagement of Nigerian engineers.

"It is awesome that this kind of project is happening in Nigeria. For the first time, I saw a tank that could hold 120 million litres of liquid at the Dangote petroleum refinery plant. We are indeed happy that we have this kind of facility in Nigeria. The visit is very enriching for members of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the Nigerian Content Board.

"There is no doubt that the project gives inspiration to all visitors who come on a tour of the refinery. The refinery plant gives a lot of hope to Nigerians. It is important for us to grow local capacity that will be able to fit into the energy demand of tomorrow," Obah said

Kaduna-Abuja expressway free of bandits, safe for motorists - Police

THE Kaduna State Commissioner of Police, Yekini Ayoku, has assured all road users plying the Kaduna-Abuja highway that the road is safe for travelling and free from bandits.

Quoting from a statement issued by the Police Public Relations Officer, of the state, Mohammed Jalige, who said that on Monday, that the police commissioner gave the assurance when he embarked on an official confidence-building and assessment tour of the highway.

"Mr Ayoku interacted with the security personnel at various points on the highway where he commended them for their service to the country, assuring them that the Command and the Nigerian Police Force would always look into their welfare.

"Mr Ayoku, however, advised the general public and commuters on the highway to always be prompt in reporting unusual incidents or suspected persons for immediate action."

The Kaduna Abuja expressway became a hotbed for kidnap-for-ransom by gunmen locally known as bandits.

Previous efforts by security agencies have failed to make the road completely safe for commuters and motorists.

Hundreds of travellers have been kidnapped on the 200-kilometre road to the country's capital.

After the security threat on the road became intractable, many travellers switched to using the train service from Abuja to Kaduna.

However, on March 22, gunmen attacked a Kaduna-

bound train killing at least nine persons and abducting several others. Several passengers were also injured during the attack.

After the attack, the government suspended the operation of the train service and commuters who had avoided using the dangerous road started using the road.

Since the attack on the train, the police have increased patrol and checkpoints on the road.



IGP Alkali



Business & Economy



Inequality: Obstacle to inclusive growth in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the gap between the rich and the poor has continued to grow very wide. The height of economic and gender inequalities has reached extreme levels. It shows in the daily struggles of the majority of Nigerians. The disadvantaged majority, who are poor due to economic and gender inequality in Nigeria, can hardly contribute to growth and development. FELIX ASHAKAH WRITES

Inequality is the gap in social status, wealth, or opportunity between people or groups which makes them produce different results. Inequality is in two perspectives; gender inequality and economic inequality. Gender inequality means differences in the roles or activities considered appropriate for men and women. Economic inequality denotes a gap in wealth and income holding of men and women. Wealth is the net personal material possession, and income

is the amount of money received, especially regularly, for work done or investments undertaken.

Inequality has hindered inclusive growth and development in Nigeria. It concentrates wealth in the hands of the few at the disadvantage of the majority. Over 90 million Nigerians are poor; they live below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) confirmed that in 2020, 40 percent or 83 million

Inequality is in two perspectives; gender inequality and economic inequality. Gender inequality means differences in the roles or activities considered appropriate for men and women. Economic inequality denotes a gap in wealth and income holding of men and women. Wealth is the net personal material possession, and income is the amount of money received, especially regularly, for work done or investments undertaken. Inequality has hindered inclusive growth and development in Nigeria. It concentrates wealth in the hands of the few at the disadvantage of the majority. Over 90 million Nigerians are poor; they live below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day.

Nigerians were poor.

The data released by the NBS suggested that the number of poor Nigerians exceeded the total populations of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, and Eswatini. The poor contribute very little or nothing to national growth in every economy.

The level of poverty in Nigeria shows that economic growth is not inclusive. The World Bank (WB) report further stated that about 7 million Nigerians would fall into poverty in 2021. By these reports, about 90 million Nigerians were below the poverty line in 2021.

Inequality in Nigeria is not a result of a lack of resources, but the misappropriation of resources and corruption among the political elites who are out of touch with the daily struggles of Nigerians.

One of the causes of inequality in Nigeria is the high cost of governance. According to Oxfam International, Nigerian lawmakers are the best paid globally. Their average annual salary is the highest. The cost of maintaining the machinery of government in Nigeria is also the highest. The high cost of governance aggravates inequality because few resources will be left to provide

basic essential services for the growing Nigerian population.

The opportunities available to the children and relatives of the political class are unmatched. They attend the best schools overseas, eat the best food, and subsequently get the best jobs in the Nigerian Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

The vulnerable do not get jobs in public and private organisations after struggling to graduate from Nigerian universities because the political class has deliberately neglected the education system in Nigeria. The NBS report showed that 42.5 percent of Nigerian youth were unemployed by the end of 2020. This shows the height of inequality in Nigeria.

Inequality causes social tensions, violence, and increased crime rates in Nigeria. Inequality also perpetuates corruption because the average new entrant into politics; holds that politics is the quickest means of making wealth in Nigeria. Inequality contributes to the low growth rate in Nigeria. The unemployed youth could have been engaged in economic activities to contribute to national growth. The rising level of inequality in Nigeria poses threats to Nigeria's unity and

stability and its ability to eradicate poverty. Youth emigration has recently increased due to economic inequality in Nigeria. The migrated youth would have joined forces to boost growth in Nigeria.

It is high time the Nigerian government embarked on policies and laws to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor in Nigeria. A fight against inequality will help to reduce the crime rate, social tension, youth emigration, youth unemployment, poverty, and strengthen national unity.

The Nigerian government should create a Nigeria where the sons and daughters of nobody can get jobs in the MDAs with apparent ease. The government should allocate adequate funds to the education, health, industrial and agricultural sectors annually to revive the ailing economy.

The degree of economic and gender inequalities has reached extreme levels. Many Nigerians are poor; they can hardly contribute to economic growth and development. No doubt, Nigeria stands to post impressive growth rates by eliminating inequality in the system.

Politics

Alleged KEDCO MD's Sack: Handwork of my political opponents -Gwamna

From WALLIE ATTAH,
Gombe

MANAGING Director of Kano Electricity Distribution Company (KEDCO) and a top PDP Governorship aspirant in Gombe State, Dr. Jamilu Isyaku Gwamna has described the news of his alleged sack from KEDCO as the handiwork of his political opponents.

He has also threatened to take legal action if the news medical that released the report do not retract the report within seven days.

Social media platforms were awash with the news on Thursday (14/04/2022) that Dr. Jamil Isyaku Gwamna had been relieved of his duties owing to financial mismanagement and incompetence.

But reacting to the report, Director of Publicity in Jamilu Gwamna's campaign organization, Ibrahim Sani Shawai in a release, described the report as fake news that has dangerous and toxic intentions.

According to him, the news which was not only fake and toxic, was baseless, unfounded and untrue and should be seen as the handiwork of opposition to Gwamna's ambition of becoming Governor of Gombe State. The statement indicated that the fake publication was politically-motivated to demarket Dr Gwamna, being a political heavy weight and a top aspirant of the PDP vying for the governorship seat in Gombe State.

It said, Dr. Gwamna has



Gwamna

made a lot of impact and investments in youth and women and enjoys sheer love of the ordinary people.

An achievement that is seen by opposition as a serious threat, hence, they have resorted to fake publicity to harm his political image.

"To put the record straight, KEDCO under Dr Gwamna's leadership had made highly impressive achievements, building the company to one of the best DisCos in the country, hence, the grounds that he was sacked because of financial mismanagement, is nothing but well fabricated lies aimed at suppressing the very impressive CV of Dr Gwamna", Shawai stated.

The statement further reads, "In view of his political ambition to become the next governor of Gombe State, Dr Gwamna will soon resign to face his political ambition based on the guidelines from the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) in order to commence full scale

political activities.

"However, he has not resigned, but will do that and inform the public accordingly and even if he resigns, he is still the MD of Sahelian Energy, a company which owns 50% of shares in KEDCO", it stated.

The reaction states further, "It should be placed on record also, that any news of sack of such high profile personality, will be done through the Board and the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) and not from unserious online platforms which are the only source of such baseless information.

"It is also good to note that fidelity bank has not in any way taken over the management and activities of KEDCO as it was insinuated by the online media.

"These news outlets and their management by this release have seven days to apologise and withdrew such unfounded news or face the legal consequences of this malicious publication aimed at serving whatever interest they so wish", it concluded.

From VICTOR GAI,
Jalingo

A business mogul and philanthropist, Chief David Sabo Kente, has formally declared his intention to contest for the governorship of Taraba State in 2023 under the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Kente who made the declaration at his office, the DSK Foundation in Jalingo, promised to "rescue the rescuer", alluding to the 'rescue mission' of the Ishaku-led PDP government in Taraba.

While addressing journalists, Kente disclosed why he decided to put his hat in the ring this time around considering his failed attempts in the past.

"In 2015, many events happened that culminated to my being denied ticket which led to my going to SDP. But I discovered it was a small party and had to move to APC. We are

hoping that by the electoral law, we are going to have primaries. I have consulted with my constituency. I think I have consulted enough and don't think I will be robbed," he stated.

Kente also spoke on the controversial zoning issue in the State and his chances. Although, he did acknowledge the fact that it was the turn of the northern zone to produce a governor since the southern zone has had eight years, he said Tarabans deserved more than that.

"I will tell you Taraba is so devastated that Tarabans are not talking of zoning. You need one with competence. For fairness, some of the elders met us and by logic we are supposed to allow power to go to the north. But I am surprised that people from the north went to the south looking for

people. And in APC, we don't do zoning. We in APC don't believe in zoning. We look for the best to lead us," Kente added.

Kente also said that as an accountant with over 30 years experience, he has an "economic blue print" for the State which he promised to unveil soon.

He then called on the need to live in peace and ensure fairness to all, saying whenever there is crisis, there are elements of unfairness.

The former gubernatorial candidate under the SDP also charged party stakeholders to "close ranks so that we can have hitch free elections"

Kente also pleaded for decorum. He warned the party to be wary of "aliens" who may come and destabilise the party.

Report suspicious persons visiting the state -Ishaku

From VICTOR GAI,
Jalingo

TARABA State governor, Darius Ishaku, has called on the people to be extra vigilant considering "the alarming spate of kidnappings, killings and other forms of crimes and criminality going on in the country, particularly in neighbouring states and communities". He also advised the people to report suspicious persons visiting the state to security agencies for prompt action.

Gov. Ishaku, in his Easter message signed by the Special Adviser to the Governor, Media and Publicity, Bala Dan Abu, felicitated with Christians in Taraba State, Nigeria and the entire world on Easter.

He called on Christian to "ponder over the lessons and the significance of this great act of humility and sacrifice demonstrated by Jesus Christ during his trial and crucifixion".

Ishaku also "expressed happiness for the return of relative peace to Taraba State and praised the people for their support for his administration and the security agencies which made this and other landmark

achievements of government in infrastructure development possible.

He also advised politicians seeking election to go about it peacefully and to respect the rights of fellow contestants to also vie for

same positions.

The governor also called on all "Tarabans to pray for God's intervention in the political transition process that is about to start in the state, especially in the choice of leaders who will take over the mantle of leadership from his administrations".



Ishaku

Fintiri charges christians on love, sacrifice

RESIDENTS of Adamawa State have been called upon to show love to one another and to

From GYANG PAM, Yola

equally make sacrifices for each other.

Extending his felicitations to all especially Christians on the occasion of this year's Easter celebrations, the Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri says Easter symbolises God's redemptive mission over humanity.

According to him, the occasion also is triumph of light over over darkness, hope over despair and good over evil.

Fintiri therefore urged residents of Adamawa state to use the opportunity that the festivity offers for the overall good of the society.

"As we therefore celebrate the Easter in sober recollection of Christ's crucifixion, let us think about how we can each help another to steer our State and the nation back on the road to peace by working in the spirit of oneness", he says.

He urged all to remain vigilant and abide by the laws while also demonstrating acts that point to moral rectitude.

Fintiri lamented that many could not travel due to harsh condition and unfortunate killings, kidnapping and violence therefore called for unity and resilience

2023 elections: Medical personnel joins race

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,
Gombe

AHEAD of the 2023 general elections, a Professional Medical Practitioner Dr. Yahya Bawa Ubam has thrown his hat to the ring indicating his interest to contest for the House of Representatives for Karu, Keffi and kokona Federal constituency with a pledged to provide a purposeful and result oriented representation that would yield unto the people the dividends of democracy.

Making his intention known while speaking with newsmen in Keffi, Ubam who is contesting under the auspices of the All Progresses Congress (APC) stated that he decided to join the race based on the clarion calls from the people of the constituency and capacities to give the a

good representation in the green chambers.

"The decision to make myself available for the contest of the House of Representatives was based on my desire to provide a purposeful and result oriented representation having been called upon to do so by the people of my constituency" he explained.

He stated that as a person that is always ready to serve, he has made himself available for the contest and expressed the satisfaction that so far he been making a significant in- road across the constituency as people were coming willingly to identify with his aspirations

On the areas he would focus most if elected Dr.

Ubam, who is a consultant gynecologist with several years of working experience pledged to give emphasis to the development of health care delivery services by making sure that health care services were taken to the door- steps of the various communities as well as conduct medical outreaches to enable the less privileged members of the society access medical care with the minimum ease.

The House of Representatives hopeful also disclosed that education would also be given the needed attention by facilitating the establishment of more educational institutions at various levels both through legislative efforts as well as his personal or constituency contributions

in order to create synergy with the state and the local government council in the constituency.

Ubam further assured that if elected he will present a bill before the House that would compel the Federal Government and the authorities of the Federal Capital Territory to extend their development activities like infrastructure and the provision of basic social- amenities to the people of his constituency especially Mararraban - Gurku among others which they share borders and most of their workers are the residents of the areas,

"It is quite imperative to compel the Federal Government and the authorities of the Federal Capital Authorities to extend their developmental activities to my constituency especially

Politics

Eggon community urged to unite for guber ambition

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

As the preparations towards the 2023 general elections continue to gather momentum in Nasarawa State, the Eggon communities in the state have been advised to be cautious and put their house in order to actualize their dreams of having one of their own to be the next occupant of the number one seat of the state.

A chieftain of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Keffi Local Government Area of the state, Alhaji Mohammad Nasir KB gave the advise while speaking with newsmen about the ways and manner in which they (Eggon gubernatorial aspirants), are coming out to declare their interest without proper organization.

He lamented that even as they (Eggon) politicians want one of their own to become the governor of the state this time around (2023), if they fail to organize and co-operate, they would stand to fail in their ambitions.

Even as the Eggon people have the desire or ambition to occupy the number one



HRH Angbazo

seat of the state what is very imperative is for them to co-operate with themselves and avoid selfish interest or inordinate ambition that would take them nowhere because this would be their last chance especially that they come from the Nasarawa North Constituency where the governorship is zoned to.

He further advised them to strive hard and develop a large heart by embracing all people in the state with a view to win their support and secure the majority number of the votes to

actualize their dream.

KB therefore appealed to the states Chairman of the party to wade into the matter with a view to trim down the number of their aspirants just as done in other states where people of the same tribal background where trim down to size to make their dreams realizable one.

He stated that as the PDP is now ever determined to win the the number one seat of the state, it cannot afford to fold its arm and allow the party to loose its chances.

SUPERVISORY Councillors and Special Advisers in Karu Local Government Council of Nasarawa State have been tasked to always demonstrate a high sense of commitment, dedication and patriotism in the discharge of the responsibilities.

They have also been tasked to uphold the virtues of trust, transparency and justice so as to justify the confidence reposed in them.

The Executive Chairman of the Council, Hon James Thomas gave the charge while performing the inauguration ceremony of the council members at the youth centre in Karu during the week.

He stated that they were appointed based on their competence, patriotism and passion for development, and as such he called on them to bring these qualities to bear in the responsibilities shouldered on them.

"Your appointment to serve as our aides, you are expected to collaborate and synergize with us in the discharge of the mandate given to us by the good and peace loving people of Karu Local Government Area to achieve peace, unity and development," he state:

Thomas explained that his administration thrust which is in tandem with the leadership motive of their principal, Engineer Abdullahi Sule, the Governor of the State which was anchored on competence, patriotism and justice, where everyone and

Councillors, SAs tasked on dedication to responsibility

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

segment under its jurisdiction is carried along in the scheme of governance.

"Through this, I so much believed that the expectations, yearnings and aspirations of our people will be adequately met by God's grace" he observed.

On the forthcoming elections in the country, the chairman solicited that as the 2023 elections is almost at hand, he appealed for their support and collaboration towards ensuring that Governor Abdullahi Sule and other candidates of APC emerge victorious.

"Our amiable Governor since assumption of office, has been doing marvelously well, and there is every need to re-elect him 2023 to enable him continue that excellent work he has been doing" he pleaded

The chairman then used the occasion to express his appreciation to the people of Karu Local Government for the mandate given to them to serve as chairman, and the

unflinching support he enjoy, from the religious and the traditional rulers, including gallant security officers.

Responding on behalf of the four Supervisory Councillors Hon Hamza Sani thanked the chairman for the trust and confidence reposed on them and assured that they would strive to do their best at all times in order to justify the confidence and trust given to them.

Sani who is Supervisor for Health however solicited for the continued support and prayers so as to take the Local Government to the next level of peace unity and prosperity for the betterment of all and Sundry.

Meanwhile, those appointed and their areas of supervision are Hon Hamza Sani Health, Hon Danlami Thomas, works, Hon Prince Emmanuel Cheto Social Service

Similarly, Isa Mohammed and Hon Dauda Karshi who doubles as the Deputy Chairman are to serve as Supervisory Councillors for Agriculture and National Resources and Education respectively.



Sule

Yagba APC endorses Fanwo for House of Reps

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE executive members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Yagba Federal Constituency, have endorsed Hon. Kingsley Femi Fanwo as the party's candidate for the House of Representatives in 2023 elections.

Hon. Kingsley Femi Fanwo is the Kogi State Commissioner for Information and Communications.

The endorsement was made recently when Fanwo and his team paid a Consultation visit to APC Exco in Mopamuro and Yagba West Local Government Areas of the state.

In his remarks, Fanwo said the consultation visit was to officially make known his intention to represent the good people of Yagba Federal Constituency, and solicit for their support. According to him, as far as Yagba Federal Constituency is concerned, Fanwo is part and parcel of the people especially the grassroot.

He expressed his confidence in the people to ensure his victory both at the primary and the general

elections.

He urged his supporters to ensure peace and avoid quarreling with supporters of other aspirants, saying, "We are all one and working towards the progress of our party and constituency." "We need the support of everybody in the party as well as in the opposition."

He appreciated the people for their massive turnout to honour his consultation as well as the endorsement, saying he would not disappoint them, and further urged the people to support the presidential ambition of Governor Yahaya Bello, while appealing to Yagba delegates to fully support the governor from GYB2PYB.

Responding, the APC Chairman, Mopamuro LGA, Hon Charles Omoyele, said Kingsley Femi Fanwo (KFF), is their leader and their own, hence the massive turnout of party members to welcome him and his team. He urged the people of Mopamuro to unite and forgive one another, saying, "let us unite and support KFF, because he is our own and we must take it as our project".

Also speaking, the Executive Chairman, Mopamuro LGA, Hon. Sunday Alumo, urged the people to rally round Fanwo and support his ambition because he is their son.

He enjoined the people to unite and support their own always stand by the truth, and remember God in

whatsoever they do.

On her part, the Asst. Women Leader, APC Mopamuro, Mrs Imole Suwale, said it was a privilege to have one of their own contesting for House of Representatives, and admonished the people to unite together and support his ambition.

'Vote for credible, reliable, honest leaders'

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

AS Nigerians prepare to go to polls and vote for new sets of leaders come 2023, they have been tasked to vote for

only credible, reliable and honest leaders that would live up to their expectations in delivering unto them the

dividends of democracy in proper perspectives.

A former member of the House of Representatives from Keffi-Karu-Kokona Federal Constituency, Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada gave the charge while speaking during the ongoing Ramadan Tafseer at the Central Mosque of the Jama'atu Izalatil Bidiah Wai Kamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS) in Keffi on Sunday.

He urged the voters to resolve to vote for only leaders that can deliver unto them the dividends of democracy not the ones they know or the political parties they belong to.

Wadada stated that he decided to throw his hat into the ring to vie for the position of Senator to represent Nasarawa West Zone of Nasarawa State at the forthcoming elections based on clarion calls from the

people of the constituency and his desire to serve the people just as he did during his time at the Green Chambers. He assured that he would pursue his aspirations with decorum.

"Even as I have decided to vie for the Senate, the people have the right to exercise their franchise as such it is going to be an avenue for people to practice democracy in the best way" he stated.

He then expressed his gratitude to the leadership of the (JIBWIS) for providing a platform whereby the ongoing Tafseer would be successfully delivered to the Muslims faithfuls so as to enable them hear the words of their creator and change their lives for the better.

The senatorial hopeful then announced the donation of a vehicle to them to enable them conduct their activities.



Wadada

IMAGES

FIDELITY BANK HOSTS CUSTOMERS AND GUESTS TO PARLEY

The programme of event by Fidelity Bank, CBN R200FX Policy Sensitization, Emerging Sector issues and Implications to business took place last week at the Crispian Hotels, Rayfield, Jos with the Theme: Harnessing Export Business opportunities



Representative of the Bank's Executive Director, Alhaji Sadi Zawiya, Regional Bank Head, Fidelity Bank (left) welcoming the representative of Governor Lalong, Hon. Jerry Sauni Werr, Commissioner, Special Duties to the event



MD/CEO, Plateau Investment and Property Development Company, Chris Yilzak (right), Dr. Haggai Gutap, Head, Technical Administration, Plateau State Cares Coordinating Unit and the Fidelity Bank, Jos Head, Steven Uchendu (left)



Alhaji Sadi Zawiya, RBH who stood in for the Executive Director, North Directorate, Alhaji Hassan Imam (right) in a handshake with the representative of Minister of Solid Minerals, Sunny Ekezin, SA (left) and Mr. Steven Uchendu, Branch Leader of SBU Fidelity Bank Plc (middle)



A cross section of members of the high table listening to power point presentations



Nde Ezekiel Gomos, OFR Chairman, Plateau State Economic Advisory Council (left) with His Royal Highness, Engr. John Gabriel Mallo, Saf Butura, Bokkos LGA at the Fidelity Bank Plc business parley



Commissioner of Mineral Development, Hon. Jude Eli Dakur (right) with Engr. Benjamin James Gotan, Director, Mineral Investment at the ceremony



A cross section of customers and guests at the occasion



Plateau State Governor, represented by Hon. Jerry Sauni Werr, (with cap) Mr. Danjuma H. Namang, Director, Financial Reporting and ICT (right) who stood in for the Commissioner of Finance, Nde Ezekiel Gomos, OFR, State Economic Advisory Chairman (left) and others in a group photograph after the occasion

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Politics

On the state pardon for Dariye, others

During the last Council of State meeting which took place at the Aso Rock Villa on April 14, 2022, former governor of Plateau State, Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye (Kawun Mushere), Ex-governor of Taraba State, Rev. Jolly Nyame and many others were granted State Pardon. In 2018, the duo of Dariye and Nyame were separately convicted and their convictions upheld by the Supreme Court in February 2020 and March 2021 respectively. This consequently led to them being confined behind bars to serve jail terms of 10 and 12 years respectively. AYUBA YILGAK'HA writes.

A jail term is a period of time a convicted person is made to serve in prison confinement (correctional centre) as penalty for crime(s) committed and established by a court of competent jurisdiction. The sentence could be a life one depending on the gravity of the offence and partly the discretion of the presiding or final deciding judge. Once the case has been decided and conviction secured, only the National Council of State could reverse it through royal prerogative of power.

The National Council of State in Nigeria is made up of the President who is the Chairman; Vice President (Vice Chairman); Secretary to the Federal Government of Nigeria; all former Presidents of the Federation and all former Heads of the Government of the Federation; all former Chief Justices of Nigeria; President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; all the Governors of the 36 states of the Federation and the Attorney-General of the Federation (Nigeria Galleria, 2021).

The responsibilities of the Council of State as reported in online Wikipedia are broadly two fold. The first is to advise the President in the exercise of his powers with respect to the: National population census and compilation, publication and keeping of records and other information concerning the same; Prerogative of mercy; Award of national honours; the Independent National Electoral Commission (including the appointment of members of that Commission); the National Judicial Council (including the appointment of the members, other than ex-officio members of that Council); the National Population Commission (including the appointment of members of that Commission). The second is to advise the President whenever requested to do so on the maintenance of public order within the Federation or any part thereof and on such other matters as the President may direct.

Following entreaties and appeals from various quarters, the council of state activated its prerogative powers in granting State pardon to 159 persons out of 162 requests laid before it at its last seating on April 14, 2022 at the state house Abuja.

State Pardon is a government decision to allow a person to be relieved of some or all of the legal consequences resulting from a criminal conviction (Wikipedia). It could be partial or total (absolute) pardon. Absolute Pardon is described as



Dariye

"the total extinction of the criminal liability of the individual to whom it is granted without any condition whatsoever resulting to the full restoration of his civil rights."

Amongst the prime beneficiaries of the total pardon were these two termed former governors of Plateau and Taraba States who were first convicted by a high court in 2018 and their separate convictions upheld by supreme court around March, 2021. It was cheering news for men of goodwill, friends and well-wishes of these freed men.

Some of the early reactions posted on social media in respect of Sen. Dariye's pardon reads: "Victory at last", "To God be the glory", "In endless jubilation!", "...my explosive excitement of the cheering news of State Pardon granted His Excellency, Chief. Sen. Dariye", just to sample a few of those cheering commentaries. Across party, ethnic and religious lines, all lovers of freedom and grace of God, especially, in Plateau State are visibly happy.

The release of Sen. Dariye and Ex-Governor Nyame correspond with the the commemoration of Easter celebration. Easter is a Christian memorial ritual which reflects on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ whom in Christendom is believed to be divinely designed to redeem mankind from the bondage of sin for which man stands condemned after violating God's instruction

in the Garden of Eden.

The report of this deviation from the law of God which amounts to act of gross offence punishable by death is fully reported in the scriptures. In Genesis 2:15-17, God had placed Adam and Eve in the Premier Garden of Eden with prompt instructions to work it; eat from it but not from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" for doing so will attract the death penalty. This clear instruction was stubbornly violated and so God passed the verdict against the eating of the "forbidden fruit", the summary of which is that man shall suffer and die (Gen 3:13 -20). In this place, God was playing the role of a judge.

When God's law, natural laws or human laws are violated, there are consequences ranging from serious to less serious ones. The effect of the Adamic sin against God is extended through our generation today. When men are fated to take in oxygen and give out carbon dioxide but stubbornly take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen, a natural law is violated and the penalty is instant death. A citizen who violated state laws and found guilty will be made to face the full wrath of the law or appropriate sanctions.

Judges are men before God and gods before men. Their verdict is final except otherwise reversed by a higher judge. A judgement can only be set aside or invalidated when a higher court so declares. This is possible because the court

system is structured in such a way that we have courts of first instance, then courts of appeal and the supreme court which is the final in a country. Therefore, a matter can be pursued up the supreme court and once the court decides whether rightly or wrongly, the fate of those for whom the verdict is passed is sealed.

The only escape route or window of hope and freedom for a person whose crime has been established and convicted in a country like Nigeria is state Pardon which Dariye and Nyame enjoyed recently remember, Ex-governor Diepreye Alamieyeseigha of Bayelsa of blessed memory enjoyed such pardon under President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's regime in 2013 before he later died in 2015.

State Pardon is freedom from the penalty of crime. It is a metaphor for grace and freedom from the penalty of sin which is total condemnation. The benefit of Easter is the divine pardon which sinful men enjoy through the shameful death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When a state grants pardon for any criminal, the criminal stands free no matter how guilty or implicated the criminal is. That is how powerful state Pardon can be. So also, when God grants man pardon from sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Easter), man stands free, and free indeed, provided the guilty confess and profess that Jesus is Lord and saviour of the world.

The reason Christ came is explicitly stated in Isaiah 61:1 which says (in relation to the coming of Jesus Christ), "The spirit of the Lord God hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those that are bound." That is just it.

The message of Easter is just one: Jesus Christ paid the supreme price for the redemption of mankind through his death and resurrection. We are, therefore, charged to appropriate the benefits of this generous act of benevolence of God by living to please God and service the greatest good of humanity through love. We are to love our neighbours as ourselves; give someone, and if possible everyone, a genuine and godly reason to smile today and always.

Ex-governor Dariye has gone through a lot. His life story as governor was featured with demeaning experiences of

needless and illegal impeachment as well as state of emergency. After serving as governor, he was convicted and imprisoned; his father was abducted twice while in prison and was subsequently killed by his abductors, some of whom were his kinsmen. His life has been knitted with a tangle of roses and thorns.

Chief Dariye has his own dose of shortcomings but certainly not the worst sinner to have gone through these traumatizing experiences as some pundits have insinuated. He has passed through fates this author cannot wish his worst enemy (if there are, actually, any such enemies). Anyway, sometimes life opens pages like that to test the strength of might of the victim of circumstances of life but nobody wishes to go through such furnace. The good news though is that Dariye went through scourging travails of this life and came out still himself: A strong mind and a generous Plateau son with high tempered steel to be leader for all!

The State Pardon Dariye, the "Head boy of Plateau Politics" and others got and are enjoying today is a metaphor for hope to those who are incarcerated. It is hoped that when things get so bad; they can still come so good. It is a sign of hope that one can be behind bars today and be a freeman tomorrow. It is also a sign of hope that being convicted and jailed is not the only story; one can be convicted jailed and then granted State Pardon. It is possible, it is possible it is possible, as long as there is life, hope is not lost.

Dariye is free, free at last. I do not believe that he is the worst criminal before God and Nigeria/Plateau State. We are all guilty, if not against man and state, against God who created us all. We all need pardon from man, state and/or God the Ultimate Judge of the universe. Those whom the state has pardoned, have no case to answer; those whom God has freed are free indeed!

I wish Plateau legend and former military administrator, JD Gomwalk of blessed memory had made the state pardon bonanza list but he did not after about five decades of crying for posthumous justice. Anyway, congratulations to Sen. Joshua Dariye, Ex-governor Jolly Nyame and all those affected the State Pardon. Also, happy Easter celebration to mankind, the prime beneficiary of the grace of God through Jesus Christ. I love you all!

NEWS

Christians tasked on thanksgiving

By FWENJI GO'AR & HOSEA NYAMLONG

General Secretary of Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), Rev. Asso Prof. Benjamin Pokol has urged Christians to always give thanks and praise to God.

He disclosed this during Rev Zamson Yakubu Gwong's Golden Jubilee/50th birthday Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and 55 million naira fund raising towards the building of a Children Sunday School block at COCIN Local Church Council (LCC), Kangang, Dadin Kowa in Jos South Local Government Council, last Sunday.

In a sermon titled "A life of Grace, and no more", he said that we should acknowledge that the Lord is God, he created us in his image and we belong to him.

Pokol, who was ably represented by the chairman of COCIN Provincial Church Council (PCC), Jos Rev. Gyang Bot, said that Gwong, the celebrant, who has deemed it fit to appreciate the grace of God upon his life by investing in what would promote the kingdom of God through the Sunday School project, where the future Church will be raised, deserves a pat on the back.

He took his Bible reading from the book of Psalms chapter 100 verse 3 through 5 Where he encouraged believers in Christ to cultivate the habit of giving thanks and praise to God for HIS grace upon our lives, because many children that



Gwong

were born the sametime with us have died, but today we are alive and healthy because of his grace.

Bot, encouraged members to make use of this opportunity to be part of God's blessings to raise godly children in our generation by offering their resources to sustain the vision that God has laid in the heart of the celebrant.

He added that giving is the key that unlocks God's blessings in our lives and he also admonished parents, especially fathers to ensure that they take up their responsibilities to train up their children in a godly way, training of children should not be left only to Sunday School teachers

alone, many parents today have neglected the training of their wards to the World.

Earlier in their different goodwill messages, Dagom of Rantiya, Da Gyang Pwol, Dr. Patrick Dakum, Chairman COCIN Literature Committee and Rev. Mudimka Seri, COCIN RCC Chairman Dadin Kowa, appreciated the celebrant's kind gesture in celebrating his 50th anniversary with the mindset to create a conducive environment for the children to learn more about God.

In their different submissions, they said they believed that the vision that God has shown to celebrant, and that God would make provision for the project to be completed in Jesus name.

GOVERNOR Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State has called on everyone who calls Kaduna State home to work together to uphold the state.

In an Easter message to the people of the state, the Governor while felicitating with Christian faithful said, "I call on everyone who calls Kaduna State home to work together to uphold our state, its hardworking people and their accomplishments from those who seek menace and destroy it".

He added. "Let us use the occasion set by Jesus Christ, the pain, the sacrifice, the triumph and the message of hope echo with timeless resonance.

"We congratulate the Christian faithful on the completion of Lent and the great feast of Easter. This festival of triumph follows the holy season of Lent, during which the Christian community engaged in fasting, prayers and works of charity.

He noted that as people of faith, let us continue to practice in our daily lives the lessons of sacrifice, care for the poor, deep spiritual reflection and love for all humankind, irrespective of tribe or religion, observed during the fasting.

"Jesus Christ set an example of sacrifice that has moved men and women through the ages.

Work together to uphold Kaduna

-el-Rufai

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

As we celebrate the triumph of Christ, let us embrace all the lessons of Easter, never losing faith in the will of Almighty God, and the triumph of good over evil.

"Let us uphold each other in our common humanity and pray for peace in our land. Let us do our best to promote harmony in our communities and reject strife in our land. Let hope never depart from our hearts.

To this end, the governor said "I call on everyone who calls Kaduna State home to work together to uphold our state, its hardworking

people and their accomplishments from those who seek to menace and destroy it.

"We pray God Almighty that the blessings and lessons of Easter will spread all through our state, and move us all to be better people, that the Almighty will comfort all our people who have been affected by the security challenges that confront us.

"May the good Lord bestow His grace upon us, bless our state and its people, reward the endeavors of our citizens and protect us all from danger and discord.



El-rufai

Deputy Governor commissions 600 capacity church

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

IT was jubilation galore at Inele-Ugoh Community in Olamoboro Local Government Area on Saturday, when the Kogi state Deputy Governor, Chief Edward Onoja commissioned 600 sitting capacity Church donated by the president of Enemona Josh Foundation, Ambassador Gabriel Onoja for the people of his village.

The Deputy Governor while performing the ceremony,

commended Enemona Foundation for the humanitarian gesture to boost the religious faith of his people.

He, urged spirited individuals and well to do citizens of the state to emulate the philanthropic gesture of Ambassador, Gabriel Onoja.

Speaking during the official commissioning of the Church, the 37-year-old Ambassador, Enemona Gabriel Onoja said that what informed his decision to build the Church is aimed at

increasing the spiritual faith of his people.

"Today, I feel extremely grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to immortalize myself while I am still alive through the completion of this N60 million Church project, which is so dear to my heart and my entire family.

"It's unfortunate that one area that Nigeria is divided across, outside politics and ethnicity, is Religion, hence my keying into creating inter-religious desk within the Enemona Foundation.

"My desire is that anyone who steps into this church, will pray for the peace, unity, development and socio-economic progress of Kogi and Nigeria at large," the president prayed. The young philanthropist said he knew what it means to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoners, provide for orphans and widows and the poorest of the poor amongst others, having "passed through well refined and sophisticated sufferings and first-class hunger while growing up."

He expressed appreciation to the Kogi State government especially Gov Yahaya Bello and his Deputy, Edward David-Onoja for their unalloyed support for him as

a person and the Enemona-Josh Humanitarian.

Female aspirant solicits for delegates support

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE only female Senatorial Aspirant in Kogi West, Chief Mrs. Adedoyin Eshanumi has solicited the support of the executive members and stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Yagba Federal Constituency.

Adedoyin Eshanumi, a successful business woman and a well known philanthropist in Kogi West, is the founder of a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), "Doyin and Susan Foundation," with the vision to reach out to the less privilege and the vulnerable especially women and widows in order to alleviate their suffering.

Her foundation has empowered many vulnerable women, widows, the less privileged children and youths across the Kogi west senatorial district.

Speaking with stakeholders at APC Secretariat in Yagba East and Mopamuro Local Government Areas (LGAs), Eshanumi said, her visit was to interface with them and formally declare her intention

to represent Kogi west at the Red Chamber of the National Assembly.

She enjoined the delegates to support and encourage women's participation in politics, noting that APC is bringing up a policy to fielding women candidates in various elective positions in the 2023 general elections.

She appealed to the people especially the women folk to support themselves, and rally round women candidates in the 2023 general elections. Eshanumi noted that she contested for the same position in 2019, saying she would not disappoint the people if given the opportunity to represent them.

Responding, the APC Chairman, Yagba East, Hon. Kehinde Reuben Atteh, commended the aspirant for her courage to step out to contest in the 2019, and for her resilience to come out again in 2023.

Atteh stressed that Yagba people have been lagging behind, saying, "this is the time to re-orientate ourselves and give women a chance".

He assured Eshanumi of the full support of the delegates,

while urging the people to summon courage and do the needful.

"The senate position in Kogi West is Yagba's turn, and we need to encourage ourselves; we will never accept imposition of any candidate," Atteh said. On his part, Hon Charles Omoyele, the Mopamuro APC Chairman, also commended Eshanumi for her courage, while advising her not to lose focus and never give up. Omoyele promised to reinforce the support given to her in 2019, urging her to do it differently as they would be given women a chance this time around, and prayed for God's approval. Also speaking, APC Mopamuro Women Leader, Mrs Fehintola Zaccheous; and the party's Assistant Legal Adviser, Mr Sunday Elefikku, both assured the female aspirant of their total support.

Zaccheous commended Eshanumi for her efforts in 2019 and for the courage to come out again in 2023 in spite the stress and intimidation from male counterparts.



Onoja

News

I have not endorsed any aspirant - Lalong

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong on Sunday debunked insinuations making rounds that he has endorsed and anointed a successor to become the governorship aspirant of his party to contest in the 2023 elections.

"I have not adopted or anointed any aspirant for governorship seat or any political office in the forthcoming General Elections", he said while addressing an APC stakeholders meeting in Jos.

Lalong said "I have not adopted or anointed any aspirant for governor or any other office. While very suitable members of our party have indicated interest to vie for different offices, we are carrying out consultations with all key stakeholders to ensure that at the end of the day, the best persons emerge to fly our party's flag. When such time comes, we will make it public and not hide it. I am praying that God will guide all of us to make a choice that is in the best interest of the people and our state and nation", he said.

According to him, although all the aspirants will be given a level playing field to test their popularity and acceptance, at the end of the day the will of the majority will prevail while only one person will emerge for any office.

The Governor also cautioned against negative campaign and use of foul language by aspirants and their supporters, saying such could end up being counter productive for the APC as the opposition will use it to

discredit the party at the general elections.

On the dateline for public servants and appointees seeking elections to resign, Lalong gave up till the end of this week for those yet to comply to do so in order not to fall foul of the new electoral law.

Lalong also thanked the APC members for their support and sacrifices particularly during the last bye elections which the party won one and lost one, urging that they should close ranks to ensure victory in the forthcoming bye elections for Bassa and Jos East State Constituencies.

He assured that the ongoing projects such as the British America Flyover, Legacy

Projects and the Jos main market billed to commence soon will be completed before the end of this administration.

Also speaking, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Idris Wase charged members of the APC in Plateau State to come together and work in unity for the success of the party at the local, state and national levels.

Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda urged members of the party to close ranks and avoid divisive tendencies that will cost the party electoral victories.

Chairman of the APC in Plateau State Hon. Rufus Bature said the party has mapped out strategies for more electoral victories as well as reconciliation.



Lalong



Asking relevant questions

As the primaries of the various political parties approach, there is the need for the populace to begin to ask those who are vying for political offices relevant and important questions about what problems they have identified and how they intend to solve them. Indeed, any politician worth his salt must be conversant with the problems of the community he intends to serve and must not only have a blueprint for attending to them but a timeline for solving these identifiable problems.

A situation where politicians sweet mouth the citizenry and ride to power on rhetoric must be in the past. Everyone seeking a political post must identify a particular problem and proffer ways of solving them within a particular timeframe. This is done in the understanding that not all the problems can be solved at once and that everyone is gifted in different aspects of life.

Some could be infrastructure inclined while others could attend to human capital development. In all these, it must be taken into account that there are subsets. What this means is that if one takes roads for example, he would do his best to ensure that the road infrastructure is developed in such a manner that for years to come, that sector will not demand too much nor eat up a huge chunk of the resources that would accrue to the state.

This, of course would and should be done by developing and tapping side by side the identifiable revenue sources that are available in the country, state and local governments as the case may be. A situation where a leader only waits for what accrues to him from the centre is

unacceptable and should not be allowed to continue. Pragmatic and efficient paths must be pursued to tap alternative source of income so as to raise the income of the state and have the wherewithal to engage in the development of the society.

It is only when the right questions are asked that the right persons who would be leading the society can be found. A situation where some "money miss road" politicians find themselves in power by default and unleash unrealistic and unfathomable policies on the people must be a thing of the past by now. Only men of ideas and reasons should be elected not those looking for employment.

Again, politics, which is the easiest route to wealth and the only thriving industry in our country must not be allowed to continue being the cash cow that every Tom, Dick and Harry would come, milk and go away. If people with ideas and creativity are elected, they can prioritise and open up the needed space for development. As a developing country, it would not be out of place to grow our SMEs at this point. These SMEs, like witnessed in the Asian Tigers would lead the way in the development and strengthening of our economy.

This is even more so that our economy as is presently constituted is held together by the informal sector. And, when given the necessary support, would take the country to the next level. Rhetoric do not grow economies neither do sweet talks. Hard and difficult decisions must be taken if we must repair our tomorrow.

Once a leader is elected, he must realize that at that point, his

political party no longer matters. That he is now the servant of the entire community whether or not they voted for him. He must from then act in the interest of all and defend all as stated in the Constitution of our land. Indeed, we must start looking for solution driven leaders who recognize and provide solutions to problems as they arise.

That would mean too that our political parties must be built on and steeped in ideological basis. A situation where politicians change their clothes is not acceptable and should not continue. We must be known to stand for something. We should not be like prostitutes whose stock in trade is attending to the pleasures of whoever can pick the bills or provide a platform.

In developed climes, families or individuals are known for what they stand for and represent. No matter the situation, they stick in there and repair the damage no matter how long it takes. Not some lilly livered portfolio carrying political office seekers who "scramble" from one platform to the next available one, whenever they fail to realize their ambitions in a particular setting.

We must know that politics is not a job description. Only those who intend to offer service should venture into the murky waters of politics. That means too that political offices should be made unattractive so as to attract those who want to offer service. A situation where a young and inexperienced fellow just jumps into the fray because he sees politics as a job is not normal. Work, make a name for yourself in your chosen career then offer yourself to work for the people.

NSSG donates 4 transformers to community

THE Nasarawa State Government has donated four transformers to the Umaisha Development Area of the state, to boost power supply and enhance socio-economic activities in the community.

The Overseer of Umaisha Development Area, Iliyasu Usman, disclosed this to

FROM MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, keffi

newsmen on Saturday in Umaisha, headquarters of Umaisha Development Area.

He stated that based on that gesture the people of the area would remain grateful to Governor Abdullahi Sule.

He expressed his joy with the development and thanked the governor and the Speaker of the state legislature, Ibrahim Balarabe-Abdullahi, for the concern they have shown for the people's welfare.

According to him, the transformers would boost the socio-economic activities and enhance standard of living of the locals.

Usman therefore re-assured the governor of his people's support at all times.

In their various remarks the former Chairman of Toto Local Government Area, Prince Nuhu Adamu, and the APC Chairman in the council area, Shuaibu Ahmed, commended the governor for the donation.

They also commended the speaker who lobbied for the transformers, for the passion he has for his people.

The duo then re-assured Governor Sule and the Speaker of the people's support in the 2023 elections.

They also called on the people to continue to sustain the peace and unity being enjoyed in the area.



Sule

News

Jos North chair congratulates Mazadu on birthday

THE Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has felicitates with the member House of Assembly Service Commission, Hon. Ishehu Mazadu on the occasion of his birthday, anniversary.

The Chairman in a congratulatory message described Ishehu Mazadu as a team player, and a role model whose vision has

inspired many.

Usman who conveyed his birthday message on behalf of his family, the peace and Hospitable people of Jos North Local Government Council, noted that Mazadu is a courageous politician who plays his politics without bitterness and believes in the unity and progress of the area.

The Chairman who

acknowledged the leadership qualities of Hon. Mazadu described him as a quintessential leader of the people who is a grassroots politician and possess valuable administrative experience.

The Chairman further expressed gratitude to God for granting him good health, more wisdom, grace and sound health as he advances in age.

THE Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Hon. Shehu Bala Usman has encouraged Christians to emulate the virtues of Jesus Christ, live and exhibit his teachings on love, tolerance and selflessness.

The Chairman in his Easter Message, congratulated Christians for the successful completion of the forty-day Lenten season for atonement of sins and salvation of mankind,

...Calls on Christians to emulate Christ

which he said, Easter represents.

Usman described the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ as the manifestation of God's love for mankind which brought sacrifice, salvation, liberation and hope for mankind.

The Chairman maintained that the celebration of Christ's resurrection and salvation is the Hallmark of

Christianity and promotes the virtues that engender love, peace, unity and Progress of the nation.

He assured the inhabitants of Jos North Local Government Area of his administration's determination to continue to serve them with love and the fear of God and to work for the peace and progress of the area and the state.

Usman further used the occasion to thank the people of Jos North Local Government Area for their support, encouragement and prayers for his administration.

He reassured them of his commitment to good governance as well as the enhancement of social and economic growth.

He appealed to citizens to remain peaceful and law-abiding, noting that his administration was collaborating with all the security agencies in the area to ensure a hitch-free Easter celebration.

The Chairman wishes Christians in Jos North and beyond a peaceful Easter celebration.



Usman

'We will employ new revenue generation mechanism'

THE Chairman of Jos East Local Government Council, Hon. Yakubu Izang Ezekiel said, a new Strategy for revenue collection will soon be unveiled.

Izang Ezekiel who broke the Charing news during a parley with the workforce at the MDGs Hall, Angware, recently, pointed out that the transition committee set up by his administration upon assumption of office, has submitted it's report with far reaching recommendation on how to improve on the Council's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in other to augment the dwindling monthly Federal Allocation and to step up it's indicies.

The Council's helmsman further opined that his Administration has identified critical stakeholders who would give a boost to his vision and mission, including; politicians, electorates, Council technocrats and Political appointees in that order.

He however, sued for collective resolve from all and sundry to cooperate with the new Revenue Department to enable key into the new approach for optimal success.

The chairman used the opportunity offered by the occasion to commend the resilience of the out going Director Personnel Management, Samuel Nanchwat Laksing and Director of Finance and Supplies, Lydia Pienswang and other Staff of the council who got posting recently for the cordial working relationship had with them and welcome on board those that will relief them with hope that they will join hands with the Staff on ground whom he said have been supportive to him in bringing to bear their wealth of experiences

which led to the current achievements so far.

Responding to submissions from Staff and Labour Union Officials boardering on Staff welfare, Scheme of Service Office and Housing accommodation, Peace and Unity as well as PLASHEMA among others, Izang Ezekiel, pledged to leave above board in tackling same alongside other infrastructural development and solicited for understanding while the economic hardship improves.

Speaking separately, outgoing Director of Personnel

Management and that of Finance and Supplies, Samuel Nanchwat Laksing and Lydia Pienswang, respectively, expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Chairman, other Executive Council members, Directors and Staff of the Council for the team spirit they enjoy and called for same spirit to be accorded to the in-coming Directors even as they solicited for forgiveness and prayers to each other.

Questions and Contributions came from some Directors, Deputy Directors, Labour Union Officials and Other Staff respectively.

CMMRC, CIPP condemn Plateau attacks

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Management Mitigation Religious Council (CMMRC) in collaboration with Initiative to Promote Peace project, has condemned in totality the gruesome attacks and senseless killings, destruction of Farm Produce and animals in Miango Bassa LGC, JosNorth, Rantis Village of Barkin Ladi and 10 Villages in Kanam LGCs of Plateau State.

This is contained in a press statement signed by Comrade Sadeeq Musa Hong's and made available to Nigeria Standard in Jos, the Plateau State Capital, following series of attacks recorded in some parts of the state recently.

According to the statement, "the Council condemns in totality the gruesome attacks and Senseless killings, destruction of Farm Produce and the killing of Animals which in Particular included the Killings of Elderly Persons, Women and Children and Massive Abduction.

"The CMMRC is calling on the state government to swiftly investigate these



Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye

ugly incidents of Unlawful killings of innocent citizens with a view to bringing the culprits to justice. We urge the citizens to keep calm, maintain law and order and Conduct themselves peacefully as they Ventilate their grievances on the current state of affairs in their domains. We share in the grief of those who lost their loved ones, we commiserate with them and Pray God to comfort and strengthen them", it

CP tours Kaduna-Abuja highway

From John Fwah, Kaduna

NEW Kaduna State Commissioner of Police, Yekini Ayoku, took a tour of the Kaduna -Abuja

highway, on Easter Monday, to assess the state of security on the highway and build the confidence of operatives.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Mohammed Jalige, the CP, who recently assumed office on Kaduna, was accompanied on the tour by top officers of the force as he seek to her firsthand information on the security situation on the highway.

Jalige said, "Today 18th April, 2022 the Commissioner of Police Kaduna Command, CP Yekini Ayoku embarked on an official confidence building as well as assessment tour of the Kaduna-Abuja Highway.

"He was accompanied on the tour by top police officers from the command. The CP during

the visit, interacted with security personnel at various nipping points along the ever busy highway.

"He commended them for their service to the country, assuring them that the command and the Nigeria Police Force will always look into their welfare.

Several civilians on the highway who were excited about the CP's tour, waved at him beaming smiles. The CP equally assures all road users that the Kaduna-Abuja highway is safe for traveling.

"He however, advised the general public and commuters along the highway to always be prompt in reporting unusual incidents or suspected persons for immediate action."



Alkali

Foreign News



UN to debate Security Council voto power

THE United Nations is set to debate a provision that would require the five permanent members of the body's Security Council – the United States, United Kingdom, France, China and Russia – to justify invoking their veto powers.

The reform to the Security Council has been floated for years at the UN but has regained new traction following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Currently, the five permanent members can veto any resolutions put forth by the Security Council. Meanwhile, the rotating 10 other members have no such power.

Moscow has used its veto power to limit actions by the UNSC since invading Ukraine on February 24, immediately blocking a resolution that called for Moscow to remove troops from Ukraine.

"We are particularly concerned by Russia's shameful pattern of abusing its veto privilege over the past

two decades," said the US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, in a statement.

The adoption of the Liechtenstein resolution "will be a significant step toward the accountability, transparency and responsibility of all" the permanent members of the Security Council, she added.

The latest proposal, put forth by Liechtenstein, is co-sponsored by 50 countries including the US. No other permanent members are currently co-sponsors, although France has indicated it will support the move, according to the AFP news agency.

The text of the proposal, obtained by the AFP, calls for the 193 members of the General Assembly to gather "within 10 working days of the casting of a veto by one or more permanent members of the Security Council, to hold a

debate on the situation as to which the veto was cast".

Since the first veto ever used – by the Soviet Union in 1946 – Moscow has deployed it 143 times, far ahead of the United States (86 times), Britain (30 times) or China and France (18 times each).

In early April, the UN general assembly suspended Russia from the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council. At the time, 93 members voted in support of the suspension, 24 voted against and 58 abstained.

France, which last used the veto in 1989, proposed in 2013 that the permanent members collectively and voluntarily limit their use of the veto in the event of a mass atrocity.

US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—we bring you the stories that matter.

South Africa deploys troops to flood areas

SOUTH Africa's armed forces have been deployed to help with relief efforts in the KwaZulu-Natal province, where more than 440 people died following torrential rains that triggered floods and mudslides last week.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) said

it had been instructed to activate 10,000 troops for tasks including mop-up work and transporting aid.

The SANDF would also provide medical support and helicopters for rescue and reconnaissance missions.

The death toll stands at 443, but with each passing

day, hopes diminish of finding more survivors.

The floods have left thousands homeless, knocked out power and water services and disrupted operations at one of Africa's busiest ports, Durban.

Swathes of eThekweni, the municipality that includes Durban, remain without power or water, and the province said it could take time before services are restored.

"There are areas that have suffered extensive damage which will take longer to repair," it said in a statement.

Many streets remain slathered with mud, although the main roads have been cleared enough to allow water tankers to the hardest-hit areas.

But eThekweni deputy mayor Philani Mavundla said in a television interview that 80 percent of the city's waterworks were down, making it difficult to even fill the tankers.

Outside the town of Umbumbulu about 45km (28 miles) southwest of Durban, herdsman Mbukeni Khwela

"GUTERRES is also greatly concerned about the continuing appalling humanitarian situation in the besieged port city of Mariupol," Mr Dujarric told journalists at the UN headquarters.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has again called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine.

He said in New York on Monday that the ceasefire would allow the delivery of life-saving aid as well as the evacuation of people in the country.

The UN spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, said Mr Guterres made the appeal following Russia's attacks on cities across Ukraine.

Mostly affected are Lviv, Dnipro, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv, resulting in numerous civilian casualties and destruction.

"Guterres is also greatly concerned about the continuing appalling humanitarian situation in the besieged port city of Mariupol," Mr Dujarric told journalists at the UN headquarters.

"The secretary-general strongly urges all parties to enact an urgent and immediate

UN calls for urgent humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine

humanitarian ceasefire.

"This will enable the safe and secure functioning of humanitarian corridors; help evacuate civilian residents and also deliver life-saving humanitarian and medical assistance," he said.

He emphasised that genuine negotiations must be given a chance to succeed and bring lasting peace, noting that the UN was ready to support such efforts.

Prior to the briefing, UN relief chief, Martin Griffiths, told journalists that while humanitarian ceasefires in Ukraine were "not on the horizon right now, they could be in a couple of weeks".

Mr Griffiths reported on his visits to Russia and Ukraine earlier this month, where he held discussions with senior officials on UN "aspirations" for humanitarian pauses.

He also discussed how to improve the notification system that allowed the safe passage of humanitarian workers and supplies.

"Obviously we have not yet got humanitarian ceasefires in

place on the Russian side.

Mr Griffiths will travel to Turkey this week to meet with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on hosting humanitarian talks between Russia and Ukraine.

On Sunday, the secretary-general spoke with President Erdoğan, expressing his ongoing support for the Istanbul process related to the war in Ukraine.

He also underlined the need for humanitarian corridors for aid distribution and evacuations.

Asked about Turkey's role, Mr Griffiths said he was impressed by how the country had presented itself to both sides as a "genuinely valuable and useful host" for talks.

"In classical mediation terms, there isn't a mediation really going on between the Russians and Ukrainians," he said, adding that "the Turks come closest to it, I think, of all member states."

UN: Yemen's Houthi rebels to stop child soldiers

YEMEN'S Houthi rebels have agreed to rid their ranks of child soldiers, who have fought by the thousands during the country's seven years of civil war, the United Nations has said.

The Houthis signed what the UN described on Monday as an "action plan" to end and prevent recruiting or using children in armed conflict, killing or maiming children and attacking schools and hospitals.

UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said the rebels committed to identifying children in their ranks and releasing them within six months.

One of the Houthis' top diplomats, Abdul Eluh Hajar, signed the agreement.



Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is operating in exile, made similar commitments in several documents signed since 2014, the UN said

Representatives from the UN's children's agency posed with Houthi officials for the media at a ceremony to mark the agreement in Yemen's capital, Sanaa. The Houthis called it a plan to protect children.

Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is operating in exile, made similar commitments in several documents signed since 2014, the UN said.

Virginia Gamba, the UN's top official looking out for children in war zones, called the Houthis' move "a positive and encouraging step", but she noted that "the most difficult part of the journey starts now".

The UN says nearly 3,500 children have been verified as recruited and deployed in Yemen's civil war. However, a senior Houthi military official told The Associated Press news agency in 2018 that the group had inducted 18,000 child soldiers into its army by then, and former child soldiers told the news cooperative that boys as young as 10 were recruited.

At the time, a Houthi military spokesman denied any systematic recruitment of people below 18 and said there were orders to reject children who tried to join up.

More than 10,200 children have been killed or maimed in the war, the UN says. It is unclear how many may have been combatants.

Yemen's civil war erupted in 2014 when the Iran-backed

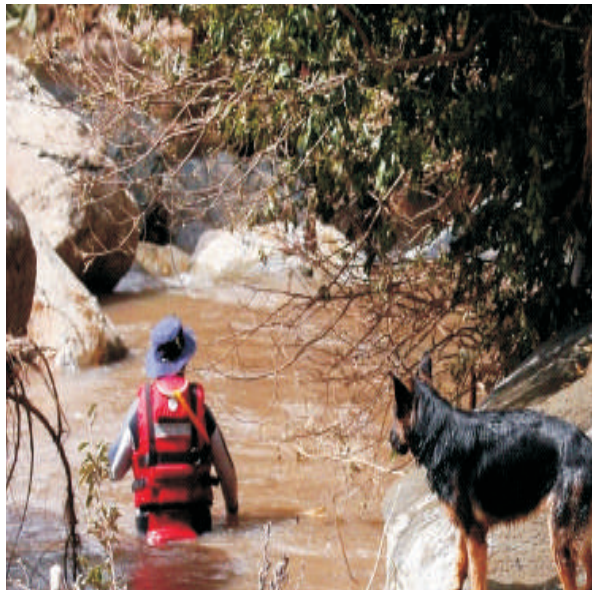
Houthis seized Sanaa and forced the government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition, including the United Arab Emirates, entered the war in early 2015 to try to restore the government to power.

War monitors estimate the conflict has killed more than 14,500 civilians and 150,000 people when combatants are included. The fighting also created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The warring sides agreed earlier this month to the first nationwide truce in six years. The two-month pact was timed to start during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and raised hopes about building momentum for peace.

Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi stepped aside last week and said a new presidential council would run the exiled government and lead negotiations with the Houthis.

Saudi Arabia and a number of other countries welcomed the leadership change after years of infighting among anti-Houthi factions. A Houthi spokesperson dismissed the development as an "illegitimate" decision made from afar.



A search and rescue team uses a dog to search for bodies in Umbumbulu near Durban, South Africa, April 18, 2022

Foreign Commentary

Ukraine: Germany's confusion over ties with Russia

Repenting historical wrongs is a national pastime in Germany. But even by German standards, the soul-searching over Berlin's Russia policy is remarkable. DAMIEN MCGUINNESS, writes.



Steinmeier



Schmid

SINCE Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, many German politicians have publicly admitted they got Vladimir Putin wrong. Even German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has apologised, saying it was a mistake to use trade and energy to build bridges with Moscow.

"It's a bitter acknowledgement that for 30 years we emphasised dialogue and co-operation with Russia," says Nils Schmid, foreign affairs spokesperson for Mr Steinmeier's party, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD). "Now we have to recognise this has not worked. That's why we have entered a new era for European security."

That new era was dubbed "Zeitenwende" - literally meaning a turning point - by Germany's SPD Chancellor Olaf Scholz in a now-famous speech in the German parliament a few days after the invasion.

It means scrapping rules about weapons exports, a huge boost in defence spending and an end to Russian energy imports. A Russian gas pipeline to Germany called Nord Stream 2 has already been suspended.

"For the foreseeable future, co-

operation with Russia will not occur. It will be more about containment and deterrence and, if needed, defence against Russia," Mr Schmid tells me.

Unexpectedly hawkish words for a party that until seven weeks ago believed Germany's historical guilt and moral duty to make up for Nazi crimes meant peace with Russia at all costs.

But in Berlin, the war in Ukraine feels very close. The images of shelled Ukrainian buildings look like German cities in World War Two. And the third-of-a-million refugees, mostly women and children, arriving at German train stations remind many here of their parents or grandparents as children fleeing Russian soldiers in 1945.

Even Germany's view of its own history is changing.

Until the invasion mainstream opinion was that German reunification was thanks to dialogue with Moscow by another SPD chancellor, Willy Brandt. But now the debate has shifted, with reminders that Mr Brandt's diplomacy was backed up by strong deterrence, including a West German defence budget of 3% of GDP.

The issue of German historical war

guilt has also become more nuanced. Before the invasion the government argued against weapon deliveries to Ukraine because of Nazi crimes against Russia.

"Under Putin, official Russian policy tried to monopolise the memory of the Second World War for the bilateral German-Russian relationship," explains Mr Schmid. This blinded parts of German society to the suffering of Ukrainians during the war, he adds.

Now there is a greater awareness of Ukraine's traumas under the Nazis.

Berlin's rhetoric has shifted dramatically. But some ask whether actions are following fast enough. Certainly warm words of support are not enough for Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky. He has criticised Germany's continued reliance on Russian oil and gas.

Zelensky says European countries still buying Russian oil are dealing in blood money

In a BBC interview last week, Mr Zelensky called payments for Russian energy "blood money". And a planned visit to Kyiv by President Steinmeier was cancelled at the last minute.

There are conflicting reports about what happened: some Ukrainian officials say Mr Steinmeier was not "disinvited". But certainly German politicians and commentators interpret the failed visit as a sign of Ukraine's distrust in the German president, who as foreign minister under Angela Merkel spent years trying to achieve peace by engaging with Russia.

At the Brandenburg Gate - a symbol of another "Wende", the word used in German for the process of German reunification - I meet Claudia Major, defence specialist at SWP, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

"Our partners look at us, and say: OK, you do a Zeitenwende but what are you practically doing?" she says. "On sanctions we are timid and on weapons delivery, we are reluctant. So, rightly, they wonder what that Zeitenwende is about, and given that Germany is a big economic, military, political power in the middle of Europe, whatever we do makes a difference, in good ways and bad."

Germany has committed to sanctioning Russian energy imports, but wants a gradual phase-out, rather than an instant embargo. The government argues this would tip Germany into recession and cost hundreds of thousands of jobs.

"This is a dilemma that Germany has created itself," argues political scientist Liana Fix, head of the Körber Foundation. "That's obviously difficult to accept for other countries, who are willing to go ahead with an embargo and have done their homework on energy diversification."

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said he was told he was not welcome in Ukraine due to his close ties with Russia

Ironically, it's a Green Party politician, Economy Minister Robert Habeck, from a party that for years has been calling for energy independence from Russia, who is having to solve this dilemma.

On military support for Ukraine, Berlin says it is prepared to send whatever weapons Kyiv needs. But

there are allegations that some ministries are getting tied up in bureaucracy. Here, too, it is a Green politician, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who is pushing the governing coalition to go faster. She has called for heavy weaponry, such as tanks or fighter jets, for Ukraine.

The chancellor, meanwhile, appears to dodge the question when asked - possibly nervous of losing his party's support.

Olaf Scholz has to keep his party onside, govern in a three-way coalition and overturn Germany's guilt-laden pacifist identity overnight.

But even his allies say the chancellor should at least communicate better what's going on. One speech in parliament and a few TV chat shows are not enough, says Claudia Major.

Meanwhile, it feels like many individual Germans are going through their own Zeitenwende. Ariane Bemmer, a columnist for the Tagesspiegel newspaper, has written about reassessing her own feelings towards Russia. "I definitely got it wrong, it's like losing a friend," she tells me.

Like many in the former West Germany in the 1980s, she was wary of US-style cutthroat capitalism. She bought a book called *Ami Go Home* - she never read it, but felt it would look good on her bookshelf - and was intrigued by the reforms in Russia.

"In America you had Ronald Reagan as a president, which was a shock for us. We thought: what will he do, this crazy actor with his cowboy boots? Will he set the world on fire? Russia was a place where all the good changes were, perestroika, freedom, wind of change," she says.

Few in Germany think that now. In one recent poll, 55% of Germans said Berlin should send heavy weapons, such as tanks and fighter jets, to Ukraine to fight against Russia.

For Ariane, and many other Germans, any lingering Russophobia vanished for good the day Putin's tanks rolled over Ukraine's border.



A protest in Bonn, Germany: The German government has previously argued against weapons deliveries to Ukraine.

Interview

'I hope to lead solutions search as Plateau Governor'

Prof. Dakas Clement Dakas, (SAN) is a front-line gubernatorial aspirant of the All Progressives Congress, (APC) in Plateau State. In this interview with BULUS GAMBO and JENNIFER YARIMA, the former Dean of Law, University of Jos speaks on his reasons for vying for the state's number one seat, engagements at the national level which led to the amendment of the party's constitution which was eventually ratified during its national convention and his hope for a better Plateau if elected to serve. Excerpts:-

WHAT is your opinion on how governance should be or better put; how it would to be?

Thank you for this privileged opportunity to interface on these very deep-seated issues. The subject of governance is an extremely serious matter and I often say, politics as a framework within which governance takes place is a very serious business to be left for the conventional politician. And the reason is because; governance is in the heart of the well-being of the people.

For me as a constitutional lawyer, I often make a point that we need to address governance in the context of what is set out in section 14 sub-sections (2b) of the constitution to achieve. And it says, the security and the welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of governance. Therefore though, very many people do not fully appreciate the importance of this; it fully encapsulate the totality of what governance is all about that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of governance.

For those of us who are lawyers and I am sure for those who are linguists too, the word, shall impose an obligation, so we don't even have an option as we must prioritize and guarantee the security and welfare of the people. Therefore, every other thing else is secondary. And that's why the constitution is very clear on the fact that this shall be the primary purpose of governance.

Governance for me must revolve around security and welfare of the people and part of it is the reason why our country has continued to grapple with lots of challenges. This is more so because of the fact that many of our political actors whether elected and or appointed do not appreciate what governance really entails. Chinua Achebe wrote a very important book in 1984 and the title is, 'The problem with Nigeria' which at the end of the day, the conclusion he drew was that the fundamental problem which Nigeria had grappled with is the issue of governance. And part of it depends largely on the quality of our recruitment process, the kind of individuals which we throw up



Dakas

for electoral positions; part of it is the accountability mechanism, so it is one thing to have a process that throws up our leaders whether it is at the primary level, at the level of political parties or at the level of the elections conducted by INEC or by the state Independent Electoral Commission. How do they know that there are great consequences if they betray the trust of the people? But the question we must ask ourselves also is; when people get into governance, what is their accountability framework? How do we hold people to account? How do we let people know that there are consequences if they betray the trust of the people? For me, these are the key issues to understanding governance. And it is a tragedy that if you look at the data, the statistics; in the 1960s, Nigeria was at the comparable level of development with the UAE for instance. Today, Dubai is the go-to place and the tragedy is that Nigeria is sadly

where we are.

So, you must in understanding governance narrow this down to the actors. You will have to ask yourself; are these individuals competent? Are these individuals' people who have integrity? Do these individuals have the capacity? And until we understand these issues beyond considerations of religion ethnicity and other sectional faultiness, we will not be able to get it right and move forward.

The tragedy is that we often look at governance and or politics through the prism of religion and or other sectional faultiness. And for as long as this persists, we will not get it right. Let us focus on individuals who have the capacity, the competence, the integrity to prioritize and guarantee the security and welfare of the people. Once this happens, I can assure you that we will get it right.

If I can quote Prof. Patrice Lumumba, he once said, we have not been able to vote

leaders with ideas into office, and that is the more reason why we are facing these challenges today. Just recently, you participated in drafting the amendment of the constitution of the APC which is anticipated to ensure good governance. What is it in this amended constitution which you midwife would enhance good leadership both at party and political offices levels?

I had the privilege or opportunity to serve as a member of the constitution review committee of the APC and one of the striking things about that assignment was that we didn't just put ourselves in a room and proposed amendments to the constitution. We invited memoranda from all over the country. We also traveled to one state in each geo-political zones in order to interface with the people and to harvest their contributions. And at the end of the day, we made a proposal which by the grace of God was approved at the national convention of the party on the 26th of March this year. I am much excited that we are able to accomplish that because of the fact that there are earlier efforts to amend the constitution without success. And so, what drove us was that we needed to be mindful of the context of how the APC emerged. The APC had emerged as an amalgam of different opposition parties. So the constitution which was put in

place at that time had to reckon with that reality.

But several years down the line, we needed to have a constitution which will not only ensure that the party itself is cohesive but also ensure that the party is driven by the imperative need to advance the course of not only its party but the entire Nigerian state and especially that the party has governance at the center. There were specific examples of proposals which we brought to bear and I can give you an example. This is something I am very passionate about which of course is the place of women in governance.

Women have often for no fault of theirs played a second fiddle in politics. And one of the things we thought we needed to do was to ensure that the voices of women are brought to the table. There are several provisions which seek to elevate the voices of women in the politics of the party. We then created wings for the party. For instance, there is the women wing of the party; there is the youth wing of the party and also a wing which addresses the plight of persons living with disabilities. So you find out that this is a constitution which seeks to bring cohesion and inclusion. So, if you have the voice of the women on the table, if you have the voice of all those living with disabilities, and voices of young people, you can then understand that you have created a platform for us to move forward with a clear sense of direction and conviction of that which we believe the party can do.

This is just but one area of this amendments; there is also a provision which addresses the framework within which political actors emerges including the issue of governance mechanism within the party. We made provisions that would ensure an efficient administration of the party to enable it deliver on its mandate not only to the members of the party but to the generality of the Nigerian population.

As someone who has been in governance and one who has traveled far and wide enough, where do you see Plateau State in the next five years?

Thinking about Plateau State and where we expect to be in the future, for me shouldn't even be about Plateau in the next five years. We should have a grand vision. Interestingly, the new Governor of Anambra State, Prof Charles C. Soludo has unveiled Anambra 2070 developmental plan for his state. In other words, he is envisioning his

“But several years down the line, we needed to have a constitution which will not only ensure that the party itself is cohesive but also ensure that the party is driven by the imperative need to advance the course of not only its party but the entire Nigerian state and especially that the party has governance at the center. There were specific examples of proposals which we brought to bear and I can give you an example. This is something I am very passionate about which of course is the place of women in governance.”

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THE WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

Save yourself from toxic relationship

IT'S important to be able to recognize the warning signs of a toxic relationship. While relationships can be full of playful dates, positive emotional growth, and a stream of sunsets and heart emojis, that isn't always the case. Unfortunately for many women, romantic relationships can also be major sources of negativity, stress, and a never-ending stream of drama. Even worse, a lot of the signs of a toxic relationship are tricky to spot, so people in one might not even be aware of it. "It's easy to identify physical abuse but very difficult for a person in a toxic relationship to 'hear' abuse, especially if the victim was raised around negativity or criticism," says Dr. Gloria Brame, award-winning sex therapist and best-selling author. "For them, toxic relationships are a norm. Learning the verbal/behavioral signs of an abusive/narcissistic personality is a critical learning skill for everyone who dates. It's an issue I work on in therapy with depressing regularity."

We asked experts to break down everyday relationship scenarios and tell us how they're handled in a healthy relationship versus a toxic one. After all, identifying the problem is the first step towards doing something about it.

Dread when you mention you want them to meet your family

It may surprise you, but one of the best warning signs that you're with a toxic partner is how they act the second you tell him or her you want everyone to meet—long before the IRL moment occurs. "A toxic partner is not worried about building a foundation with you and your kin. Instead of treating it like an opportunity or a symbol of trust, they will treat it like an unnecessary obligation," says Emily Morse, doctor of human sexuality and host of the *Sex With Emily* podcast. "From the moment you utter the words 'My family would love to meet you,' a toxic partner acts like you've just cordially invited him to a 24-hour shopping fest...on Black Friday...in a blizzard. They will take every chance they get to remind you what they're giving up."

"A toxic lover takes zero interest in your family, choosing instead to spend the time on their phone, dozing off



or complaining.

"A partner in a healthy relationship will see this as the glorious opportunity it is: A chance to get in good with the (possibly) future in-laws. They will prep for it, like they would if they were going in for an interview at their dream job," says Morse. "They will pepper you with questions beforehand, hoping to gather as much intel as possible: What is your sister's husband like? What kind of gift should they bring for your parents?"

And when the day actually rolls around? "A healthy partner will be genuine, enthusiastic, and as interested in getting to know your loved ones as they were to get to know you. They will ask engaging questions, offer to help with the dishes, and treat you like the gem you are, reassuring your parents that you are in great hands," says Morse.

Inconsistent or hurtful texting

Erratic texting patterns and negative, hurtful text content can be signs of a toxic relationship that isn't on the right track. "In these kinds of relationships, your partner will] text when they feel like it, at random times, and more often than not, when they are bored or horny," says Brame.

"They don't feel obligated to answer you until they 'feel' like it, which can be hours or days." And regarding texting? "They're all hot and intense in text and when you hook up later, they're more interested in gaming, drinking, or suddenly announce they're going out with their friends."

Since a lot of relationships blossom over early-stage texting, pay close attention to how the person's texts and texting behavior makes you feel. "With a new relationship, you should feel like the person you are seeing is the one to check in, the one to ask about your day, the one to make plans," advises Shalon Lester, author of dating memoir *Exes and Ohs* and YouTube sex and dating expert. Otherwise, if you feel like you're always the one reaching out and showing interest in their lives, you may be unconsciously setting the foundation for an unbalanced relationship. If you feel this has been the norm for a while, you may be with someone who really isn't ready to be in a caring, stable relationship. "Let them be super interested in you!"

When things are going well, your SMS messages should reflect it. "They text you on a fairly predictable schedule and check their phones often

enough that you can count on a text back even during busy times," says Brame. Regular sexting can also be part of a healthy relationship. "They're all hot and intense in text and when you hook up later, they are just as hot and intense about seeing you too!"

P.S. Research has found people who sext are more satisfied with their sext lives. Just saying.

They don't make room for you to grow

Fact: People change. Over time, we learn new things about ourselves and life, and our dreams and goals and even opinions shift.

That's OK. And it's important to be with someone who's both willing to accept those changes and grow too. In a toxic relationship, a guy will try to hold you back and hold your personal growth against you. Don't let him; leave and grow on instead.

"Toxic relationships are one's in which a partner feels threatened or insecure about your hobbies and interests," says Megan Fleming, a sex and relationship therapist in New York City. Remember that middle school crush who was furious when you beat them running the mile in gym? Like that, but on a much, *much* larger scale. "They might create drama whenever you

choose to do something that doesn't include them. They may implicitly or explicitly say you can't see (a particular friend) or do (a particular thing). They make you choose between them and someone or something else. Ultimatums are signs of a toxic relationship," says Fleming.

In healthy relationships, your partner supports your dreams and struggles. And GirlBoss goals. "Healthy relationships promote the growth of yourselves as individuals and as a couple. You support each other's interests even if you don't share that interest. You actively explore things together as a couple that you both enjoy and add interest, fun, and vitality to your relationship," says Fleming.

They take their bad days out on you instead of opening up to you

Just like there will be bumps in the road in your relationship, there will be crummy days when each partner has a rough time at work or school. "Everyone reacts differently to a bad day at work, no matter how healthy or toxic they may normally be," says Morse. "The difference is in how they treat and behave with you. A healthy partner will be able to see that you are not the enemy, and will resist the urge to take their bad feelings out on you."

EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With Henrietta Gonzuk

Health

Simple ways to lower cholesterol

WHEN you are found to have a high blood level of cholesterol, it can be very helpful to change your diet and lifestyle to lower cholesterol. Lowering cholesterol has been shown to decrease the risk of heart disease. Even if you are taking a medication to lower your cholesterol levels, diet and exercise in addition can lead to optimal heart and blood vessel health. The following tips can be simple ways to help you to stay healthy.

Good and Bad cholesterol

Actually, some cholesterol is necessary for proper body function. But dietary saturated fat and cholesterol both raise levels of LDL "bad" cholesterol. High levels of LDL cholesterol can cause plaque to build up in arteries, leading to heart disease and stroke. HDL is a "good" cholesterol in that it helps eliminate bad cholesterol from your blood. It is possible to lower LDL cholesterol and raise HDL cholesterol with your diet.

Portion control: Use your hand

Eating super-sized meals contributes to weight gain and high cholesterol. An easy way to practice portion control for a meal is to use your hand as a measuring instrument for portions. One handful is about the size of one portion.

Serve up heart-healthy food

When it comes to fruits and vegetables, pick up the pace! Multiple servings throughout the day can help lower LDL "bad" cholesterol. Moreover, these foods have antioxidants that can be beneficial. Also, eating more vegetables and fruits often results in eating fewer high-fat foods. This can lower blood pressure promote weight loss.

Start the day with whole grains

Oatmeal or whole-grain cereal have fiber and complex carbohydrates that help you to feel fuller for longer, so you'll be less inclined to overeat later in the day. These breakfasts help reduce LDL "bad" cholesterol and can help with your weight control.

Think fish for heart health

Fish is generally exceptionally heart healthy because it is high in healthy omega-3 fatty acids and low in saturated fat. It is the omega-3 fatty acids that help lower blood levels of triglycerides. Especially emphasize fatty fish. Keep in mind that deep oil frying of any food diminishes the health benefits.

Go nuts for cardiovascular



health

Nuts help to lower cholesterol because they are high in monounsaturated fat. This form of fat lowers LDL "bad" cholesterol while maintaining HDL "good" cholesterol levels. This can lower the risk of heart disease. Only eat a handful, though, because nuts are high in calories, especially if they are coated in sugar or chocolate.

Unsaturated fats protect the heart

Our daily fat needs are only about a third of our daily calories. However, the form of fat makes a difference. Unsaturated fats (in canola, olive, and safflower oils) lower LDL "bad" cholesterol levels. Saturated fats (in butter and palm oil) and trans fats increase LDL cholesterol. All fats have calories. Moderation is the key.

Eat more beans, fewer potatoes

Carbohydrates are important for energy production. However, there are differences in the quality of carbohydrates, too. Whole grains like beans, quinoa, whole-wheat pasta,

and brown rice are high in fiber that can help lower cholesterol. Whole grains also keep you feeling full longer. The carbohydrates in pastries, white rice, white bread, and potatoes boost blood sugar levels rapidly. This can lead you to feel hungry sooner, potentially leading to overeating.

Get moving with exercise!

Short intervals of regular exercise can help lower LDL cholesterol and raise HDL cholesterol. Maintain an ideal weight for lower blood pressure and heart disease risk. Exercise also improves cardiovascular health by helping to maintain an optimal body weight. Obviously, it is ideal when you can manage cholesterol without medication.

Just go for a walk

Walking is easy, healthy, and good pair of shoes is your only requirement. This too can lower your risk of stroke and heart disease, help you lose weight, maintain balance, and keep bones strong. Short walks are much better than no walks.

Work out without going to

the Gym

Any kind of cardiovascular activity can be beneficial to heart health. But check with your doctor for guidelines. Simple activities that can be of benefit include gardening, dancing, or taking the stairs instead of the elevator. Even housework can qualify as exercise.

Take control of your health

Stay on track with a consistent program of cholesterol management and learn the tricks that maintain your health. Checking food labels for nutrition facts can be very helpful. It also helps to vary your exercise routine during the week.

What to do when eating out

When you eat out be careful about the quality and quantity of your food consumption. Watch out for hidden salt, calories, and saturated fats. Don't super-size your order. Choose broiled, baked, steamed, and grilled foods instead of fried. Have the

sauces on the side.

Watch for hidden traps

Managing cholesterol with your diet begins at the grocery store. Look at nutrition labels. Check serving sizes. Don't be a victim of aggressive marketing advertisements. Does the package contain two servings instead of one?

Don't Stress

Stress can raise blood pressure, which can lead to heart and blood vessel disease. Stress reduction can be fun. Take a break from your usual routines of daily living. Simple and convenient methods to reduce stress include meditation, biofeedback, and relaxation exercises.

Losing Means Winning

Losing weight when you are obese lowers blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglycerides and decreases your risk of stroke and heart disease. An optimal body weight puts less stress on the heart. It also reduces the strain on joints and ligaments.

Source: Medical News.com

Editorial

As party primaries approach

VERY soon political parties are going to elect aspirants who would represent their political parties in the 2023 general elections. These aspirants have been traversing the landscape speaking to delegates who are saddled with the responsibility of electing on behalf of the rest of us those that would square up against each other during the forthcoming elections in 2023.

BUT before the elections, it is obvious that the system seems to be putting roadblocks on the path to success against the hard work that had been done by the aspirants. First, is the issue of the cost of forms sold by the various political parties. This is enough to scare off good and quality candidates who might not have the wherewithal to purchase the forms thus denying such candidates the opportunity to showcase the stuff they are made of.

TAKE the two big parties, the All Progressive Congress and the People's Democratic Party as examples. The APC is selling its Presidential form for not less than fifty million naira (50, 000,000) while the PDP is selling its own for forty million naira (40, 000,000) only. On the other hand, APC governorship form goes for as high as 30 million naira while that of the PDP sells for 21 million naira only.

IT goes without saying, therefore, that the political parties seem to be selling their forms to those with the capacity to purchase them not those with the ideas to turn around the fortunes of the society for good. Considering the difficulties inherent in today's Nigerian economy, it would be extremely difficult for any middle class person to cough out such a huge amount just to purchase a form when he is not sure he can win out of the many contestants that might have purchased the same form. It thus leaves open the door for any "money miss road" to pick up the ticket and put the people through grueling experiences.

UNLESS something is done fast and quick to save the polity from the grip of political money bags, we might find ourselves in the same vicious circle that have slowed the growth and development of our country. We therefore, call on the various political parties to, as a matter of urgency, reduce the cost of their forms to enable quality candidates compete and showcase their skills.

ALSO, we cannot shy away from the fact that if any aspirant spends so much to get to an office, it would only be logical that they would, on getting there first recoup whatever they had spent before settling to work for the people. And to encourage transparency in our dealings as a people, we must put in place measures to build our institutions.

We, therefore, call on political parties to open their doors to audits, so that the people would know how much they make and spend during their electioneering campaigns. That way, some sanity might be brought into the operations of the political parties and those who run them.

PERMIT me space in your widely read newspaper **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** to express my happiness with the way and manner organized religious bodies are coming up with innovations to groom young girls toward becoming modest and industrious in our society.

It is interesting to note that even when the society is decaying in morals and values, fewer organizations are setting the grounds for decency through teaching and mentoring of the young girls who are likely prey in the hands of bad gangs who mostly take advantage of them.

The Girls Brigade Nigeria should be commended for the vital roles they are playing in raising awareness through their various activities to get girls involved in religious and Godly activities that can shape their thinking, enhance their self-esteem, equip them for leadership responsibilities and inculcating in them values that have lasting legacies.

The camps that are organized periodically give these girls the opportunity to leave the comfort of their homes and endure hardship and discomforting terrain that exposes them to how the gospel message can be reached in spite of the hardship being faced. It gives the opportunity for them to mix up freely with others, make new friends, share experiences about life and of course the diversity in their ethnic background and denomination is better appreciated.



Kudos to Girls' Brigade Nigeria for grooming girls

Kudos to the older women that have given their time and attention to mentor these young girls in the fear of the Lord. They are taught different skills in such gatherings which have become life support for most ladies in their homes. The Parades and other outdoor activities build or prepares them to have basic skills that some of them can easily be absorbed in military and paramilitary outfits.

Parent need to encourage their wards to actively participate in such soul wining programmes which give these girls protection to a large extend because of the knowledge gained.

A drive round the metropolis

showed how many churches have been meaningfully engaged in that regards. Some are accommodated in schools, churches and other places that are convenient to accommodate the groups.

Sad to say that even when the group approaches authorities to seek for accommodation for these girls for the few days they would need to spend in camps, they are charged high amount of money this has discouraged the organizers to same extend.

All hands must be on deck to support any programme that will add value to humanity so as to reduce the excesses of the ills in the society.

Melody Kasham Jos.

The collapse of our educational system

EDUCATION they say is the bedrock of every society and should be taken seriously, but the reverse is the case now because of how poor the system is being managed these days.

Instead of focusing on how to improve the system, we are busy politicizing the future of our children and it is gradually consuming us. It is sad that the educational institutions that have baked and groomed our leaders who are at the helm of affairs today are in shambles.

Worthy of note is how our primary schools are left with pupils sitting under trees on stones to receive lesson, with half-baked teachers whose qualifications are questionable. In a country called "giant" of Africa, it is shameful that we are still

operating a "stone-age" style where pupils still sit under the tree to learn in this modern age.

The secondary schools are not left out of the dilemma, most government owned school have poor structures poor funding, low quality teaching and are without enough teachers. Imagine, having a teacher, teaching all subjects that he or she is not professionally trained.

This has grossly contributed in producing students of low quality where could hardly read and write effectively. They had no option than to engage in examination malpractices to scale through to the University or any higher educational institution.

The most worrisome of all is how students are clustered in a room in the name of

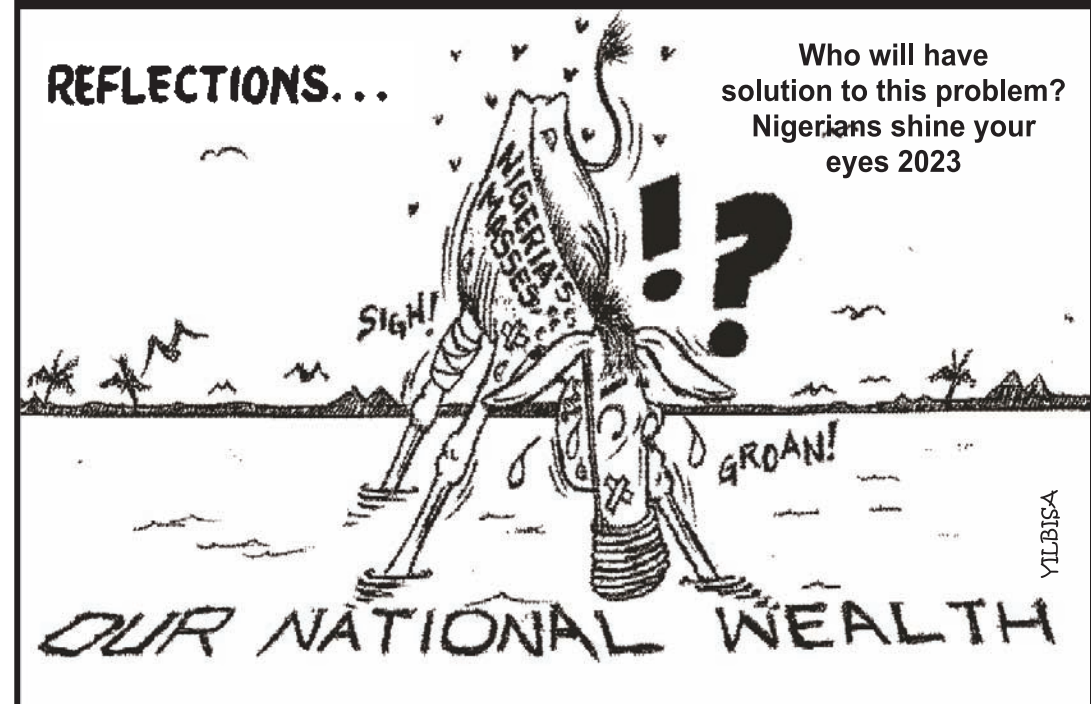
accommodation. It has been on record that, more than four to five students are kept in a room and it has forced so many to look for alternative means of renting an apartment off campus where their safety is guaranteed.

Therefore, we should stop playing politics with such a sensitive sector and focus more on building strong and functional education system that will take off our younger generation off crime and vices.

Government should prioritize or put more funds on repositioning our educational sector so that, our schools will have other countries coming to learn in Nigeria instead of embarking on shameless educational tourism to other schools abroad.

Alheri Alkali, Jos.

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

On disparity between varsity and polytechnic degrees

By OYIBO SALIHU

DESPITE the concerted efforts made by the National Assembly to put an end to the long term lingering disparity between graduates of Higher National Diploma (HND) and Bachelor of Science (BSC) degrees, investigation revealed that the trend has continued in some government-owned institutions and seemed to continue unchecked by the appropriate authorities.

It is on record that it was Senator Ayo Akinyelure, (PDP Ondo Central) who sponsored a bill titled, 'A Bill for an Act to Abolish and Prohibit Dichotomy and Discrimination between First Degree and Higher National Diploma in the Same Profession/Field for the Purpose of Employment; and for Related Matters' which was passed by the two chambers of the National Assembly in the month of June, 2021 with a view to ending the dichotomy between the two certificates awarded to graduates of polytechnics and universities.

The bill also stipulates sanctions against any form of disparities and discrimination against holders of Higher National Diploma in the country. Sadly, almost a years after the passage of the bill which received wider applause from Nigerians especially holders of HND certificates that have suffered all manner of suppression, denials and marginalisation in their places of works, the controversies arising from the disparities between the two certificates still remain unabated.

Many are of the opinion that the inability of President Muhammadu Buhari to give assent to the bill has further dashed the hope of Nigerians who are eagerly and earnestly looking forward to see the end of the dichotomy.

Fragrant disregard for NA act Investigation has revealed that despite concerted efforts made so far by the National Assembly to end the existing disparity between the two certificates, some institutions of higher learning in the country especially Prince Abubakar Audu University Anyigba in Kogi state still promotes the disparity through issuance of admission for postgraduate studies.

One of the complainants who complained to Blueprint, Musa Audu, a Higher National Diploma Certificate holder with Upper Credit grade lamented that the institution practically denied him the opportunity to run his master degree because he possesses a HND certificate.

According to him, the institution in its recent advertisement in one of the national dailies placed for admission into postgraduate programme (Master Degree) duly signed by the registrar of the university Alhaji Nuhu A Ahmed and pasted on the institution's notice board stated categorically that "Holders of HND without degree certificate need not apply."

According to Audu, "Imagine, with all my good grade I can not proceed to read for my Masters Degree until I pass through Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) programme. If that is the case then, what is the value of the grade I suffered to acquire?" he

queried. Obviously, this statement from the advertisement did not only serve as a discouragement to holders of HND certificates, but has further undermined the struggle and selfless effort put in place by Nigerian lawmakers to end the lingering dichotomy between HND and degree certificates.

As this controversy rages, efforts were made to get the response of the university's public relations officer, Mr Tahir Momoh through phone call and text messages, but all efforts were not responded to as at the time of filing this report.

Voices from within But speaking on the issue, the national president of Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) Mr Anderson Ezeibe expressed disappointment over the attitude of the executive arm of government at foot-dragging the matter rather than willing to sign into law the Act to abolish the lingering dichotomy between the two Degree certificates.

Ezeibe who stated this during the union's 79th Zonal Executive Council (ZEC) meeting of zone 'B' held at the Federal Polytechnic Idah in Kogi state, advised that if the government does not want the HND to exist, they can as well systematically phase out the certificate and replace it with Bachelor of Technology so that the country can stop deceiving itselves as a nation.

"It is very disappointing that after the bill had passed through the two chambers of the National Assembly and eight months after the presentation of

the Act to the executive arm of government, they are still dilly-dallying towards signing it to completely abolish the dichotomy between HND and Degree certificates.

"ASUP is saying now without any fear of contradiction that if the executive arm of government does not want the HND to exist they can as well systematically phase out HND certificate and replace it with Bachelor of Technology.

"The bill is a progressive one which was sponsored by Senator Ayo Akinyelure of which the House of Representatives and the Senate had deliberated on and passed it to the executive arm of government to assent into law. I wonder what is delaying the presidential assent. "It is unfortunate that till today, the disparity between graduates of Higher National Diploma (HND) and Bachelor of Science (BSC) continued in places of work and in gaining admission for further studies" he said.

The ASUP national president however called on President Muhammadu Buhari to ensure that the effort put in place by the National Assembly before passing Act to him should not be a waste in the interest of millions of HND certificate holders who are waiting earnestly to see his assent in order to make it a law. Lending his voice, a lecturer in Kogi State Polytechnic Lokoja, Mr Joel Tope Ebenezer, said the dichotomy between the university degree and the Polytechnic HND has been a long term battle which permeates not only academic circle but the

larger society.

According to him, the inability of President Muhammadu Buhari to sign into law the Bill for an Act to Abolish and Prohibit Dichotomy and Discrimination between First Degree and Higher National Diploma may not be unconnected with input of some stakeholders who believe strongly that the Polytechnic education has its own objectives while the university education also has its objectives.

He stated that, "It is very obvious that the two systems of education are not the same because they don't have the same directives, goals, objectives and process. "What is being introduced in the Polytechnics is middle manpower and the curriculum has been streamlined in that direction while that of the university are more of theoretical than practical. So the method of training differs and that dichotomy whether we like it or not existed in other areas.

"The argument in this situation should be in the remuneration and there should not be any dichotomy in grade level placement and remuneration," he said.

Apparently, despite previous laws and policies, discrimination against HND holders persisted because there were no sanctions for non-compliance, but the recent legislation, if properly implemented, would address the problem that has caused setbacks to technological growth and the nation's quest for industrialisation.

Taking youths out of crime through artisanal mining

By OYIBO SALIHU

SOME spirited individuals and stakeholders in the mining sector are taking advantage of the recently signed mining act by President Muhammadu Buhari to engage youths in Kogi state as against idleness for crimes and political thuggery. OYIBO SALIHU reports.

Youth in any state or nation represent 60-65 per cent of the population. Apparently youth unemployment is one of the biggest challenges inhibiting economic growth and development of a nation.

Obviously, youth unemployment, most often than not, have given rise to social vices such as armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, internet fraud, prostitution, political thuggery, destitution, among others numerous to mention.

Irked by this ugly development, a philanthropist, Gabriel Elemona Onoja, a native of Olamaboro local government area of Kogi state has taken the bull by the horn as he took the advantages abound in coal mining to engage and empower numerous youths especially in Kogi East Senatorial District and other parts of the state.

The young entrepreneur who has been supporting artisanal miners in the state also took advantage of the recent mining law by the federal government that allow young miners to form cooperative of 10 members to enable them operate in mining sites.

Gabriel Onoja, the current chairman of Coal Buyers Association Kogi East, ceased the opportunity to register over 200 cooperatives which comprises youths and women in the state.

Interestingly, this able youth who hitherto roamed about the streets while some politicians capitalised on their poor economic status to recruit them into thuggery were now awaiting the federal government training, release of grants and soft loans to enable them

expand the scope of their mining activities in the sites.

In addition, through the foundation, many youths have been trained on solid minerals exploration and given incentives and basic equipment to aid them in their coal mining activities in Kogi East.

Speaking recently during a sensitisation programme organised for solid mineral stakeholders held at Ejule in Ofu local government area of the state, Elemona Onoja vowed to take many youths from the shackles of abject poverty with a view to complimenting the effort of the state governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello who had prioritised youth empowerment in all his programmes in the state.

He used the opportunity to commended President Muhammadu Buhari for formalising the activities of artisanal miners in the country even as he described the federal government's plans to use the ministry to train, empower and grant small scale miners licences to operate on the mining deposit sites in most parts of Kogi as welcome development that would go a long way to reducing youth restiveness and insecurity in the state.

According to him "This arrangement, if actualised, youths restiveness and other forms of social ills in the society, would be addressed and the youths would now channel their time and energy towards productive economic venture that would improve their standard of living.

"With this, the youths would now smile to the bank and haulage operators would as well benefit from the economic gains.

"I am also appealing to the government to assist us with pay loaders, trailers, tractors excavators and other important mining machines to facilitate the mining of coal and its eventual transportation to the end users.

"Training of our members on modern mining techniques would keep them updated. Also, there is a need for approval and quick access to

loans and grants in order to aid to strengthen the operations, provision of paramedics for cases of emergency and other hazards on site as well as issuance of insurance cover for artisanal miners," he said.

He therefore assured on behalf of the artisanal miners that they would do everything possible to ensure that royalty and other entitlements to federal, state and local governments are paid as and when due.

Trainees share their thought

Mrs Joy Abalaka, one of the beneficiaries of the empowerment programme praised God for the life of the philanthropist, describing him as gift from God to this current generation of youth.

"He has touch many lives including mine. He empowered me to go into coal mining and today, I am living comfortably. He has created and given job opportunities for young people who in the past roam about the street for lack of jobs and this has drastically helped in curbing crime in the eastern flank of the state.

"Onoja came to me and others at the time we had lost interest in mining because of unsurmountable challenges we faced then, but he came and supported me and gave me hope that is keeping me moving till date.

"He has done a lot for the less-privileged in Kogi East. We pray to God to give him good health to do more for humanity. We are also happy with the federal government for their plan to help artisanal miners with loans. We are appealing to the government to make the loan accessible to miners to improve our the mining activities."

Ibrahim Zakari, a coal miner explained that before Onoja came into coal mining business, the Chinese investors bought the product poorly from them. He noted that through the effort of Onoja, the artisanal and small scale miners have been given a standardised and profitable price that has been benefiting them.

He therefore solicited for government assistance in order to expand the coal mining business in Ankpa, Ofu and other parts of the state where the mineral resources are in abundance.

FGrep shares a thought

To boost coal mining in Kogi state, the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development promised to assist artisanal and small scale miners in the state with grants and incentives to enhance mining activities in the state.

Engr Obasi Uwadiogwe, the principal technical officer of the ministry who disclosed this while speaking at a sensitisation programme in Ejule announced that the federal government through the ministry is desirous of investing vigorously to encourage youth to participate actively in mining activities to improve their income generation.

According to him, artisanal and small scale miners constitute 95 per cent of mining activities in sub-sahara Africa, saying government investment in the sector would generate employment for youth and as well take them away from all forms of criminal activities.

He therefore charged artisanal miners in the state to form cooperatives to enable them benefit from the federal government support and training.

He said, "I am urging all youths in Kogi state to form cooperatives and start mining activities at artisanal level so that it can grow into a bigger mining site. You should also adhere to government rules and regulations by registering with the ministry and also cooperate with the host communities to avoid incessant conflicts," he advised

He used the opportunity to commend Onoja for facilitating and supporting mining activities in the state, while assuring him that government would support him in the promotion of mining in the state.

Change of Name

<p>DONGO</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN DAVOU, now wish to be known and addressed as DONGO JOHN DAVOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN VICTORIA NORO, now wish to be known and addressed as PAM VICTORIA NORO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>ISAU</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHRISTOPHER BOYI JONATHAN, now wish to be known and addressed as ISAU CHRISTOPHER JONATHAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAANWOL LEPKUK KWALTEI now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA DANLAMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>FACHANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as FACHANG ABEL DADI, now wish to be known and addressed as FACHANG ABEL ZINGLAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH</p> <p>I, DAVID GAD BAYERO, wish to state that my correct and authentic date of birth is 9th July, 1982 and not 21st August, 1974 and 28th August, 1970. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>NJIDEKA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NJIDEKA ESTHER OKAFOR, now wish to be known and addressed as NJIDEKA PERPETUA ONWUASOIZU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHIRVEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHIRVEN PONKUR, now wish to be known and addressed as CHIRVEN MARCHAP PONKUR. Correct date of birth is 01/06/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>JOSEPH</p> <p>I, formerly known as EUNICE MASHAT, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH, EUNICE MASHAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MAI-SABON-GIDA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAI-SABON-GIDA MUHAMMADU UMAR, GIDA MUHAMMADU UMAR, now wish to be known and addressed as MAI-SABON-GIDA MUHAMMAD UMAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>HARUNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMILU UMAR AHMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as HARUNA NAZIFI MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ODILI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ODILI GABRIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ODILI GABRIEL ENO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ZAKARIYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZAKARIYA AYUBA, now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKARIYA AYUBA ARBI. Correct date of birth is August 5, 1975 not August 5, 1967. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BALA</p> <p>I, formerly known as BALA BALA LADI, KATURA LADI BALA, now wish to be known and addressed as BALA LADI KATURA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>GAMBO</p> <p>I, formerly known as GAMBO ABU GONING, now wish to be known and addressed as GAMBO ZAINAB ABU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>WAWUL</p> <p>I, formerly known as LONGER ABIGAIL DOGARA, now wish to be known and addressed as WAWUL ABIGAIL DAVID. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>KYESHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as KYESHAK PNKYES LUKA, now wish to be known and addressed as KYESHAK PANKYES LUKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CEPHAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as CEPHAS DUNIYA, now wish to be known and addressed as CEPHAS NANMAN CLAPPERTON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>RAMATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as RAMATU SAMUEL, now wish to be known and addressed as RAMATU ISMA'IL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>FRANK</p> <p>I, formerly known as FRANK ANIETIE AFFIONG AFFIONG, now wish to be known and addressed as FRANK ANIETIE AFFIONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>THOMAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as BANTE SENTER MISKOOM, now wish to be known and addressed as THOMAS SENTER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MRS. CHARITY</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHARITY THOMAS DUAKNAAN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. CHARITY DAMULAK. All former documents remain valid. First bank and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JAMILA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMILA SULAIMAN ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as JAMILA MUHAMMAD MUSA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GWOM</p> <p>I, formerly known as BULUS SIMI JEREMIAH, now wish to be known and addressed as GWOM SIMI PAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>ALIYU</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI ALIYU ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU ABDULLAHI. Correct date of birth is 22/01/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DANIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as IDOWU FEMI DANIEL now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL FEMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JONATHAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as JONATHAN BARDE IBRAHIM now wish to be known and addressed as JONATHAN IBRAHIM BARDE. Correct date of birth is 21/04/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUWA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SATI STEVEN SUWA, now wish to be known and addressed as SUWA STEPHEN SATI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>FLORENCE</p> <p>I, formerly known as FLORENCE ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as FLORENCE KAKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AHMADU</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISA ABDULLAHI JIBRIN, now wish to be known and addressed as AHMADU DOMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MARIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARIA ISAAC ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as MARIA HARUNA VRENGKYES. Correct date of birth is November 13, 1976 not November, 13, 1972. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>RASHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as RASHAK ABISHA, now wish to be known and addressed as RASHAK ABISHA DAKAHAP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GITLA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GITLA BANBIS DANIEL now wish to be known and addressed as GITLA BANBIS DANIEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>UZOZIE</p> <p>I, formerly known as FLORENCE NIKEANYUCHUKWU UZOZIE, now wish to be known and addressed as UZOZIE FLORENCE KANAYO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KHIRNAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SENMET SATDOM BENJAMIN, now wish to be known and addressed as KHIRNAN SENMET YAKUBU. 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 ISIIYAKU IBRAHIM MUHD, ISIIYAKU IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM ISIIYAKA MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

News

Northern Governors celebrate Malami @ 55

Northern Governors Forum (NGF), a platform of 19 Governors of Nigerian Northern States have felicitated with the country's Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami at 55.

By **PALANG KASMI**

Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong in a message of goodwill Tuesday described Malami as a courageous and committed legal personality whose passion for the peace and

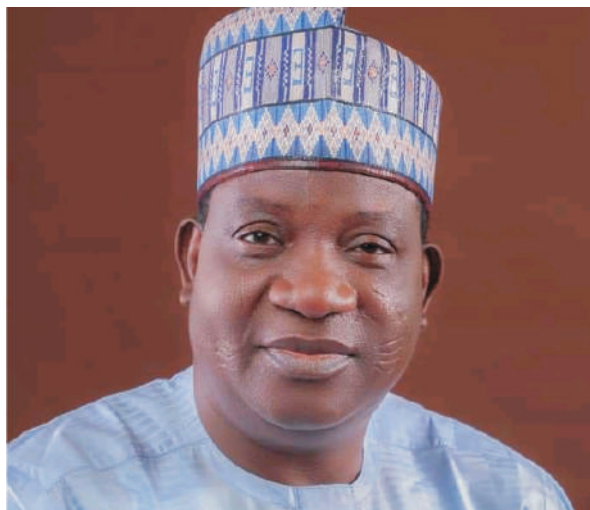
progress of the nation has continued to guide his conduct.

Said the Chairman: The Learned Senior Advocate has effectively managed the nation's law and justice sector by introducing innovations that have improved justice delivery, strengthening independence of the Judiciary, and emphasizing the principle of separation of powers between the arms of Government".

"We acknowledge the efforts of the Minister of Justice towards consolidation of the rule of law, fight against corruption, terrorism and economic crimes in the country".

The Governor, on behalf of the NGF wished Malami good health, God's blessings and divine protection, appreciating the contributions of Malami to its efforts towards addressing the socio-economic challenges and improving the living standards of its people.

Lalong urged him to continue to remain steadfast and committed to the implementation of Justice reform in the country.



Lalong

Plot to smear Osinbajo exposed

THE Osinbajo for President Media Council says it has uncovered a fraudulent plan to malign the reputation of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

Osinbajo is a presidential aspirant on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The council, in a statement on Tuesday in Abuja, said the plot had been traced to a cell of smear campaigners led by a United States-based Nigerian and former Students Union President at the University of Lagos.

It said the plan was to use fake audio of faceless individuals with fictitious names to cast the vice president, who is a Christian, as a religious fanatic who discriminated against members of staff of other faith while he was Attorney-General in Lagos State during the Bola Tinubu administration.

The council stated that in the fake video, a woman is seen crying and making frantic allegations that she was discriminated against by the then Attorney-General because she was not allowed

to wear the hijab to work.

"As observed by someone who was in the same ministry at the time Osinbajo served as Attorney-General, no such incident ever occurred and this is just a malicious and wicked attempt to sully the sterling qualities of Prof. Osinbajo because of his presidential aspirations," the council said.

It added that Osinbajo's Secretary as Attorney General and a Muslim, Alhaji Abdul Gafar Bakare, had testified before now that the then Lagos AGF "did not only encourage me to further my education even at my relatively old age, he personally sponsored my BSc Accounting Programme."

The council also quoted Bakare as revealing that Osinbajo sponsored his foreign travel then.

It recalled that similar smear campaigns were unleashed against President Muhammadu Buhari, especially during the 2014-15 presidential campaigns, when it was alleged that he was virulently anti-Christian.

The council said the attempt, however, met with failure.

"Even though a Christian, Pastor, Prof Osinbajo has always demonstrated himself to be a tolerant Nigerian who believes in the inter-faith harmony and freedom of worship as enshrined in the Nigerian 1989 Constitution as amended.

"During his career as a university teacher, he taught Moslems and Christians alike in a convivial atmosphere.

"He also had excellent working and private relationships with Muslim bosses over the decades, including Judge, Bola Ajibola, former Governor Tinubu and President Muhammadu Buhari.

"Osinbajo remains a firm believer in Nigeria's diversity and ardent proponent of Nigerian unity.

"For these reasons, the Media Council feels the need to alert the general public to the odious campaign strategy of Osinbajo detractors and urge everyone to ignore same when released to the public," it said.

News

Bauchi farmers to benefit from AU agric programme

NO fewer than 5,400 small scale farmers in Bauchi State are expected to benefit from the African Union Development Agency's Agriculture Programme under the New Partnership for African Development (AUDA-NEPAD).

Dr. Esther Ahmed, who is the Bauchi State Coordinator of AUDA-NEPAD and focal person, made this known while giving an outline of the programme to the newly appointed local government Desk Officers of the intervention in her office in Bauchi.

She unfolded that the AUDA-NEPAD programme is an agricultural and agro-allied intervention aimed at strengthening small holder farmers capabilities, accelerating productive land restoration and combating desertification. Adding that the AUDA-NEPAD programme is specifically designed to respond to the medium and long-term effects of Covid-19 pandemic on the socio economic activities in Bauchi State.

"The programme will focus on some selected activities that will be implemented on strong agricultural footing towards sustainable development."

The activities will include drip irrigation farming and other irrigation facilities, green house construction and livestock production/husbandry farming, which will be

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi**



Bala

targeted at women and people living with disability (PLWD).

"Other focus areas of the programme are tailored around agricultural equipment and infrastructure, post-harvest storage and processing, capacity building of beneficiaries and other stakeholders", she said.

Dr Esther Ahmed, who also served as the state director-general of the Sustainable Development Goals office, informed the LG Desk Officers that the state Governor, Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed with committed to the AUDA-NEPAD programme, stressing that, "His Excellency Governor Mohammed has graciously agreed to pay the counterpart funding in an effort to fast track the implementation of

the programme."

The coordinator then urged the newly appointed LG desk officers of AUDA-NEPAD programme to support the state in ensuring successful implementation of the programme that will enhance the economic status of the less privileged and vulnerable target groups in their localities to achieve its purpose.

Islamic scholar unveils books on Qur'an

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi**

A renowned Kano based International Islamic Scholar, and an Associate Professor with Bayero University Kano, Muhammad Sani Umar Rijiyar Lemo has unveiled a book that contains the last Five Chapters of the Glorious Qur'an in a Tafseer format that was authored by him.

Unveiling the book during his annual Ramadan Tafseer at the Gwallaga Mosque in Bauchi, the scholar said that the goal behind publishing the last five chapters of the Holy Qur'an in a Tafseer format was to give youth in various stages of study and married women the opportunity to study the five chapters in a Tafseer format.

He said that the five Chapters Tafseer publication is accompanied with commentaries,

reinforced by hadiths of prophet Muhammad (SAW), logic and analysis of some world renowned Islamic authorities, for deeper understanding of the Holy Qur'an.

Associate Professor Muhammad Sani Umar Rijiyar Lemo, Presenting the Book During Tafseer at Gwallaga Mosque Bauchi

Lemo, who said that the publication of the book, published in Beirut, Lebanon, was as a result of persistent requests from different quarters of the Muslim Communities to have an abridge version of the full Qur'an, pointed out that the logic behind the publication

of the last five chapters of the Holy Qur'an was for ease of understanding and assimilation by students of Islamic courses, youth groups and married women.

Dr. Lemo then called the privileged members of the society to purchase the book and donate to schools, mosques and libraries so as to make it accessible for the target groups.

Our correspondent reports that prior to this publication, Dr. Lemo had published many Islamic related books which includes the translation of the entire sixty chapters of the Holy Qur'an in a Tafseer format in Hausa dialect.

BKDA president appeals for road contract bcompletion

BY **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

THE National President of Ballang Kalep Development Association (BKDA), Dr. Shirka Kassam has cried out appealing to the State and Federal governments on behalf of the contractor handling Ballang-Nyeleng-Jivir-Tapsin road to mobilise funds for the completion of the road to help cushion the hardship being faced by these communities.

He made the appeal Sunday, while delivering his welcome address at the 2022 Pis Kokshak Annual Cultural Festival organised by BKDA at the Balling Kalep Primary School play ground in Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The President said, "I want to use this opportunity to passionately appeal to the Plateau State Government, the Senator representing Plateau Central Senatorial District, Sen. Hezekiah Dimka, House Member representing Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi and other influential personalities to use their influences and positions to lobby for the release of adequate funds to the contractor handling Ballang-Nyeleng-Jivir-Tapsin road to resume work.

"The sudden withdrawal and disappearance of the contractor on site is a cause of worry to the beneficiaries of the road. Moreover, the

gradual withdrawal of heavy duty machines from the contractor's camp is further causing trepidation for the beneficiaries of the road.

"Of most concern also to the people is that the places earlier graded are no longer motorable especially during raining season. I sincerely commend the efforts of the past leaders of Ballang Development Association who have impacted positively on the lives of the people in diverse ways. It is on these foundations that we intend to build our prosperous future", he appealed.

On his part, the Guest Speaker, Dr. Katkukak Danjuma Gokum of Federal College of Education Pankshin said, "unity is the

state of oneness in mind, opinion, feeling and the desire to achieve together. Is the state of being in full agreement with others for the common goal and good of all. Unity is power, unity is strength, unity is progress and unity is empowerment, when we are united we will scale new height and move mountains.

"When one gets hurt, you always hear people say 'an injury to one is an injury to all'. We stand together in unity. Never allow any negative influence to break your unity, because some people understand the importance of unity and once they break you, you become divided and you fall.

Unity helps you grow-if

you want to achieve something huge in your life you need to walk together with people because unity opens more opportunities. Unity makes us win what seems difficult and impossible. Individually, we are like one drop of water but together in unity we are like ocean", Gokum enthused.

Earlier, the Chairman of the occasion and YPP gubernatorial Candidate of Plateau State, Engr. Manji Gontori, called on the people of Ballang Kalep to be security alert and conscious considering the current security challenge the country is faced with because he was concerned about the life of people.

Meanwhile, the Member representing Pankshin-North in the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Philip Dasun, encouraged the people of Ballang Kalep to not compromise the unity of the land for politics because it would destroy them if they do not see themselves above this sentiment of divide and rule.

There were goodwill messages from the representatives of Senator Hezekiah Dimka, Member representing PKK, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Gagdi, Council Chairman of Pankshin LGA, Hon. Katmenne Goteng, APC gubernatorial Aspirant, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe and others too many to mention.



Kassam

Aspirant reveals why Anti-Open Grazing Law failed

From **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

A senatorial aspirant under the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) in Taraba State, Dr. David Ishaya Kassa, has revealed why the Anti-Open Grazing Law in Taraba has failed to produce results.

According to Kassa, the law is more of a security issue than an agricultural issue and therefore cannot succeed without the cooperation of the people.

The immediate past Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development, said, this after he had Submitted his nomination form for the Taraba North Senate seat.

Kassa, whose ministry initiated and sponsored the Taraba Open Grazing and Ranching Establishment Law 2017, said, there is need for everyone to ensure that herders and farmers co-exist peacefully.

"The Anti-Open Grazing Law has two faces. It is more of a security issue than an agricultural issue and security issue is the business of each and everyone of us. It is not for the Ministry of Agriculture or myself. We need to put our hands together to see that we

resolve this issue and to make sure that our herders and farmers live together side by side for the economic benefit of our country," Kassa stated.

The veterinarian turned politician, disclosed that his aspiration was "a clarion call by my people to serve them in this capacity to make sure their voices are heard at the National Assembly".

"Based on the consultation that we have done, I decided to run for the senate. I am going to make sure that their voices are heard. I am not going to be a senator by proxy (meaning I am not going to represent myself). I am going to represent my people. Whatever they say is what I am going to report at the National Assembly. That is my desire," Kassa added.

He called on his supporters to desist from "attacking personalities" or abusing any aspirant and that discussions must be issue based.

Kassa also called on his constituents who have turned 18 to take advantage of the ongoing continuous voters registration to register.

News

Police rescue 4 kidnapped victims in Kaduna

POLICE in Kaduna State rescued four kidnap victims on Friday, the spokesman, ASP Mohammed Jalige, stated in Kaduna on Sunday.

Jalige stated that an unspecified number of bandits stormed Gabari Community, Samaru, in Sabon Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State on Friday.

An anonymous caller promptly reached out to the Divisional Police Office at Danmagaji, Zaria, he stated.

"The caller said an unspecified number of suspected bandits, dressed in military gear invaded the community, shot sporadically and whisked four victims into the forest," Jalige also stated.

He added that on receiving the information, men of Operation Puff Adder II, a police unit, and local vigilantes mobilised and ambushed the bandits on their anticipated escape route.

Jalige stated that the strategy yielded dividends as two of the victims were rescued during a fierce encounter with the bandits.

He added that with the assistance of the local vigilantes, the team laid a second ambush at Gwada village, another escape route



IGP, Alkali

for bandits.

"Those who escaped from the first ambush were intercepted just as two other victims were rescued unhurt.

"Unfortunately, the bandits had earlier shot and killed one person at Kufena Village, Wusasa, for refusing to be kidnapped," he stated.

He urged members of the

public to always alert the police with prompt information as the Commissioner of Police, Mr Yekini Ayoku, has assured of confidentiality on information received.

The commissioner also condoled with the family of the deceased and prayed that he found eternal rest," Jalige stated.

UN Deputy Secretary-General, Nigeria's Amina Mohammed, has expressed optimism that there is still hope for developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

The UN General Assembly set the goals in 2015 with a target date of attainment fixed at 2030.

Fielding questions on the possibility of achieving the SDGs, Mohammed stressed in New York on Tuesday that the goals were achievable.

She said with sustained investments and political will, developing countries could achieve the SDGs in spite of high debt profiles, mass illiteracy, poor health infrastructure, Covid-19 and poor performance in child rights.

The deputy secretary had earlier briefed newsmen on the "2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Bridging the Finance Divide" lunched by the UN on April 12.

The report was produced by the UN Department of

UN optimistic that developing countries can achieve SDGs

Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with more than 60 international agencies, including the UN System, and international financial institutions.

The report came at a critical moment for humanity, adding to the compounding crises of climate change, assaults on our natural systems, and the protracted Covid-19 pandemic.

It also came at a time the world was experiencing the fallout of the war in Ukraine which had been rapidly impacting food, energy, and finance across the globe.

The deputy secretary-general also noted that the report estimates that in the poorest countries a 20 per cent increase in spending will be required for key sectors.

Mohammed acknowledged that multiplicity of crises had put developing countries at a disadvantage in making progress in achieving the SDGs when compared with strides made by developed countries.

"Every day, we work on different scenarios and opportunities for investments and to ride on the back of climate actions and energy transition.

"We are looking at the involvement of the private sector and we have seen good signs at COP 26, where unmanaged fund was committed to sustainable investment planning," she said.

COP26 was the 26th UN Climate Change conference held in Glasgow, Scotland, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 13 2022.

It brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"We have looked at commitments made at COP26 and there were lots of commitments.

"So, we are pushing; we are targeting G20 and Spring Meetings. We are targeting those meetings to help to mobilise resources and to create the enabling environment," Mohammed said.

According to her, attention is on multilateralism to get different ways to get financing to achieve the goals.

The deputy secretary-general, however, expressed dissatisfaction at the level of institutional and corporate support for the SDGs in developing countries.

"We are not satisfied with what we have seen so far.

"We didn't see that

commitment in COVID-19 response," she lamented.

Mohammed urged leaders in developing countries to deliver on their commitments in achieving the SDGs.

Earlier, Mohammed said without immediate policy action, the window for delivering the SDGs by 2030 would close.

She noted that the majority of developing countries would need active and urgent support to get back on track to achieve the SDGs.

She said an estimated 77 million more people were still living in extreme poverty globally, a worse situation when compared with the pre-Covid-19 era.

According to her, UN analysis indicates that 1.7 billion people are facing exposure to spiking food prices, energy and fertiliser costs as a result of the on-going war in Ukraine.

The UN deputy chief assured that the recommendations from the reports pointed on the way forward to revert the threat posed by the Covid-19 and other challenges.

"First, the international community must urgently address financing gaps and rising debt risks and it would be a tragedy if developing countries continue to default at the expense of investments in social services and climate resilience," she noted.

Mohammed also said that policy makers must ensure that financing is aligned with the SDGs and climate actions.

"This includes public budgets, tax systems, regulatory frameworks, and corporate reporting requirements.

"Climate-related risks should also be integrated into debt contracts and financial frameworks," she stressed.

She also said developing countries should improve on information ecosystems, as it would help policymakers to improve on planning; to manage risks better and to combat illicit financial flows.

"It will also help markets to better evaluate sovereign risks, including the impact of credit ratings.

"Across the board, we must also take steps to improve our global financial system to ensure that it reduces inequality while increasing resilience.

"As things stand now, those member states that have the power of the global financial system appear to be moving in the opposite direction," the top UN official said.

Governor empowers traders, artisans

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir, of Bauchi State has approved the sum of N300m as soft loans to traders and artisans across 20 LGA's in the state which will soon be disbursed.

Governor Bala made this known recently where he said his government is determined to upgrade major markets and motor parks in Bauchi metropolis and other parts of the state.

According to him, the markets and motor parks involved are: Bauchi Central Market, Muda Lawal Market, Wunti Market, Railway Market, Yankari Motor Park, Muda Lawal Motor Park, Gombe Road Motor Park, Dass Motor Park and Kofaran Motor Park.

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

The governor excited the traders and artisans on Monday when he hosted Bauchi Local Government PDP stakeholders on a Ramadan breakfast at Old Banquet Hall, Government House, Bauchi adding that Azare, Misau and Ningi areas will also be considered in the construction of new markets and motor parks.

He explained that the modernization and upgrade of the markets and motor parks would be conducted through Public Private Partnership (PPP) assuring that local traders across the state would

be part of the process.

The Governor, disclosed that the N300 million budget will soon be disbursed to traders across the state in order to improve their business activities for economic development.

"I am grateful to people of Bauchi Local Government because they have done so much to me and I will do more in Bauchi Local Government by construction of access roads to expand its cities, improve water supply and will continue to execute projects that will bring positive development to the state for the benefit of the citizens of the state" he promised.

He added that, "So far, I have fulfilled 90 percent of my campaign promises and therefore we must remain united as stakeholders of our

party in Bauchi Local Government, there is need for unity among all of you for our success".

The chairman Bauchi Local Government, Alhaji Mahmoud Babama'aji Abubakar, who spoke for the PDP stakeholders in Bauchi Local Government applauded Governor Bala Mohammed for the number of projects executed in the area, reaffirmed their support and cooperation to his administration for more success in the delivery of dividends of democracy.

They expressed readiness to support the Governor in whatever way possible in his aspiration to lead the country as President in 2023 assuring that whichever he chooses to do, they are prepared to join hands with him to succeed.

Troops neutralise IPOB/ESN gunman in Imo

TROOPS of the 34 Artillery Brigade, Nigerian Army, have neutralised a notorious gunman of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed affiliate, Eastern Security Network (ESN), in Imo.

Director, Army Public Relations, Brig.-Gen. Onyema Nwachukwu, stated in Abuja on Monday that the gunman was killed in an encounter at Ihioma Community in Orlu Local Government Area of the state.

Nwachukwu said troops encountered members of the separatist group who were firing sporadically at Banana Junction to enforce their illegal "sit-at-home" order on law-abiding citizens.

According to him, on sighting the troops, the IPOB/ESN

criminals withdrew in a blue Toyota Highlander towards Ihioma community for reinforcement.

"In the fire fight that ensued, one of the criminals was taken out, while others fled in disarray.

"Troops are combing the general area in a follow-up operation to track down the fleeing dissidents.

"Having suffered casualty and effectively denied freedom of action by the troops, the group have resorted to cheap propaganda to whip up public sentiments.

"This, they have done by circulating a doctored video on the social media alleging troops' complicity in their mindless atrocities.

"This propaganda should be disregarded in its entirety," Nwachukwu stated



Abdulkadir



By FRANCISCA ADIDI

THE random killings across the country especially in the North is a thing of concern in the society, especially for the present administration.

So many lives are being lost and property worth millions of Naira destroyed from attacks by terrorists on a daily basis. This is because insecurity has become order of the day.

It seems the present administration of President Buhari does not appear to have answers to the challenges of security which the society is facing today.

Should we continue like this? How long? And when should Nigerians expect an end to these killings? Nigerian roads are not safe as most people are being kidnapped on their journey. The killers on the roads and other criminals in the society appear to be comfortable as not enough is being done to stop their activities by the government. That is why they have gained more confidence in their

attacks.

The security situation in the country has gone worst under this administration such that the cry of the common man is for Nigeria to have a messiah to take over from Buhari. This is because it seems our leaders are more concerned with politicking than the wellbeing of

Nigerians are tired of recycled politicians who are moving themselves from local government to state and from state level to National Assembly and to the presidency without tackling the security situation.

Today politicians are cross carpeting and switching from one political party to the other

The need for leaders to act

its populace.

Nothing is being taken serious today as everything is being politicized because of the greedy nature of politicians. Remember, Nigeria is bigger than all of us. The country needs to be fixed before it is being governed.

Everyone wants to contest into leadership position and not because they want to govern and fix things but rather because of position, money and fame that comes with it.

Everyday, the media reports killings here and there. They are also tired of reporting such news. They also love Nigeria and would want to report good things about the country.

Nigerians are saying enough of the bloodshed. Enough of kidnapping, enough of terrorism. Government should therefore wake up to its responsibility. Nigerians are not asking for too much, they need peace, they need security of lives and property.

Today Nigerians are praying for good and genuine leaders who will be totally committed to free the country from the numerous challenges the nation has been battling with.

just to get elected into leadership positions.

Former President Goodluck Jonathan was accused of being the architect of insecurity in the country. As a way out, a retired General of the Nigeria Army was brought in thinking he would change the narrative. But the situation got worst day by day that some Nigerians are calling for his resignation as insecurity has grown worst.

Nigerian government is duty bound to protect the lives of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution. But this can only be achieved if government reconstructs the security architecture of the country, by bringing modern technology to



bare so as to keep the security forces ahead of the insurgents.

The recent attacks on Kaduna/Abuja road and that of Plateau State in Kanam Local Government Area, where so many lives were lost and property destroyed, is pathetic and unfortunate. These attacks show the helplessness of our security personnel. Yet it is, only when terrorists strike before the presence of police or military will be seen.

And each time an attack is made, government is quick to condemn such attacks without apprehending those culprits. Are they invisible? Where are the perpetrators?

Nigerians only talk about

elections without tackling the issue of insecurity which has gained grounds in the Nigerian society. The leadership does not come closer to the people for effective management of the situation.

We are a people that are suffering and smiling. They are killing us yet we are not tired of lining up under the sun to elect leaders that allow terrorists to kill us without being caught.

Security issue needs to be tackled fast to save the lives and property of the remaining Nigerians.

Is there nothing to be done to curb this insecurity in the country? Why are our leaders so quiet and nonchalant about the issue of security and lives are being wasted everyday as if human lives are valueless?

Our leaders should not allow the country to be battered and buffeted as in the words of Father Kukah. Our leaders should not inflict morals, psychological and emotional damage on Nigerians that will take a long time to heal.

Our leaders should not allow Nigeria to bleed as insecurity grows worst everyday.

“

Our leaders should not allow the country to be battered and buffeted as in the words of Father Kukah. Our leaders should not inflict morals, psychological and emotional damage on Nigerians that will take a long time to heal.

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Dariye's pardon and lessons for politicians



By KENNETH DARENG

THE recent Presidential pardon granted to former Plateau State Governor, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye four years into his conviction over a corruption case that spanned almost 11 years to prosecute with several millions spent in the process, has caused several tongues wagging as to why the National Council of State should have dispensed such a decision which to some national commentators has rubbished and derailed the anti-corruption crusade of the

President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration in the first place.

I will rather not dwell on spilled milk, but look at the lessons that can be derived from the entire scenario that led to the conviction. First, one may be wondering the state of mind of Senator Dariye at this point in time which I am sure a lot must have happened in terms of deep personal reflection on his past, present and indeed the future.

Perhaps, one may look at the present-day society where the political class spend millions of naira to win elections and when they get certain positions, they get drunk with power and the spoils of the office. And just like the saying goes; "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." So goes the jamboree of spending state resources at the expense of the poor masses.

There are many individuals, groups, associations, religious organisations, families and friends including cronies who are direct beneficiaries of state

funds by public office holders who do not give a hood about the source of such money as long as it can oil their palms and handle their egos. Such people do not offer any moral advice because it may either hurt the benefactor or the person may be seen to be a busy body thereby, remaining aloof even against their conscience.

Yes, it may be said that Dariye must have opted for what Mahatma Gandhi once referred to as; "Seven sins, that is wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character and politics without principles." Today, there are many Nigerian politicians cruising in yachts or flying across major cities of the world sleeping in five-star hotels, shopping in malls, drinking the best wines with courses of meals, with men and women enjoying what money can buy forgetting that all can come to zero it at the end they end up in a small prison cell confined to him or herself where a day could be like light years away filled with emotions

and regrets.

Since the advent of democratic governance from 1999 to date, it appears our politicians are yet to come to terms with the reality of life whereby people just forget that life itself is transient such that no matter how much one acquires ends up as vanity. It is equally unfortunate that the syndrome of primitive accumulation of wealth has remained a cancerous disease in our society leading to the dearth of moral wellbeing across all strata of our nation. Thing seems to be declining all reasonable solutions because we as a people have chosen the path to perdition.

The reality is that, the substitution of politics of social infrastructure with that of "stomach" infrastructure by our present crop of politicians comes with a huge price. It drains the state resources without actually pointing at any physical landmark or development. This kind of mentality only plays to the gallery of well-wishers and

encourages leaders to soil their hands thereby falling victims of dirty acts such as corruption which the same public at the end will despise.

William Shakespeare perhaps had the likes of many Nigerian political classes in mind when he warned that; "as a leader, you must not play with the feelings of others because you may win the game, but the risk is that you will surely lose the person for a life time." Then we must also ask ourselves whether we are among those who are corrupt or aid corruption and still playing active role in governance.

To Senator Dariye, he must also see his freedom as a time to learn from the lessons of life which under such circumstance must have revealed 3 categories of people in his life such as; those who helped him in his difficult moment, those he left in a difficult moment and those he put in a difficult time.

SMS ONLY
kennethd1966@gmail.com
08098181805

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT is an established fact that the establishment of Ministry of Finance by the state government was not a misplacement of thought, since the ministry is saddled with the responsibilities of controlling and managing all the financial transactions of the state government.

This has clearly indicated that the broad functions and responsibilities of the ministry as provided by the finance (control and management) Act 1958 and financial regulation 2009 (Revised) fall into general supervision and control of public funds, securing and managing the investments of the state, control and management of public expenditures through financial releases and also ensuring the implementation of the political programmes of government.

The relevance of this ministry cannot be underestimated because its functions is to control and coordinate the receipts, keep custody and disbursement of the state government fund; is also responsible for the purchase of the state government's central stores and custody of all financial security books and documents, as well as controlling and co-ordinating payments of workers' salaries, pension and gratuities.

It may interest you to know that finance is the lifewire of the state economy. In other words, it is also the fulcrum on which the wheel of economic growth and development of the state rolls.

Worthy of note is the fact that the state Ministry of Finance is working round the clock to see that it evolves some interesting fiscal and of course financial policies that are systematically geared towards harnessing the team's financial resources for the good and progress of all.

In this regard, the Commissioner of Finance in the state, Dr. Mrs. Regina Soemlat has always ensured that all resources accruing to the state are judiciously and prudently utilized towards the upliftment of the political and socio-economic well-being of all and sundry in the state.

However, in a bid to ensure more productivity or effective service delivery in the civil service at the state level, Plateau State Ministry of Finance in its focus thought it wise to purchase more office working tools/kits for the staff of its departments and units respectively.

This laudable gesture is no doubt a welcome effort that needs to be supported and guarded jealously by the entire staff so as to move the ministry forward. The unveiling of the purchased working tools or materials for the staff was performed by Commissioner of Finance Plateau State, Dr. Mrs. Regina Soemlat. The event took place at the ministry's conference hall J.D. Gomwalk State Secretariat Jos, recently.

Dr. Soemlat said that every staff of the ministry is important and charged them to remain committed and dedicated to their work at all times. She commended staff of the ministry that have shown diligence to duty and urged them to sustain such spirit. She added that henceforth a rewarding system would be introduced for hardworking staff, so as to further spur them to do more while carrying out their duties accordingly.

The commissioner promised the staff of the ministry that a borehole will be drilled for staff to have access to safe drinking water within the ministry.

Dr. Soemlat stated that the ministry would continue doing everything possible to ensure that

the staff work under a conducive environment at all times. She also showered accolades on the permanent secretary of the ministry, Mr. Kenneth Horlong for working in line with her vision for the ministry which she said has enabled them to record some remarkable development in the ministry.

She challenged the staff of the ministry to make good use of every available office working tools and warn the staff against any case of

of the ministry must be active from top to bottom, saying that the ministry would not tolerate any act of redundancy, hence the need for every staff to adjust or sit-up. He explained that the ministry would only accommodate those that are ready to always contribute their quota to the progress of the ministry and state.

The permanent secretary also acknowledged the fact that there are few challenges in the ministry, but assured the staff that all the



Events, People & Places

Ministry of Finance purchases working tools for staff



The commissioner in a group photograph with her staff



disappearance of the materials.

Earlier in his remarks, Permanent secretary of the ministry, Mr. Kenneth Horlong appreciated the commissioner's effort for providing the ministry with working tools that would further equip the staff to discharge their duties effectively.

Horlong said that his interaction with the staff of the ministry shortly after he assumed office as the permanent secretary of the ministry was no doubt what informed the management's decision to come out with a structure to see how best or effective the system can work. Five units were identified to be more crucial, include Security, Sanitary Unit, Transport Unit and Reception Unit. Adding that all the purchased working tools allocated to those identified units would keep the staff busy.

He noted that, all the various units

challenges would be addressed one after the other with the support and cooperation of the entire staff, and also stressed the need for team work.

He emphasized strongly on the need for capacity building for the staff of the ministry, adding that they would continue placing priority to training and re-training of the staff. He affirmed that the ministry would do its best to ensure that it invites some resource persons to come and train staff on some topical issues that would further add value to them.

On their parts, head of the benefiting units, all expressed happiness and applauded the commissioner and her management for providing working materials to the various units. They assured the management of their



Items purchased

readiness to discharge their duties effectively, adding that, the gesture would encourage them to do more.

According to them, each department/unit would ensure that all the working tools given them are properly put into use, in order to

move the ministry to an enviable height.

Items unveiled include pairs of uniforms, pairs of boots, water tank and newly constructed office for the ministry's drivers among others.

IMAGES

RWANG LAID TO REST

Funeral service for late staff of PPC, Da Rwang Pam was held at the deceased family compound, Old Chief's Palace, Gyel, Jos South LGA, thereafter, the final interment



Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, KSM, General Manager, Plateau Publishing Corporation, delivering his condolence message



Mr. Paul Jatau (right) Editor Daily, The Nigeria Standard newspaper with staff of PPC



L - R: HRH Da Nga Dangyang, Gwom Rwey, Jos South, Pastor Dalyop Dih, father of the deceased, Rev. Dr. Sam Pam and Mr. Richard B. Pam, all relations to late Da Rwang



A cross section of the deceased family during a prayer session



Mrs. Esther Davou Mang, wife of the deceased delivering testimony



Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, General manager, PPC (right), Mrs. Cina Bupwatda, Director, Commercial Printing and Paper Production and Mrs. Elizabeth Joseph Gimba, Director of Finance and Supply at the funeral



A cross section of sympathizers at the service



Late Da Rwang Pam being laid to rest at the family burial ground

PHOTOS: JOHN LAR

Odd World

"My mum pretends to be dead as a joke"

A teen told Reddit about her mum's traumatising joke that she believes isn't funny anymore and users were quick to say that her mother 'needs therapy'

The 16-year-old woman was sick of her mum pretending to be dead

As you get older you may not find certain jokes as funny as you did as a kid - it's a classic sign of growing up.

However it seems one teenager has been unhappy with her mother's long-running joke and for good reason.

The teen took to the popular Reddit thread which stands for "am I the a** hole?" to tell the internet about the gag she thinks 'isn't funny anymore'.

The 16-year-old explained: "So this is going to be weird. One of my earliest memories is a four-year-old me crying over my mother's (47) (seemingly) dead body until she jump scared me.

"I started crying and she consoled me. Ever since then at least once or twice a month she has done this.

"I didn't figure it out until I was like nine or 10 and even after I played along minus the crying and on seeing me not crying I saw her giving me (what I now know as) wary glances."

After returning home from school one day, she shouted her mother's name and didn't receive a response.

She continued: "I then went to check on her and saw her in the same position when she pretended to be dead.

"I knew nothing bad had happened on seeing her breathing and stealing glances at me thinking I didn't know.

"I just closed the bedroom door and went to the kitchen to grab some food."

Confused by her daughter's response, a few minutes later her mother came downstairs to ask if she was okay.

The Reddit user explained: "I said yes. She then asked me why I didn't check on her. I just replied with 'I think I'm too old for this game now' in a

humorous tone.

"She didn't seem to see the humour though because next thing I know she is shouting at me, calling me ungrateful and selfish.

"She then started crying and said that I didn't care about her anymore and would be glad if she passed away."

In a dramatic conclusion, the woman's mother locked herself in her room and only came out for food.

She continued: "She has been there since, except for the few disappointed/angry glances my way when she came out to get food. Her eyes were red."

After the argument, the woman began to feel guilty for making her mother cry, and asked the internet for their thoughts.

She concluded: "My mother is a single mum, dad never bothered to be a part of my life.

"She has done everything she could for me to have a comfortable lifestyle and I honestly feel rubbish for making her cry.

"Maybe I should have been more gentle with my approach to the situation or played along. I don't know but on the other hand I was exhausted and was honestly sick of the game. AITA?"

The thread received over 600 comments from angry internet users, who weren't happy at all with the mother's reaction.

She was crowned "NTA" in this situation, which stands for "not the a** hole", with many Reddit users shocked at her mother's behaviour.

One user said: "NTA - what your mother is doing is emotional abuse. Period.

"This is not a Halloween trick, this is trying to make your child believe you have died so you can bask in their grief. She is mentally disturbed and somehow is feeding off this emotion."

Source The Mirror



Kanam, Wase attack, callous

Easter is vitally commemorated by Christians as a special day which marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ after His death by crucifixion. It is a tradition long before contemporary history whereby such celebrations reminds faithful of what Christ did for the salvation of mankind including redemption work from total condemnation.

The celebration also reminds us of the victory our Lord gave us more than two thousand years ago whereby no matter the prevailing circumstances today, our hope for a better tomorrow is undoubtedly reassured. As humans however, we sometimes fall short of God's glory when and if the gates of hell begins to torment us unabatedly. Certainly, the past few days have not been that palatable for the entire citizens of Plateau State.

Just last Sunday, ungodly men stormed some villages in Wase and Kanam Local Government Areas of Plateau State where it was subsequently reported that over one hundred innocent lives were gruesomely murdered during this single senseless and unprovoked attack. Sad enough, some of these villages had never felt the impact of governance or hurt any soul to experience such an unspeakable manner of death.

Mind you, Plateau State had suffered such attacks with impunity long time before now. More than a decade ago, the village of Dogon Nahauwa was attacked in such a gruesome manner which led to the death of hundreds of innocent lives that fateful day. As one of the few journalists who had the privilege of witnessing these attacks freshly, I for several months was unable to come to terms with the reasons which warranted such a senseless attack.

For several years now, some local government areas on the Plateau have continued to be victims of such attacks which have continued to create anxiety and further traumatized the peace loving citizen of the state. In most cases; some of these attacks which are presently more visible in Bassa, Riyom, Barkin Ladi and Bokokos have excommunicated the indigenous population of these areas with the outside world.

But again, I had taken time of recent to digest possible reasons why some of these local government areas are constantly attacked and the findings to my astonishment has not been that convincing to some stakeholders and policy makers in the state. In the midst of my findings, one identical factor which cuts across all these council areas under siege is their rich agrarian disposition and or rich mineral deposits which translates to strengthening the financial capacity of the state.

In Bassa and Riyom Local Government Areas alone, the displacement of hundred farmers if care is not taken could add more anguish on the citizenry pertaining to the issue of food insecurity bedeviling the state in most recent times.

While these marauders are yet to find headway into some areas of the state; some of them have taken to

kidnappings, armed robbery and other violent conduct to test the will of the government and people of the land.

Most unfortunate were the Kanam and Wase attacks where one can rightly conclude that this far goes beyond the ideology of any contemporary jihad. After all, in most of the villages attacked this time around, both the Muslim and Christian faithful were not spared. In fact, both religions suffered mass casualties in the hands of these heartless and ruthless evildoers.

But again, after knowing too well our collective loses since 2001, the question still begging for answers is; have Plateau people really leant any lesson from these unprovoked attacks? Have the natives come to terms with the reality of the fact that this deliberate aggression by these unscrupulous elements are gradually turning them into Internally Displaced Persons in their ancestral homes?

If for nothing else, the most recent unjustified attacks in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas is a pointer to the fact that these criminals and their supporters do not mean well for the state. We must therefore come to the reality of the obvious fact that many of us are being pushed to the wall.

As it is, the common man is constantly facing all manner of challenges and deprivation in this country. Many of us are unable to have three square meals a day talk more or less of having the funds to pay our children's school fees. In our villages, rural dwellers do not have the basic necessities of life, any equipped hospital, good roads network or even potable water to drink. This unbearable degree of hardship has forced many rural residents to migrate to urban centers, yet many are left without any security to carry out their routine daily obligations or fend for their families back home.

For me, this year's Easter commemoration was a tears-full one after the reported killings of these innocent souls in Kanam and Wase. Though government has promised us that no stone would be left unturned towards ensuring that these criminals are arrested, we hope that at the end of the day, this promise will not translate into another storytelling.

Furthermore, It's high time our leaders and other stakeholders are put on notice that we are tired of burying our loved ones under these circumstances, we are tired of getting killed even as no efficient mechanism is presently employed to arrest these culprits with the sole aim of bringing them to book to serve as deterrent to others.

Our leaders must be told that we are tired of hearing them always say, they are on top of the situation only for another community to be eventually attacked by these same marauders with impunity. The simple fact is that; we are also tired of hearing the humongous amount of monies released to security agencies while we are completely overwhelmed by the issue of insecurity in the country. Please we are all exhausted of being confronted with these failures recorded by our security organizations in the country for goodness sake, we are getting weary.

Interview

'I hope to lead solutions search as Plateau Governor'

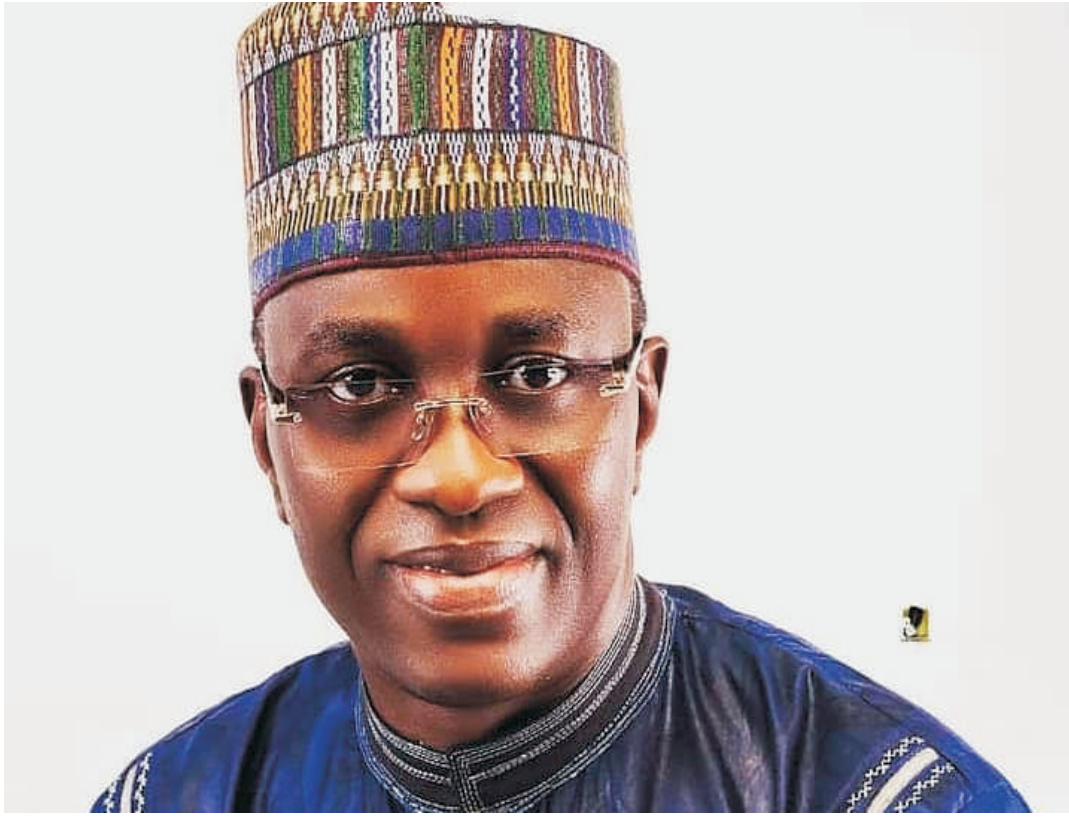
Continued from page 15

state in the next 50 years to come. Therefore, we need to dream big and take a bold step in this direction. So, when I think of Plateau, it is certainly not of a state in the next five years. We should therefore actually be looking at the state in the next hundred years to come. And this should not just be an empty talk because if you don't have a grand vision, you will find out that you have limited yourself in the area of your expected obligations.

So what is the kind of Plateau we would expect in the next one hundred years for instance? Of course, there are a number of variables which may be at play along the line but we should be able to have a bold vision. For us to have a grand vision of where we expect Plateau State to be, we need a proper understanding of where we are at the moment, why we are where we are and what we need to do in order to move to the next one hundred years. I had

earlier drawn our attention to some of the challenges we grapple with and several administrations have played their part in finding solutions to these problems.. They have governed the state through different styles, agendas and programmes, but at the end of the day, they may have given us their best but there is always room for improvement. I would imagine that if you want to look at our Plateau in the next 50 or 100 years, we need to start by ensuring the quality of people we elect into office. This is or should not only be at the level of the Governor but all other positions which elections are held. We must also have a clear sense of the quality of the bureaucracy which drives governance. I was recently discussing with a staff of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, (NIPSS) and he disclosed to me that one of the biggest problems we are facing is the issue of this bureaucracy, making sure that it is functional. Though there must be several reasons which accounts for this, let us have the right set of leaders and bureaucracy which propels governance and we can then sit down and together as a people and say to ourselves, what is the kind of Plateau we will envisage in the next 50 or 100 years? So, what we need is a leader who will lead the search for solutions. I am hoping that by the grace of God, I would have the opportunity and privilege of leading this search for solutions which will also help in galvanizing the people of Plateau State towards achieving this grand vision.

The Plateau project is not all about us as leaders but for us all as citizens of the state. Therefore, what I am looking forward to is a privilege to lead this conversation where the interest of the state would be articulated, aggregated, promoted and defended towards the consolidation of the gains on the Plateau. Mind you, I always



Dakas

say that the issue of governance is an extremely serious business. Many people will recall that when I had the privilege of serving as the Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice from 2004, what many people didn't know was the backdrop to my coming into governance. Two years earlier in 2002, the then Governor had send for me and requested that I bring my CV along with me to his office. When I got there, he took a look at my VC, took a second look at me and then said to me, what I am seeing is far more than what I was told. And he made me an offer on the spot to be the Attorney General of Plateau State. You know what I said to him? I said, Your Excellency, thank you very much but I am sorry that I am not going to accept this offer because at this point, it does not key into my plans. The then Governor looked at me and said, "I am making you an offer of a position that some people are prepared to kill for", these were his exact words. And then you are saying it does not key into your plans, what are these plans?

I said to him, working at the university, I am not just earning a salary but I have a much higher responsibility to intervene in the admission of students, to intervene in the recruitment of staff, and to mentor a younger generation of lawyers. And he then said to me, "ooh I didn't quite look at it from that angle". He then further responded, "I indeed have a lot more of respect for you but can you then do something for us on consultancy basis". That was how I started and two years later, the Governor renewed the offer and I said to him, can I have some time to think about it? And the rest is history.

But if you should look at it more closely, the reason why I said so

is that governance is a very serious business, you don't just jump at it because the opportunity has availed itself. You must be driven by the imperative need to provide services above self. And I must re-emphasize this; it must be service above self. This must be equally driven by impact and legacy therefore; if you are not ready to offer yourself to serve and make an impact; you are then in government for the wrong reasons.

I know that Plateau people are happy you were given an opportunity to serve in the committee which drafted the amendments of the APC at the national level, one particular perceived issue as said by some people is that your strategies are elitist in nature even as you have not been around on the Plateau consistently. Do you think you have any idea of the requirements to govern the state?

If anybody should accuse me of elitism then the person does not understand where I come from and of course what I had the privilege of accomplishing by the grace of God. Therefore, if one person would see me as an elitist, then I would conclude with great respect that perhaps such a

person does not understand what it means to be an elitist and or that the person does not really know where I am coming from. I come from a rural community, from a humble background and over the course of my life; it's has been a great opportunity for me understanding the people of the grassroots. And I have had the privilege and or opportunity to accomplish a lot of things by the grace of God. And what that means is that; I have a responsibility in anything which reminds me of my experiences while growing up as a young boy who went to school without shoes at the primary school level, as that young person who was on the farm when I got my letter of admission to the university. As that young person who over the course of my four years in the university was walking every day to the university because I cloud not afford transport money to take me to school. So, the responsibility that comes with the grace which God has given me to accomplish some of things which by His grace, I have been able to accomplish which makes me understand the realities of life and the need to help humanity.

So, when I am taking decisions, I am thinking of that person out there who is thinking of not

knowing where his next meal is going to come from. I am thinking of that person out there who is not sure of where his school fees or the money for JAMB, NECO or WAEC form is going to come from. I am thinking of that person who does not have a roof over his or her head. I am thinking of the individual out there who struggles to get his or her community with so much difficulty. From the federal express way, the Panyam-Shendam road to my village is probably about just ten kilometers, which one can drive through in about five to ten minutes or thereabout but its takes about an hour to do this due to the bad roads network. These are but some typical examples I can give you which are sometimes very painful.

So, for the fact that I have accomplished much by the grace of God does not mean that I have not appreciated the realities of the environment which I grew up in and the challenges that people struggle with every day of their lives. This is an experience which I have learned so much from and provides me with a huge responsibility of understanding what people are going through and what we need to do to help them. I want to assure you that I will affect the lives of the citizens of the state positively.

When do you intend to officially declare and kick-start your campaigns?

Kick-starting a campaign comes in different forms. I have gone to the state secretariat of our party and declared my intentions. I have unveiled my agenda to the officials of our party. There are people who will do it at the ward, local government and or other specific levels. There are people who make such declarations when they pick an expression of interest form. In the matter of law that is key. Mind you, I have been in consultations with people for some time now.

There are other levels which would take place before the party primaries, INEC has released its time table which all political parties will eventually key into it. We are definitely on course.

If anybody should accuse me of elitism then the person does not understand where I come from and of course what I had the privilege of accomplishing by the grace of God. Therefore, if one person would see me as an elitist, then I would conclude with great respect that perhaps such a person does not understand what it means to be an elitist and or that the person does not really know where I am coming from. I come from a rural community, from a humble background and over the course of my life; it's has been a great opportunity for me understanding the people of the grassroots. And I have had the privilege and or opportunity to accomplish a lot of things by the grace of God.



Taking the consensus direction

As the APC plans to hold its first National Executive Council Meeting (NEC) meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, Plateau State also held a stakeholders meeting on Easter Monday which drew party stalwarts and key holders.

The APC NEC is the first to be summoned by the new National Chairman and former Nassarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Adamu in Abuja.

As the leader of the Party in his state, Governor Simon Bako Lalong spearheaded a stakeholders meeting to brainstorm on issues.

Members under the helmship of Hon. Rufus Bature rubbed minds with members to chart a way forward, urging each other to work in the interest of the party.

The Victoria Gowon Hall, venue of the meeting was full to capacity and Lalong used the forum to clear the air and express the challenges he is facing as a leader in a political era. He said with so many leaders coming out to vie and contest the upcoming 2023 elections, there is need for display of maturity and unity in the party.

And he made it clear that he was for everyone, urging all aspirants to start contesting. "Everyone wants me to pick them. Someone even told me God has spoken him to be Governor. I pray God guides me, I don't sleep over this. He advised the party to start working on the consensus option to reduce the number of candidates vying for seats. You should start working now on the issue of consensus because if out of Ten people, you can work and reduce them to three, then you have helped matters and made it easier for us".

He advised local government and other party leaders not to adopt anyone. "In our party, the APC today, we have many governorship aspirants, so you can see my difficulty. They have made their presence known in all the LGCs but at the end of the day, during the primaries, only one person will emerge as candidate for House of Representative, Governorship, and senatorial seats"

"One of them came to me and said I should sign a letter and I did. He insisted we snap a picture and I did, only to go for the national convention and there he was with the picture of me and him on his posters. But that is the beauty of democracy".

However one of the key points the Governor raised at the meeting was stressing the fact that at the end of the day, not every one contesting will win and insisted that there should be acceptance of whoever emerges by the others and God can still give them a chance to lead somewhere or they can even get political appointments.

Lalong also expressed dismay that there are still public servants who have not yet resigned from their offices, warning them to follow the rule of law and do so immediately to avoid consequences.

Another major call the state party leader made was a passionate plea for unity. He said he was not happy that already, members are beginning to destroy each other even when they had not yet gone for the polls. "If you have any challenges, table it to your leaders, consensus is through recommendation and if we don't agree, we can go into contest". Lalong said the party must be seen to put their house in order before they go to Abuja for their National Convention.

The Governor regretted the attacks in Bassa, Wase, Denji Local Governments saying such

security challenges can create food shortages if farmers get scared about going to their farms. He appreciated President Muhammadu Buhari for granting pardon to former Plateau Governor Joshua Dariye and former Governor of Taraba, Rev. Jolly Nyame. He equally urged stakeholders and reconciliatory committees to get across to aggrieved members and put their house in order and to give everyone a chance.

Speeches from the Party Chairman, Elders Forum, among others also called for party unity. Deputy Speaker House of Representative, Hon. Idris Ahmed Wase used the forum to commiserate with the Governor and the state for the loss of lives and properties due to banditry in Bassa, Wase and Kanam Local Governments. He commended the Governor for visiting the Local Governments affected and working towards the mobilisation and deployment of more troops to the areas.

While commending Governor Lalong for working hard to keep the party together, Wase had also said he was proud that Plateau had produced the Deputy National President in the just concluded APC National convention. He urged party leaders to avoid impunity and work as one, so as not to lose their members warning that already, in some states, the party has lost some of its members.

He also advised the party to get the primaries right, work and strategize early and follow the right procedures with more meetings and engagements while the party should also work with the Governor for his mentorship and leadership.

A vital thing he told contestants is to realise that leadership comes from God giving an example of how Governor Lalong emerged from a small village 'Ajikamai' that can be swallowed by Shendam ten times to become Governor while he also came out from a humble village of Bashar in Wase Local Government to become Deputy Speaker.

"Who am I to be a Deputy Speaker from a small village of Bashar if not that leadership comes from God?", said Deputy Speaker Wase.

"Even if you lose, keep trying and if you don't get it today, you will get it tomorrow", he added.



News

18 students bag federal scholarship

The Federal Scholarship Board, a department in the Federal Ministry of Education, has granted scholarship worth two hundred and fifty thousand naira (N250,000.00) each per session to eighteen (18) undergraduate students of the Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba.

While presenting letters of the scholarship award to the university, the representative of the Scholarship Board, Dr. Abdulkareem Gaminana, said the students secured the offer after passing the prescribed Computer Based Test organized by the Board.

He disclosed that the qualification for the annual scholarship entry is a minimum CGPA of 4.00, adding that the beneficiaries would continue to enjoy the scheme throughout the period of their studies.

He explained that the Board would be doing continuous verification of the student status for the beneficiaries on yearly basis before the benefit for each session could be released.

Dr. Gaminana also added that the scholarship is open to

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

postgraduate students, with Masters students entitled to three hundred thousand naira (N300,000.00) and PhD students, three hundred and eighty thousand naira (N380,000.00) per session for a maximum of two sessions.

Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Marietu Ohunene Tenuche, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Dr Daniel Atidoga while presenting letters of award to the beneficiaries, congratulated the students for doing the University proud, stressing that the award was a reflection of their diligence and commitment to studies.

She urged the beneficiaries to continue to do the university proud by showing excellent commitment to their studies, assuring that the university would not relent in providing enabling environment for students to excel.

She urged the students to use the scholarship for the purpose it was meant for, as it would go a long way in reducing the burden on their parents.

The Vice-Chancellor also urged other students in the university to work hard to project the image of the institution positively through exhibition of positive competitive spirit on both national and international.

Professor Tenuche expressed her profound gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Education for the gesture.

She also appreciated the Kogi State Government under the leadership of His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello, for the provision of enabling environment for the sustenance of the University.

The students who were drawn from across departments and faculties in the University, thanked the Federal Scholarship Board for offering them the opportunity and promised to continue work hard and do the University and their parents proud.

They also praised the leadership of the University for providing them with facilities and other resources that have assisted greatly in advancing their studies.

An Islamic Scholar, Sheikh Nurudden Tukur Numan has said that for Nigeria to get back to the path of peace, and prosperity and also regain its lost glory for the betterment of all and sundry, its citizen must be ready to turn-over a new leaf and become responsible, truthful and reliable people in all their deeds or activities.

Speaking during the ongoing Ramadan Tafseer (Commentaries and translations of the Holy Quran) at the Central Mosque Low Cost Keffi, Sheikh Numan expressed his deep concern over the poor state of living of majority of Nigerians despite the abundant potentials and opportunities provided by the Almighty Allah.

The Islamic scholar who attributed these unfortunate situations which Nigerians are grappling with to their own attributes and resolve not to chart the path of Allah the Creator of all whom he said he does not change to his servants unless if they people decided to change to bad ways in their lives or activities as such they would reap the fruits of their bad deeds.

"The Almighty Allah is always ready to support his servants and does never change in his covenants and mercies to

'Nigerians must turn a new leaf'

FROM **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, keffi**

them unless they turn their backs and chart the path of wrong doings in their lives. As a result they will reap what they sow" he stated.

back from the Sheik Numan who is reading or commenting from engage themselves chapter 13 of the Holy Quran massively in many sinful acts.

(Suratul Raad) explained that He further lamented that the Almighty Allah does not change his blessing to his servants unless the servants has a positive role to play in turn their backs or change either making the society from good ways to the good or bad adding that what negative. He pointed out is highly imperative Is for all saying that Nigerians must be to resolve to chart the path of ready to obey the Allah and be kind and just our commandments of their fellow human beings.

creator with a view to earn his b l e s s i n g . the Muslim faithfuls against

"Since the Almighty Allah disrespect or abusive does change his mercies to his attitudes to the leaders servants except if they decided saying that what the leaders to change and follow the wrong needs most is prayers and ways, Muslim faithfuls must support to enable them always be ready to change for deliver their programmes to the better in order to earn his t h e p e o p l e . blessings for the betterment of "What the leaders needs all and sundry" he re-stated. from all is prayers, support

Speaking about the current and best wishes to enable socio-economic and security them succeeds in delivering challenges bedeviling the their mandates or promises country, the Islamic scholar to the people not disrespect attributed such to the resolve or abusive attitudes" he

Sports



When can Real Madrid win the league in 2021-22?

Title chases across Europe are approaching what promises to be a thrilling climax, with the destination of domestic crowns yet to be determined from the Premier League to La Liga via the Bundesliga and Serie A. CHRIS BURTON, writes.

THE Blancos have only won one La Liga crown since 2017, and two in the last 10 years, but Carlo Ancelotti has them closing in on domestic dominance.

Some heavyweight, and very familiar, clubs remain in the hunt to secure domestic dominance, with Real Madrid leading the way in Spain under the watchful eye of Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti.

The Blancos are edging their way towards the finishing post, but when could they cross that line and confirm their coronation as champions for 2021-22? GOAL takes a look... Ancelotti's side still have six games left to take in this season, with a 15-point lead currently held at the top of the table.

With the majority of teams only having 18 points left to play for, the Blancos will be hoping to surge over the title-winning line sooner rather than later.

Clasico rivals Barcelona are, however, their closest challengers at present and they still have seven games to come in the 2021-22 campaign.

That means, theoretically, they could still pull in 21 points before the curtain comes down on their season.

If two arch-rivals on opposing sides of a fierce divide were to

remain faultless from here, then Real would – while boasting a superior goal difference – only mathematically clinch the Liga crown with three games left to play.

By then, if Barca had pulled to within 12 points, it would be impossible for Madrid to be overhauled.

Taking that into account, a derby date with local rivals Atletico on May 11 could be the day on which Real confirm their standing as top dogs in Spain.

Real Madrid are the most successful club in La Liga history, with 34 top-flight titles secured since opening their account back in 1932.

They have, however, endured the odd barren run in more recent times, with the success enjoyed at Barcelona often leaving them playing catch-up.

Cross-city neighbours Atletico Madrid have also re-emerged as a force to be reckoned with, with the top flight in Spain not always the two-horse race that it is painted out to be.

Real last claimed the title back in 2019-20, with club legend Zinedine Zidane returning to the helm to deliver a second league triumph across his two stints in the Santiago Bernabeu dugout.

The Frenchman had delivered another Liga crown in 2016-

17, with the Blancos benefiting from the considerable talents of Cristiano Ronaldo at that time.

The Portuguese superstar also contributed to a title success in 2011-12, but Real have been restricted to just two celebratory parties in the last 10 years.

Real will be hoping to place the Liga trophy back in their well-stocked cabinet in 2022, but they are not over that line yet.

In a keenly-contested battle that is being played out just below them, Barcelona, Sevilla

and Atletico Madrid are all on 60 points.

They could, in theory, stage dramatic late runs that carry them above and beyond Real if the Blancos were to endure any untimely stumbles.

Wheels would have to come off in spectacular fashion at the Bernabeu in order for the door to be left open, but they do still have Atletico to play after beating Sevilla 3-2 in stunning fashion on April 17.

There are no more Clasicos to come this season, with Barca winning the most recent of

those 4-0 in the Spanish capital, so a team that has been rejuvenated under the guidance of Xavi will be looking to others for favours.

The Blaugrana would close to within 12 points of Real if they win their games in hand but, after suffering a shock defeat to Cadiz last time out while enduring a tough start to the campaign after bidding farewell to Lionel Messi and parting with Ronald Koeman, they are building a little more long term in Catalunya.



Sports

CAF explains draw procedure for Super Eagles, others



Mane and Klopp

Mane never needed Diaz competition- Klopp

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp has discussed the form of Sadio Mane, and how it relates to the impact of new signing Luis Diaz at the club. Goal said that, the 54-year-old has expressed his satisfaction with the way the Lion of Teranga has been dedicated to the Reds.

The Colombia international was signed by the Reds in the short transfer window and has since played eight matches across all competitions, scoring three goals in the process.

The German tactician insists Mane always gives his best and that sometimes the positions of the players can be changed to accommodate both of them.

"I have known Sadio [Mane] for nearly six years, as far as I know, he never needed any kind of competition to try to be the best version of himself," Klopp said in the press conference, looking forward to the Manchester United game on Tuesday.

"He played for a long time pretty much all games when he was fit and performed on an incredibly high level consistently. Bringing in Luis [Diaz] I am not sure it affected that part of his game, I don't know.

"That was not the reason for bringing in Luis and playing in the centre obviously suits Sadio very well as well. He scored goals, so important, from the left wing but he can play the centre as well."

Klopp further stated the Senegal international has taken time to rediscover his best form as he needed to recover from his exertions when his national team won the Africa Cup of Nations and qualified for the World Cup. The 54-year-old was further impressed with the way the 30-year-old played in the 3-2 FA Cup semi-final win over Manchester City on the weekend - where he scored a brace.

"Sadio [Mane] as well had some physical struggles since he came back; he didn't feel it but we could see he could not use his immense physicality week in, week out, or every three days - that was the problem," Klopp continued.

"I really felt before the game

against City 'okay, that looks like Sadio [Mane] physically' and that is why he could play the game he played.

"Very important, he was super-difficult to defend and very helpful and incredibly important in our defending because the first goal he scored you only can score if you try to get there and he did

that and you only do this run if you feel fresh enough to do it.

"No, I don't think Luis [Diaz] is the reason Sadio scored four goals [in his last four matches] but somehow maybe because Luis [Diaz] obviously can keep the last line pretty busy that then opens up gaps for other players."

Kano Pillars fined N9 million, banished to Abuja

THE League Management Company (LMC) has come down hard on Kano Pillars following the ugly scenes that ensued during their Nigeria Professional Football League Matchday 23 clash with Kastina United on Saturday.

Newsnow said that, Pillars, who were only returning to the Sani Abacha Stadium in Kano for the first time in over a year, were held to a barren draw by Katsina United. The fans, angered by the result, turned to violence and damaged properties at the stadium including the bus of the visiting team.

Though Kano Pillars condemned the violent acts and blamed them on saboteurs, the LMC announced stiff punishments on the team.

The LMC slammed a total of N9 million fine on Pillars and banished the club from Kano to Abuja for their home games.

The LMC had earlier in the season sent Pillars to the Mohammed Dikko Stadium, Katsina, for similar reasons after a security breach at the Kaduna stadium, the then adopted home ground of Pillars, during their Week 16 encounter with Rivers United.

On Sunday, the LMC also announced a three-point deduction from Pillars. It said there would be additional points deductions in the event of another occurrence.

The Sani Abacha stadium has also been banned from hosting NPFL games while Pillars were mandated to repair the vandalised Katsina United team bus.

Before the LMC sanctions were announced Sunday night, Pillars had condemned the hooliganism after Saturday's game.

The club's media officer, Idris Garu, described Saturday's incident as unfortunate and surprising.

He said: "We strongly condemn the act by those hoodlums, we are short of words, particularly that

'Coaches should address neglect of home-based players'

FORMER Super Eagles Coach, Christian Chukwu, believes the appointment of Coach Salisu Yusuf and other Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) managers to oversee the CHAN Eagles, will help address the neglect of home-based players by senior national team coaches.

Newsnow said that, Chukwu, who said the invitation of 30 to 40 overseas-based players for Super Eagles' games is an anomaly, told The Guardian that the practice has contributed to the poor state



Chukwu

AHEAD of Tuesday's draw for the qualifiers for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) billed to take place in Cote d'Ivoire, the Confederation of African Football, CAF has released the procedures for the exercise.

Newsnow said that, the Super Eagles of Nigeria are one of the 48 teams that will be shared across the 12 groups in Tuesday's draw. The teams will discover their paths for possible qualification for the competition when the draw is held in the studios of Super Sport in Johannesburg, South Africa on Tuesday at 5:30 pm.

The 48 countries qualified to participate in the second round of the qualifiers have been seeded into four pots based on the official FIFA ranking released on 31 March 2022.

Nigeria, who finished in third place at the 2019 finals in Egypt and reached the Round of 16 at this year's championship in Cameroon, is among the 12 teams in Pot



CAF President

1 - the teams that will head the 12 qualification groups.

Others in Pot 1 are reigning champions Senegal, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Cameroon, Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cote d'Ivoire. Cote d'Ivoire's participation will be only for formality's sake.

Being in the same pot guarantees that none of these teams can be in the same group during the qualification campaign that will last between June 2022

and March 2023.

In Pot 2 are South Africa, Cape Verde, Guinea, Gabon, Benin Republic, Uganda, Zambia, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Kenya, and Sierra Leone.

Pot 3 comprises Namibia, Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, Niger Republic, Libya, Mozambique, Malawi, Togo, Zimbabwe, The Gambia, Angola, and Comoros.

Tanzania, Central African Republic, Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Liberia, South Sudan, and Sao Tome & Principe make up Pot 4.

These teams as explained by CAF will then be drawn into 12 groups of four teams (Group A to L) with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the tournament to be played in the West African country.

Hosts Cote d'Ivoire will also participate in the draw even though they have already secured their place in the tournament which means only one other team from their group will qualify for the competition.

Kenya and Zimbabwe, who have been suspended by FIFA from all football activities globally, will also be included in the draw despite their temporary bans.

However, CAF noted that if the suspension is not lifted two weeks before their first matchday of the qualifiers, both associations will be considered losers and eliminated from the competition.

Consequently, their groups will be composed of three teams with the first and runner-up teams of those groups qualifying for the final tournament.

As a result of that decision, Kenya and Zimbabwe cannot be drawn in the same group to avoid having one group with only two teams in case the suspension on both associations is not lifted.

In the draw to be conducted by the CAF Director of Competitions Samson Adamu and assisted by African football legends Lucas Radebe of South Africa and Ivorian Solomon Kalou, the first ball will be drawn from Pot 4 and will go to position A4.



Pillars

this act of hooliganism is coming at a time when our brotherhood with Katsina fans is becoming enviable and sweet."

The deducted three points will send Pillars down to 16th place on the table with 24 points from 23 matches.

encourage the coaches. I think the appointment will stop the era where 30 to 40 foreign players are invited to the Super Eagles for one competition.

"This has been very embarrassing to a country that has a functional football league."

"We need to see more domestic players in the Super Eagles. The foreign coach, when appointed, should be made to stay in Nigeria to watch our league and also work closely with the local coaches to pick good players for him.

"He needs the assistance of the domestic coaches to function well in his duties, even if he brings his own assistants.

"I want to see a new Super Eagles where more domestic players are given opportunity to play for the Super Eagles," he said.

of the country's football.

He advised the new coaches to ensure only the best players in the local league made the CHAN Eagles, adding that picking players without sentiments will help the country get a core of the stars needed to build a formidable national team.

He added that such development would also spur the foreign-based players to fight for their positions against the current practice of reserving jerseys for certain players.

Chukwu advised the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to create an enabling environment for the incoming foreign coach to work harmoniously with the local managers to select the best players in the NPFL for the Super Eagles.

"The NFF has appointed those they feel can transform the CHAN team and all we need to do is to support and

Sports

Barty to play in golf exhibition series

FORMER world number one Ashleigh Barty has fuelled speculation she may attempt a top-level career in a third sport by signing up to for a golf exhibition.

BBC SPORT said that, the 25-year-old, who announced her shock retirement from tennis in March, will play in the Icons Series in July.

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola and 23-time Olympic champion Michael Phelps are among the other stars taking part.

"It's such a unique opportunity to have fun, test yourself and compete," Barty told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"I hope through my participation in the series that we can encourage more women and girls to participate in golf around the world."

Barty, whose three Grand Slam singles titles include last summer's Wimbledon crown, is a keen amateur golfer with a reported handicap of four.

Her father Robert represented Australia as



Barty

an amateur and had considered attempting to turn professional himself.

Barty played professional cricket for Queensland and Brisbane Heat in 2015 during a break from tennis. She has previously suggested that she would not attempt similar in golf, telling the Courier Mail earlier this month that she

"had a good laugh" about the speculation.

Barty is also writing a series of children's books, set to be released later this year.

The first event in the Icon Series will take place at Liberty National in New Jersey in June with further tournaments planned for Europe, Asia and Australia.

Boston Marathon: Kenya's Jepchirchir, Chebet win titles

Kenya enjoyed double success at the Boston Marathon on Monday as Evans Chebet held off two past champions to win the men's crown and reigning Olympic champion Peres Jepchirchir captured the women's title.

BBC SPORT said that, Chebet won in two hours six minutes 51 seconds to top the first all-Kenyan podium since 2012, beating 2019 Boston winner Lawrence Cherono by 30 seconds with defending champion Benson Kipruto third in 2:07:27.

"I'm extremely proud. I knew I had it in my legs to

win," Chebet said.

This was a first major marathon victory for Chebet, 33, who was fourth in last year's London Marathon.

A lead pack of about 20 men reached the halfway mark together and 15 remained tight at the front through 21 miles.

Chebet made his move just after that, but Cherono and Kipruto kept the pressure on him into the final stretch.

Jepchirchir, last year's New York Marathon champion, won her Boston debut by edging Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh in the final

strides, as the 28-year-old took her fifth victory in a row since 2019 in 2:21:01.

That was good enough to defeat Yeshaneh, a 2019 Chicago runner-up and former world half-marathon record holder, by four seconds with Kenya's Mary Ngugi third in 2:21:32.

As they battled into the final mile, a weary-looking Jepchirchir made three attempts to pass, but Yeshaneh countered each. The Kenyan made her final move down the stretch and surged past in the last 100 meters.

"When I arrived to 41km, I knew was going to win the race," Jepchirchir

BRITAIN'S Joe Salisbury backed up the achievement of becoming doubles world number one by winning the Monte Carlo Masters with US partner Rajeev Ram.

BBC SPORT said that, the top seeds beat sixth seeds Juan-Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah, of Colombia, 6-4 3-6 10-7.

In a clinical display, Salisbury excelled both at the net and with overheads, ably supported by Ram's powerful serving and volleying.

Salisbury and Ram claimed their first clay title as a pairing.

They produced a dominant display in the first set, but their level dipped in the second as Cabal and Farah stepped up the pressure, breaking serve after a shot came off the net cord and hit Ram in the groin.

The match tie-break brought high-quality tennis from both pairs, as Ram and Salisbury built up a lead after breaking the Colombians twice.

In a tight finish, Ram wavered on championship

Monte Carlo Masters: Salisbury, Ram win doubles title

point, but steadied to close out on their third attempt.

"It's a first title on clay together and it's a surface that we thought was a weaker one for us. We worked well together," said Salisbury in his on-court interview.

Ram added: "I've got the best player in the world on my team - that helps." Salisbury and Ram are the top seeds next week at the Barcelona Open.

Stefanos Tsitsipas successfully defended his Monte Carlo singles title, beating Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-3 7-6 (7-3).

The Greek is the first back-to-back Monte Carlo champion since Rafael Nadal won three in a row from 2016-18.

"Things didn't see to be going well at one point but but I managed to stay well composed and am really proud of my game," said Tsitsipas in his on-court interview.

Last year's win heralded a successful run on European clay for the 23-year-old, who went on to reach the Barcelona final and win the Lyon title, before finishing as the runner-up to Novak Djokovic in the Roland Garros final.



Salisbury

Lowry finishes tied third as Spieth beats Cantlay in play-off

SHANE Lowry is still waiting for a first win since his 2019 Open triumph as Jordan Spieth beat Patrick Cantlay in a play-off at the RBC Heritage.

BBC SPORT said that, the Irishman was leading at Hilton Head in Sunday's final round when he double-bogeyed the par-three 14th after finding water with a chip.

He carded a two-under 69 to end on 12 under and in a group of seven players one shot behind Spieth and Cantlay.

Spieth defeated his fellow American on the first play-off hole.

Lowry started the day one shot behind overnight leader Harold Varner III and he carded three birdies on the front nine before

another at 11 saw him hit the front.

Two excellent par saves followed but he was undone on the difficult 14th when sent his tee shot well left of the green.

Lowry's chip rolled quickly by the hole and into the water as he registered a five before missing a good birdie chance on the 17th to tie for the lead.

Spieth (66) won with a par on the first hole in a sudden-death play-off while Cantlay (68) made a bogey after his second shot plugged in a greenside bunker.

England's Tommy Fleetwood finished two shots back with former US Open winner Graeme McDowell on eight under after both players posted 68s.



Lowry





Quest



writer

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

FRAGMENT

From the antecedents, decent Nigerians will not accept this type of appointment knowing the obvious outcome (inglorious exit) as this time around, it is not likely to be different. An ungrateful service to a nation and the people! It is a lone war against the hydra-headed monster called corruption. In fact, no one prays for the worst prize to pay for fighting corruption, but assassination cannot be ruled out. So, for me as an individual, I prefer their inglorious exit than paying the supreme prize. I am not sure whether these types of outfits exist in the developed parts of the world, with minimal levels of corruption, but I foresee that they have an in-built system that checks corruption rather than crafting a commission to checkmate this monster. The motive is quite genuine, but the modus operandi is suspect.

PROF. JOSIAH MUTIHIR

EFCC: Inglorious exit of past chairmen

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was formed by the Obasanjo lead government in 2003 and supported by an establishment Act in 2004. The mission statement is to rid Nigeria of economic and financial crimes and to effectively coordinate the domestic effort of the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, while the vision statement is that of an agency operating to the best international standards and leading the fight against economic and financial crimes in Nigeria - both being tall orders.

The commission is headed by an Executive Chairman, and empowered to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and penalize economic and financial crimes. It is also charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of other laws and regulations relating to economic and financial crimes, as well as fight terrorism.

Fighting terrorism today I am sure requires a separate agency in view of its complex and capital-intensive nature in addition to the involvement of the armed forces and other security agencies.

EFCC has a 23-member board of directors, membership of which is drawn from many law-enforcement and security organizations; whose duties are limited to giving policy direction to the management; and not involved in the day to day running of the agency. The Commission had run its affairs without a board of directors since the Buhari administration in 2015. The board had been earlier confirmed by the Senate in October 2021 and inaugurated officially January 13th, 2022.

In the less than 20 years of its existence, the commission has had 7 Chairmen, three in acting capacities and 4 confirmed.

The first chairman was **Nuhu Ribadu** (2003-2007-5 years inclusive). Aged 43 years at appointment, a Police officer. He was removed from office for 'wrong approach in fighting corruption' which was said to be selective. Why should this attract demotion or dismissal from the police force?

Ibrahim Lamorde - (in Acting capacity 2008) - appointed at 46 years of age.

Farida Mzamber Waziri (2008-2011 - about 4 years): A Police Officer and lawyer and appointed at 51 years of age. She was dismissed from office for selective investigations and falling



Bawa

out with the attorney general of the federation. Waziri herself said she was removed from office because she refused to back down on some oil racketeers!

Ibrahim Lamorde - (23rd November 2011-2015 confirmed after 1 year in acting capacity). Appointed at age of 49 years and removed after about 4 years. He was fired from office by President Buhari (Proshare). Presidential spokesman told Premium Times that 'Lamorde was not sacked but proceeding on terminal leave (at the age of 53 years) ahead of the expiration of his tenure in February 2016. That more details would be provided later'. He was not given a second tenure, and before long, another boss was appointed to succeed him. To be fair, only Lamorde himself and President Buhari know why he was removed from office.

Ibrahim Magu (Acting capacity 9/2/2015-7/2/2020, denied confirmation by National Assembly) appointed at 53 years and removed after about 5 years. He was suspended from office for allegations of 'corruption and misconduct', gross insubordination, and abuse of office, though to date, no clear allegation has been charged against him in court and the prosecution outcome made known to the public. Mr. Ibrahim Magu's failure of confirmation by

Senate may not be unconnected with his vicious prosecution of their peers in the past while an investigative officer of the EFCC. Examples include the role of former Kwara State Governor and then serving Senator, Bukola Saraki, in the collapse of Societe Generals Bank of Nigeria; James Obori, former Governor of Delta State, who was convicted for money laundering in the United Kingdom, and many others. It would have been suicidal for the political elite to confirm him for obvious reasons.

Mohammed Umar Abba (Acting capacity 2020-2021) and removed after about 3 years. He was denied confirmation after

acting for 2 years. He was 55 years at time of appointment. Again, the reason for why he was not confirmed, or why he was removed is uncertain, and only he and the powers that be know why.

Currently, we have **Abdulrasheed Bawa** (24th February 2021 to date). He was 41 years (youngest) at time of appointment. He is a Police Detective. Hope the young Chairman will boldly face the older, richer money bags and politicians and not be intimidated. We await a glorious exit for him when the time comes, for a change!

The fight against corruption is itself an inglorious one. The former director of the Kenya anticorruption commission, Dr. Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, a lawyer, can testify to this malady. He fought corruption with all within his capacity but failed to bring it into submission. He remains an international warrior against corruption particularly in Africa.

How can the bosses of EFCC not have inglorious exit? Corruption is a dangerous, silent, and systemic evil that eats up the society as a malignant cancer and is self-destructive. All ramifications of corruption have been given a coloration that looks innocuous but certainly deadly.

Corruption itself fights back viciously against anti-corruption crusaders. The corrupt persons have the resources within their ambit to fight back. Thus, it is already a suicidal venture right from the beginning when one has to fight against governors, senators, ministers, presidents, etc; who have the money and in addition the powers to fight the anti-corruption crusader. Of

course, it is a lost battle even before it has started. As corruption tends to implicate all and sundry including the principal of the government of any country. Thus, one will be foolhardy to pursue a corruption scandal linked to the highest office in the land. The days appear to be counted already and the dice cast concerning the inglorious exit.

Reasons for removal from office advanced for the various Chairmen have been speculative while the public awaits confirmation of the reasons. For sure, none of these past officers was pulled out of service or duly celebrated for their achievements. All of them could not have been found wanting on all counts. If so, then there is something fundamentally faulty somewhere somehow with this esteemed office, probably non-existent specified terms of reference.

From the antecedents, decent Nigerians will not accept this type of appointment knowing the obvious outcome (inglorious exit) as this time around, it is not likely to be different. An ungrateful service to a nation and the people! It is a lone war against the hydra-headed monster called corruption. In fact, no one prays for the worst prize to pay for fighting corruption, but assassination cannot be ruled out. So, for me as an individual, I prefer their inglorious exit than paying the supreme prize.

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At the beginning of their tenure, lots of successes and achievements are recorded, or at least seen across the pages of the newspapers, the social media or the television screens, but sooner or later, things begin to change. The recorded successes and achievements begin to wane, fizzle out and lastly, everyone turns against them including those that appointed them. The reason is obvious. It is a lone fight.

Mutihir is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Jos.

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