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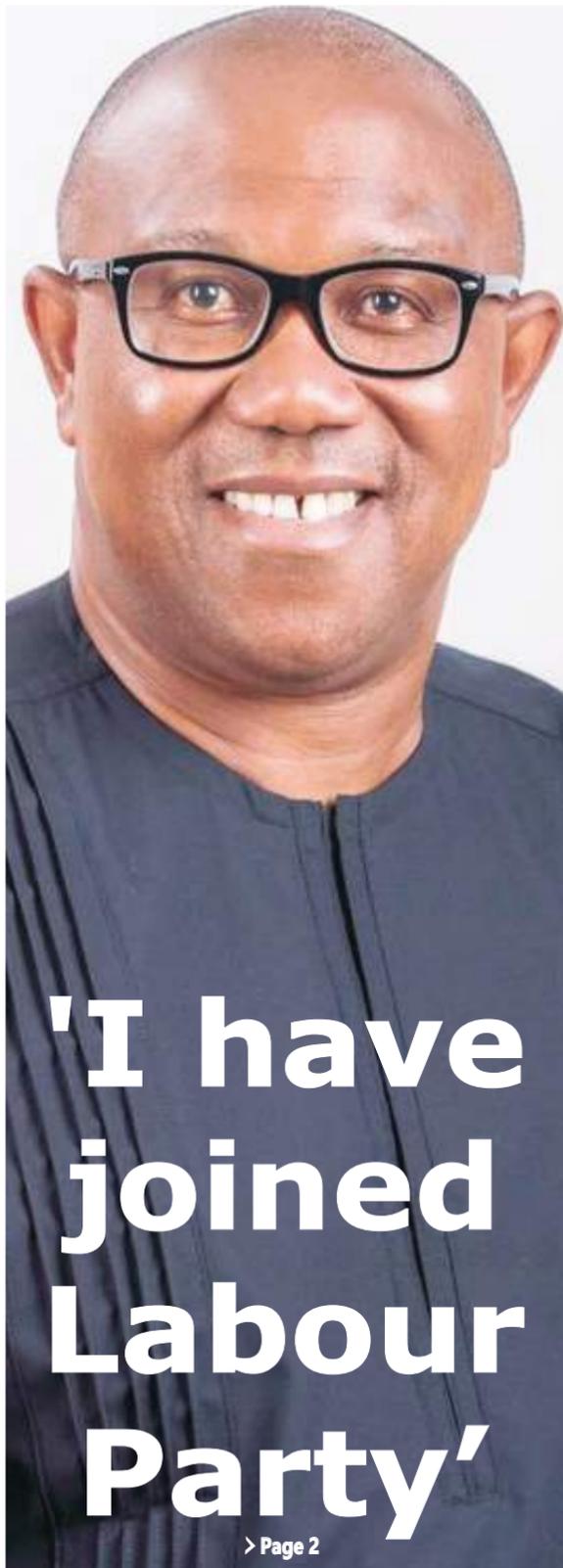
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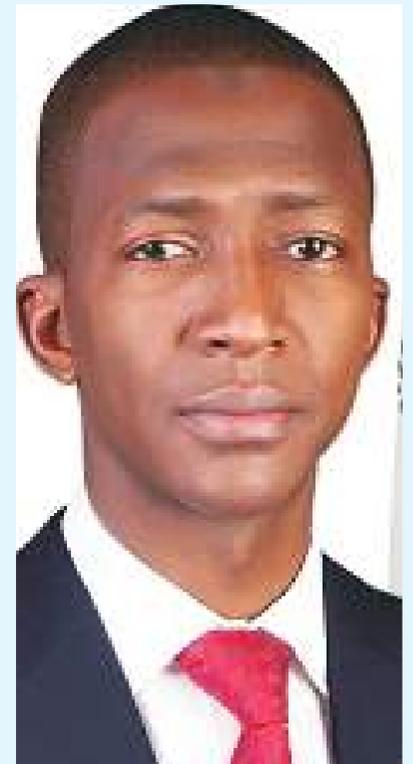
Recent revelation of financial crime, associated with high-profile Nigerian government officials has become worrisome. In the midst of this monumental theft, majority of the people are living in abject poverty, want and degradation something ought to be done.



Buhari



Bolaji



Bawa

EFCC redeeming the anti-corruption fight?

CORRUPTION in Nigeria is like a malignant tumor that feeds on the body and when allowed to spread to other parts of the body system comes with excruciating pain and the resultant effect is death.

INDEED, corruption is also like a monster that has refused to be tamed or killed. It has for several years become a recurrent decimal with frightening proportion as a major problem which has found its way to all segments of the nation's psyche that seems to have overwhelmed all strata of Government.

SADLY, not so much headway has been made in fighting the ugly trend that has been a clog in the wheel of the nation's progress and development. Even the Federal Government's efforts of establishing Anti-corruption agencies such as the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is yet to take the nation out of the woods.

RATHER, the fight against corruption by successive administrations became more of a melo-drama which came with so much controversies and more of a media trial meant to hunt perceived opponents while at the end only a few individuals get prosecuted in courts.

FOR instance, the celebrated cases of the Dieziani Allison Madueke, Andrew Yakubu, Babachir Lawal and the recent pardon granted to former Governor of Plateau state, Joshua Dariye and his Taraba state counterpart, Rev. Jolly Nyame including other high-profile cases that have either continued to drag or stalled, and not forgetting the alleged re-looting of looted confiscated funds and property by the Ibrahim Magu led EFCC, casts a dark shadow on the anti-corruption crusade

NO doubt, President Muhammadu Buhari, rode to power on the mantra of tackling corruption head- long but with barely a year remaining of his 8year tenure, corruption has not yet abated not with the kind of gusto and panache the nation's commonwealth are being stolen by both the high and low public officials.

SHOCKING, are the recent revelations of high-brid fraud involving the nation's Accountant-General Ahmed Idris, to the tune of N80billion, that of N1.5 Trillion traced to the NIMASA Managing Director Bashir Jamoh, including the uncovered fraud of N47billion at the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the reported money laundry case allegedly involving General Jeremiah Useni, (rtd) to a whopping 2billion Pounds stashed in New Jersey, USA and a hosts of other cases being investigated by the anti-corruption agencies.

HOWEVER, it is apt to commend the EFCC for its new revivalism and for finding their rhythm once again especially when most Nigerians were beginning to lose confidence and faith in the direction the anti-corruption fight was being driven.

WE, therefore, hope that the anti-graft agencies would consolidate on the achievements made by making more of such arrests with prompt diligence and prosecution of the accused while the momentum must be sustained so as to block all financial leakages and to prevent self centred individuals from viewing public office as a short cut to amassing ill-gotten wealth through the treasury at the expense of the vast majority of the populace.

IT is our candid view that the Federal Government in collaboration with all segments of the Nigerian society must spearhead an ideology of national rebirth with a common goal of building strong institutions that would propel the right appetite to resist corruption in all its ramification added with the right approach towards a paradigm shift for national consciousness of integrity above any other personal consideration so that the cankerworm of corruption can be done away with.

APC primaries: "No losers, victory for all"

By PALANG KASMI

Governor Simon Bako Lalong has congratulated winners of the just concluded primaries of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to see their win as a collective mandate.

The Governor in a message Friday, hours after the Party's primaries was announced also congratulated Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe for emerging APC's standard bearer in the Gubernatorial Primaries conducted on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at the Langfield Resort and Event Centre Jos.

Governor Lalong in the message described Nentawe's win as a victory for the Plateau APC family and urged aspirants that were not successful to see it as a victory for all.

In his words: "This win has again demonstrated the capacity to work



Lalong

together for the good of the party and the state as a whole, therefore the outcome of the elections should be seen as a collective mandate

which will bring members of the party together for the overall success of the APC in the general elections in 2023"

"I therefore admonish Nentawe, the Party's standard bearer and other aspirants that were not successful to see it as victory for all, as there are no winners or losers in the exercise which is basically a family affair".

"I also extend my warm felicitations to various winners of the APC State House of Assembly primary elections which was also conducted throughout the state".

He commended party officials, delegates, security agencies, media, INEC and all other stakeholders for their roles in ensuring that the process went smoothly.

The Governor also urged them to sustain this tempo in the upcoming elections for House of Representatives and Senate.

'I have joined Labour Party'

Former governor of Anambra State, Mr Peter Obi, on Friday, formally announced that he has joined the Labour Party after resigning his membership of the People's Democratic Party.

Obi announced on his Twitter handle that he had decided to join the party which he described as a route he considers to be in line with his aspirations and my mantra of taking the country from consumption to production.

According to his tweets: "I thank all Nigerians, especially our youths

who have joined me in the mission of taking back and reuniting Nigeria. This project is yours and for the future of your children. I am just a facilitator.

"Since I resigned from the PDP because of issues that are at variance with my personal principles, I have consulted widely with various parties and personalities to ensure we do not complicate the route to our desired destination.

"For me, the process of achieving our goal is as fundamental as what

one will do thereafter.

"Therefore, I have chosen a route that I consider to be in line with our aspirations and my mantra of taking the country from consumption to production; and that is the Labour Party which is synonymous with the people, workers, development, production, securing and uniting Nigerians as one family.

"I invite all Nigerians to join me in taking back our country. Be assured that I'll never let you down."

Jonathan eligible to contest APC Presidential primary-court



Jonathan

A Federal High Court sitting in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, Friday ruled that former President Goodluck Jonathan could contest the presidential primary of the All Progressive Congress (APC) slated for Sunday, May 29.

The judgment of the court put an end to months of speculations over the eligibility or otherwise of Jonathan to contest the APC presidential primaries, preparatory to the 2023 general election.

Jonathan, who was defeated as the incumbent president and candidate of the Peoples' Democratic Party by the incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari of the APC in 2015, has been in the news over the rumour that he would be seeking a return to the presidency through the APC.

In the suit marked FHC/YNG/CS/86/2022 which is before Justice Isa Dashen, the APC, Jonathan and the Independent National Electoral Commission, are

listed as defendants.

The plaintiffs in the matter, Andy Solomon and Idibiye Solomon, had approached the court through an origination summon, seeking an order of the court stating that Jonathan is not affected by the fourth alteration to the constitution barring Vice-Presidents who succeed their principals from serving more than one full term.

Supreme Court dismisses Amaechi's bid to stop probe

The Presidential aspirant on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and former Governor of Rivers State, Mr Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Friday lost in his legal efforts to stop his probe in alleged N96 billion fraud and alleged fraudulent sales of assets belonging to the Rivers State.

A five-member panel of Justices of the Supreme Court, in a unanimous judgment delivered by Justice Adamu Jauro on Friday ordered Amaechi to go and face the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Rivers State Government to investigate his eight-year tenure as governor of the state.

The apex court dismissed Amaechi's appeal where-in he had asked for order of the court to stop his successor, Governor Nyesom Wike from investigating the business of the state for the eight years he held sway as the executive governor of Rivers State.

Justice Jauro held that the issue of denial of fair hearing, as alleged by Amaechi does not arise as the probe panel will provide him with the opportunity to give explanations regarding Rivers government's transactions when he was governor of the state.

The apex court held in the judgement that Amaechi's suit

lacked merit and was subsequently dismissed.

The Supreme Court affirmed the judgments of the High Court of Rivers State and that of the Court of Appeal which had earlier dismissed same suit for want of substance and merit and slammed N1 million fine against Amaechi.

With the final decision of the apex court, Amaechi will be made to appear before the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice George Omekeji to give account of how the sum of N96 billion was allegedly withdrawn from the treasury of the Rivers State government and how it was expended.

The Commission of Inquiry inaugurated by governor Wike is to look into the lawful or otherwise of the alleged sales of valuable assets of the state by the administration of former governor, Amaechi.

The listed valuable assets are Omoku Gas Turbine, Afam Gas Turbine, Trans Amadi Gas Turbine, Eleme Gas Turbine, Olympia Hotel and the award of contract for the execution of Mono Rail Project.

In the appeal marked: SC/911/2017, with the Rivers State Government and nine others as respondents, Amaechi wanted the court to stop his probe in alleged N96 billion fraud in relation to the state government's claim that he fraudulently sold the state's assets.

He had challenged the decision by his successor, Nyesom Wike to constitute a seven-man panel to probe his eight-year tenure as governor on the ground that the planned probe is aimed at witch-hunting, embarrass and to humiliate him.

But, the apex court, in its



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum
On Sunday**



gobum_katt@yahoo.co.uk 07037977744 (sms)

"Put together, haven't we done enough damage to commonwealth than building it for the next generation? What have we done wrong about the war that we are not succeeding in the war to stamp out corruption? As much as we continue to in this fashion, it is possible that despite our resources, we shall wake up one day and there won't be anything to steal again."

How not to fight corruption in Nigeria



Idris



Maude



Ekere

IT must be admitted, fighting corruption can be a herculean task in Nigeria. It is more tasking when; officials of the government that prides itself as engaged in the course of stamping corruption are neck deep in encouraging sleaze.

It makes it the more difficult as there are numerous instances where the EFCC has had to go after these officials. Stamping it out has been more herculean than starting it. And that is why killing corruption has been one of the most difficult assignments any government can undertake.

However to think that it is beyond the reach of any government stamping it out is to imagine that no country has ever succeeded in eradicating it around the world. Some countries have stiffer penalties than ever put, others play around and dignifying the malaise and encouraging those caught in the act as if they deserve some modicum of respect for the act.

With the way things stand; the war against corruption cannot be won. It has always been said that it is corruption that has been fighting the efforts of government to stamp stealing of public funds. Now, Nigerians know better: Most public officers are daily helping themselves to be enriched at the expense of the nation.

There are numerous instances that tell the story of a nation not serious in its efforts to stamp the issue out of its shores. We have shared our thoughts here repeatedly that those who are waiting on the queue to steal funds from government tills are higher than those who have stolen in the past.

The fact that young men and women 'have made it in life' in government live close to us or are our relations give many reasons to want to steal. Many of those who are in government are sometimes on the lower rung of service, yet they are 'stunningly' rich; and most times, they serve as points of 'encouragement' to others in the office who on the same grade level.

On account of such skewed placement in life, most are tempted to also engage in dipping their hands in their tills to make life easy for them.

These cases which abound and serve as reference point to them may not be lessons to copy. They are a sad reminder that the journey to getting rid of sleaze in Nigeria is a long way off.

While we are waiting for government to stem the tide and arrest the drift, we are being affected in more ways than one. With a stunted growth and lacking in development, it has become a thing of joy for the nation to remain where it has stood for years.

Sadly, in the last couple of days, the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) unveiled an allegation that ordinarily would have sounded unbelievable to ordinary Nigerians. Yet, in these parts, no corruption allegation remains in that realm. Before long, it is proven and those who had other notions begin to wonder if they heard a different name than the officer under interrogation by the EFCC.

In the context of what is happening, there is need for a cure; otherwise, like it has been said, 'if we don't kill corruption, corruption kill us'. We have been inundated with cases of corruption allegations on several public officers. The allegations come and go; even as most of those cases die as soon as they are mentioned.

You may recall the allegations on a certain military officer who stole billions of naira. His case: Fairy tale like stories abounds of treasury or finance officers of the army who came out of the war strikingly rich. For the past 12 years, the Nigerian Army has been engaged in the war against Boko, the insurgent that have killed thousands and rendered most parts of Northeast Nigeria prostrate socially and economy in its bid to create an Islamic Caliphate out of the area.

Justice N.E. Maha of the Federal High Court had on Monday February 14, ordered the final forfeiture of 24 properties held by fronts and proxies to Aminu Maude who the EFCC failed to name, but simply referred to as a 'top military officer; in a statement signed by Wilson Uwujaren, its spokesperson on the seizure.'

It is swallowing us all as more of its children are taking the country to the

undertakers. Every day, there are new revelations of how much the country has been fleeced of hundreds of millions. On account of that, can't you see that our development has been stunted? How can that be, when all that is in vogue is how we have devised ways and means on how we can steal from the tills of the commonwealth?

Put together, haven't we done enough damage to commonwealth than building it for the next generation? What have we done wrong about the war that we are not succeeding in the war to stamp out corruption? As much as we continue to in this fashion, it is possible that despite our resources, we shall wake up one day and there won't be anything to steal again.

Everyone wants to be rich without working for it. In fact, no nation develops without travelling on the path of being just and accountable.

Nigerians were shocked to their marrows when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission arrested Nigeria's Accountant General of the Federation, Mr. Ahmed Idris, in connection with diversion of funds and money laundering activities to the tune of N80billion (Eighty Billion Naira) only.

The anti-graft body had disclosed this on its Twitter page displaying a picture of the AGF, thus: "Operatives of the EFCC on Monday, May 16, 2022, arrested serving Accountant General of the Federation, Mr. Ahmed Idris, in connection with diversion of funds and money laundering activities to the tune of N80billion (Eighty Billion Naira) only."

"The Commission's verified intelligence showed that the AGF raked off the funds through bogus consultancies and other illegal activities using proxies, family members and close associates."

The EFCC said Mr. Idris was arrested after failing to honour invitations by the EFCC to respond to issues connected to the fraudulent acts.

Idris Ahmed was appointed Accountant General by President Buhari on June 25, 2015. He was reappointed for a second four-year

term in June 2019, amid criticisms from labour groups who said the accountant-general should retire after turning 60. They were not heard.

A native of Kano State, North-west Nigeria, he was born on November 25, 1960, and was until his appointment in 2015 the Director of Finance and Accounts, Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development. He is a chartered accountant with over two decades of work experience. He is a Fellow of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria and Fellow, Association of Financial Analysts of Nigeria, and also is a member of other professional bodies including the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, the Certified Institute of Cost Management of Nigeria, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

It would be recalled that President Muhammadu Buhari, a former army general, was elected in 2015 on a promise to tackle endemic corruption in the country, the continent's top oil producer.

Under his leadership, the EFCC has secured a series of high-profile convictions, including of ministers, state governors, senior civil servants and prominent politicians. Last year, the commission said it had recovered nearly \$750 million (€714 million).

Little wonder that several critics have accused the EFCC, set up in 2003, of conducting a witch-hunt against the president's opponents. However you see it, the fact still remains that much may have been done, yet it still remains that much more is left undone.

There are various cases that are still subsisting, as the courts are yet to dispense of them. Nigerians recall the case of the former Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Nsima Ekere. He too was recently detained for various corruption allegations. He has been under investigations for years. However, he is reported to have surrendered himself for arrest on realizing that the commission was closing in on him.

Ekere, who hails from Akwa Ibom State, one of the mandate areas of the interventionist agency, defected from

the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress in 2015.

He was the leader of the G22, a group of 22 disgruntled PDP governorship aspirants for the 2015 governorship, who defected to the APC after losing the governorship primary election of the PDP to the incumbent governor of Akwa Ibom State, Emmanuel Udom.

The sources said the 56-year-old, who served as the managing director and chief executive officer of the NDDC between 2017 and 2018, is being investigated over allegations of contract inflation and award of fictitious contracts during his time in office.

The list continues with EFCC recently detaining a former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Patricia Etteh, for allegedly receiving a suspicious N130 million payment from a contractor awarded a solar-powered electrification project in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria's South-South..

Investigators are now saying weeks after the contractor was paid the mobilisation fee for the project, N130 million was transferred to Mrs. Etteh who is neither a director nor a shareholder of the company on record in 2011.

The NDDC, an agency set up to address the peculiar developmental challenges of oil producing states in Nigeria, has performed poorly in achieving the goals for which it was set up due to corruption.

In 2021, an audit report ordered by President Muhammadu Buhari, revealed that over 13,000 projects were abandoned in the region since the creation of the agency.

Currently, the Nigerian state is facing a number of issues for which need financial intervention. Students of Nigerian universities have been at home for months ostensibly on account of a strike embarked upon by Association of Staff Union of Universities.

If the funds of Nigeria are not safe with the person who is supposed to be the chief financial officer of the country, pray, say what would happen to the case of the university teachers?

We are in deep problem and the issue of corruption appears to be our guest for years to come; so long as we are not serious to stamp it out.



How do I Iron my Clothes?

For the past month, I have been wondering how do I iron my clothes. We used to have someone who used to come around to take care of ironing our clothes on weekly basis. The charges for power then were reasonable. Our meter was not prepaid but estimated. But we didn't mind because the charges were affordable then. However, with the new metering system, the prepaid regime, and arbitrary increment by distribution companies, ironing one's clothes in the family glare has become a big offence not only in my family. It is forgivable to iron a shirt, dress or trousers, but not over 3 things. No one wants to hear the lecture about the high cost of units. God help you if someone had already ironed his/her clothes before you came along with your 2 or 3 things to iron. You would feel like you should start wearing leaves.

Bayo is a student who lives in a self-contained one room apartment in a compound with similar accommodation for students. Since they started using prepaid meter, it is an offence for one to use boiling ring, electric iron, electric stove and electric kettle.

This is because all of them in the compound use only one meter. And they contribute to buy units. As students, they all co-operate so that their units would last. However, he confessed that anytime he needed to iron, he would wait till very late in the night or very early in the morning. Even so, he usually does it very fast so that he won't be the reason their units would be exhausted. Unfortunately, they all discovered they were all ironing in secret. And every one has been banned from using electric iron. He is now asking, 'how do i iron my clothes?' Betzom is from a very large family. They are a family of about 30 and about 40 during holidays especially Christmas. Due to the arbitrary increase in power tariff and the fact that they have to use prepaid meter, their father has come up with some ground rules. They include: No ironing, no using of boiling ring, no using of electric kettle or stove and the freezer has to be on 2 days and off 1 day. To make sure they keep to the rules, their father has confiscated their boiling rings, kettles, electric iron. In their place, he has bought enough fire wood to boil water outside the kitchen in a gigantic pot for everyone every morning; and he has replaced the iron with charcoal iron.

"We were managing well until we started burning our clothes with the charcoal iron, Betzom stated. "The last straw on the camel's back was burning my dad's expensive kaftan", she lamented. "Without saying a word, Dad disposed of the charcoal iron. We are now facing a dilemma. How do we iron our clothes?" Betzom asks.

It is not easy but one has been forced

to visit the dry cleaners with ones Sunday clothes. Sunday came, and one was forced to wear common clothes. The laundry man said erratic power supply and the rain were his challenges. After about a week plus, the clothes were finally ready. But one got a minus and a plus. The same one that one meant to wear on Sunday didn't come back. In its place, was an old wrapper. The laundry man had argued with one until he saw the picture one had snapped of the clothes one gave. The picture was taken in his presence and he and his friend were laughing and saying that it was not necessary. Till date, he is playing hide and seek with one. Who can one trust again? The problem is that how do I iron my clothes?

Did one do wrong giving one's clothes to a young boy in our area to iron? About 20 clothes at the cost of two hundred Naira. The next morning, his father woke us up impolitely and called one names. He didn't leave until he was given one thousand naira as payment for units for his house electricity. One feels cheated. The problem is that, how do I iron my clothes?

One recalled that in our days in secondary school, we improvised ways of smoothening our uniforms after washing and they are dry. We used to fold them neatly and put them under our mattress. By morning, they would look somewhat ironed. One did that. On top of the fact that one didn't sleep well because the bed was bumpy, one became a laughing stock when one went out. Those people bold enough told one that one's clothes were looking as if they were pulled out of a horse's mouth. It was annoying. Thankfully, a God sent rain fell and one was somewhat soaked by the time one reached one's office. People sympathized with one and Mother Nature smiled at one again. The sun came out in its brilliance and dried ones clothes. It surprised one that no one else laughed at ones clothes again. The lines were straightened. But is that how I will be ironing my clothes?

It is affordable because it comes at no cost. The households without pipe borne water look forward to the rain. It does not depend on power supply which is erratic and beyond the reach of the masses. It is not partial- it falls on both the rich and poor; the good and the bad, the old and the young. The rain is no respecter of status. It is a blessing and rarely a curse. How long will power distribution companies blame erratic power supply on blessed rain? The problem still remains, how do I iron my clothes?

Power is consistent in highbrow areas. And if at all there is power outage, the alternative source immediately picks up. For most of them, it is not only industrial generator but solar energy. My problem still remains, how do I iron my clothes? How do we iron things out?

NEWS

FMW&H closes Lokoja-Obajana -Kabba road, diverts traffic

From
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Federal Ministry of Works and Housing has ordered the immediate closure of Lokoja-Obajana-Kabba road to enable reconstruction of the road and culverts washed away by floods in 2021.

Engr Jimoh Kajogbola, Federal Controller of Works in Kogi who disclosed this at Obajana on Friday said the situation had necessitated the diversion of traffic from the Kabba Junction-Obajana-Kabba road to Kabba Junction-Okene-Kabba.

Kajogbola specifically called on motorists from North-Central and South-West of Nigeria plying the Obajana-Kabba highway in Kogi to use the alternative Lokoja-Okene-Kabba road.

According to him, the Lokoja - Okene - Kabba road is free. Lokoja (Obajana Junction) to Okene is under dualization which is almost completed and the Okene Township Road has been repaired just as Okene-Kabba Road.

The Federal Controller said that Obajana-Kabba Road would be closed as from the 27th of May and reopen by the 15th of August by God's grace. "So, Nigerians should bear, with us. It is for our collective good. We cannot leave this section of this road like this for people to be dying. We need to repair it.

Explaining the situation to newsmen, Kajogbola said, "We had an unfortunate washout last year. The rain was so heavy that the road was cut off and the culvert washed away.



Fashola

"Immediately it happened, we called the stakeholders, the Dangote plant, the FRSC, the Federal Ministry of Works and AG Dangote a nearby contractor to come to our aid and a temporary diversion was created.

"Fortunately, the Minister of Works, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, immediately approved the reconstruction of the washout with a relief box culvert which started immediately but due to some factors, it was delayed a little bit by the contractor", the Controller said.

Kajogbola however, said that the contractor has got to a point where the remaining part of the road presently in use would require a cut off for effective completion of the road work.

He explained for that this would not allow free flow of traffic.

"So, we need to divert the traffic from here to an alternative route of almost the same length.

"We are pleading with road users to use Obajana Junction - Okene - Kabba road instead of using Obajana-Kabba road directly. Adequate Directional Road Signs have been provided to guide the motorists", he said.

Also speaking at the occasion, Mr Samuel Dawulung, Kogi State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) promised to ensure orderliness at the diversion points.

Female governorship aspirant takes the day

From- **GYANG PAM, Yola**

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) has again produced a second female gubernatorial candidate in the country.

First, it was the late Aishatu Alhassan of Taraba

State and now Aishatu Binani Dahiru in Adamawa State.

Hajiya Binani polled 430 votes to daze Malam Nuhu Ribadu, a former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EfCC) who

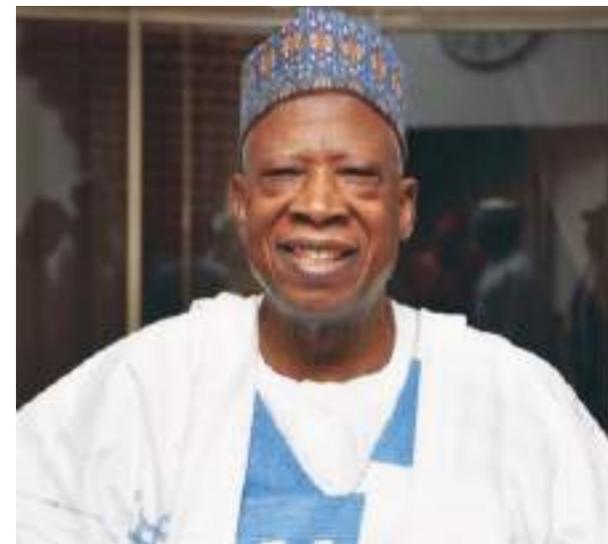
polled 288 votes.

The other remaining contestants are former Mohammed Jibrilla Bindow who got 103 votes, the Honorable member House of Reps, Abdulrazak. Namdas who polled 94 votes, the Otumba Ekiti Engr. Umar Mustapha, 39 votes and Wafari Theman had 21 votes.

The Chairman of the committee for the APC Governorship Congresses, Alhaji Gambo Lawal announced the outcome declaring Binani winner.

Agents of the contestants all were in agreement to the fairness of the election and promised on behalf of the contestants to work for the success of the party.

In his remark after the election, secretary to the Federal Government, Mr. Boss Mustapha congratulated her on her victory, adding that he will support her both morally, logistically and otherwise.



Adamu

SUNDAY POLITICS

Fintiri emerges Adamawa PDP governorship flagbearer

From GYANG PAM, Yola

THE Adamawa State Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has emerged the PDP flagbearer in a landslide victory as 663 of the delegates voted to return him for a second term in office.

In all a total number of 668 delegates were registered to vote from all the 226 wards in the state with five of the votes annulled.

Our Correspondent reports that the Governor was the sole candidate as one of the candidates, Ambassador Jameel Waziri Abubakar, is said to have been disqualified by the party's screening committee.

In declaring the candidate winner, the returning officer Barrister Garvin Kataps said, "I, Chief Barrister Gebon Kataps, by the powers vested on me, hereby declare that Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of the



Fintiri

PDP is hereby returned duly elected."

In his acceptance speech, Fintiri commended the people for the confidence reposed on him, adding that, such overwhelming support be

given to former Vice President Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

He was optimistic that Atiku will be the country's next President.

Fintiri also disclosed that more development should be expected.

Ishaku, Manu, Lau emerge PDP Senate flagbearers

From

VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

GOVERNOR Darius Ishaku has emerged as the senate flagbearer for Taraba south district without any challenge. The processes for the election were held at the Wukari Stadium, headquarters of the southern senatorial district.

For the central senatorial district, deputy governor, Haruna Manu came out victorious after defeating Mohammed Abana by 143 votes to nothing in Bali, headquarters of the central senatorial district. Former senator, Dahiru Bako had earlier stepped down for Manu.

At the Jolly Nyame Stadium Jalingo, venue for the northern senatorial district elections, incumbent senator, Shuaibu Lau won with 92 votes against his closest rival, David Kassa who scored 73 votes. The process was generally peaceful except for an isolated case of a thug who was stabbed with a knife at the premises.

Meanwhile, the latest development in the State is that Governor Ishaku has succumbed to pressure to allow the State PDP chairman, Agbu Kefas, fly the party flag at the next General Elections, against certain vested interests.

The top contenders for the PDP ticket are: former PDP State Chairman, Victor Bala Kona, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Joseph Albasu Kunini, the State Accountant General, Aminu Ayuba, legal luminary, Damian Dodo (SAN), and grassroots politician Joel Ikenya.

SUNDAY STANDARD reliably gathered that one of the leading contenders was persuaded by Ishaku to drop his aspiration for Agbu citing pressure on him. But the said aspirant has not issued any



Ishaku

statement yet on his withdrawal.

Just a week ago, former Minister of Defence, TY Danjuma, stealthily entered Jalingo with his preferred candidate Damian Dodo (SAN) to perfect plans to make him the PDP flagbearer for the State. But it met a brick wall from the governor and party stakeholders who insisted that power must be zoned to the north. But from latest developments, it looks

like the choice of Dodo has been jettisoned in favour of Kefas who hails from the southern zone.

One of the hard nuts to crack is former party chairman, Victor Bala Kona. During his recent declaration to be governor, Kona insisted he is the best aspirant to be the consensus candidate.

"Consensus is discretionary. It's not compulsory. For me, I will only accept the consensus, if it favours me.

PDP, working towards a consensus candidate

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE People's Democratic Party, PDP is said to be in talking terms with the 15 of its Presidential aspirants with a view to reach a consensus candidate so as to avert the stress of going into primary elections.

The Chairman Board of Trustees (BOT) of the party, Senator Walids Jibrin made the disclosure while speaking with newsmen during the ongoing Senatorial primary election held at the Lion-Gate Hotel Keffi which took place recently.

"We are still talking to the

15 Presidential aspirants in our party with a view to find a consensus candidate for the purpose of making it easy for us to avert the stress and challenges we may encounter in organizing a primary election for them," he stated.

He however assured that in the event that was no any consensus, the party had no option than to organize the primary election in order to find the flag bearer of the party that they contest under its platform 2023 general elections.

"In case we are not able to achieve a consensus, we have no option than to organize a primary election that would

HON. Teejay Yusuf has overwhelmingly won the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Senatorial Primary election for Kogi West Senatorial district.

Hon. Teejay Yusuf who is currently member representing Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency, on Tuesday May 24 2022, was declared the winner of the election by the chairman of the electoral committee, having scored 163 votes to defeat his close rival Dino Melaye who scored 99 out of 265 accredited votes for the election conducted at the Olonijola event center Kabba Kogi state.

Teejay defeated three contestants, Hon Adeniyi Olayemi, Hon Sam Aro Banidele, and Sen. Dino Melaye.

Speaking with his supporters after the declaration, Teejay appreciated God for the success of the election and dedicated his victory to Him and thanked his supporters for their contributions towards his victory.

The lawmaker who was highly elated also paid tribute to the PDP leaders in Kogi West Senatorial district for their roles in his emergence as the candidate for the senatorial district.

"I feel very happy, I thank Almighty God, only Him has done this most importantly, I thank my family, my leaders and supporters, they have given me support for this past few months.

I give them thanks; I

Yusuf, Adoji win Kogi West, Kogi East PDP Senatorial ticket

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja



Ayu

thank my mother for being a wonderful mother for her prayers and best wishes," he said.

"I thank the party executives across the seven local government, delegates, all party faithfuls and host of other leaders; whatever you ask us to do, we will do and promise not to disappoint you all.

"Thank you so much for providing the enabling environment for me to come out victorious, let me thank the hierarchy of PDP in Abuja led by the National chairman, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, and that of Kogi west senatorial district Hon Chief Sam Abenemi, the Deputy state chairman for allowing transparency in all the processes that has happened today Teejay stated.

Meanwhile, Victor Adoji

has emerged the Peoples Democratic Party Flagbearer for the forthcoming general election for Kogi East Senatorial District, as he defeated his closet rival, Aminu Abubakar Suleiman to pick the PDP ticket.

Victor Alewo Adoji Emerged PDP senatorial candidate for Kogi East with 177 votes to beat closest rivals: Aminu Abubakar 54, Elder Ubolo Okpanachi 42, and Isaac Alfa 20.

Adoji while speaking after he was declared the winner, extended the olive branch to his co-contestants, urged them to join hands with him to win the general election.

He commended the peaceful conduct of the Primaries, promised to continue with his good work if elected at the general election.

Kogi PDP primaries: Okino, Ogembe, others emerge

From

AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the just concluded primary elections into State House of Assembly and House of Representatives positions across the country has elected their candidates in Kogi central.

In the central senatorial district of the state, Saliu Salawu Ogembe emerged as the candidate for the

Okene/Ogori-Magongo Federal constituency, Aloysius Adeiza Okino emerged as the party's candidate for Ajaokuta federal constituency, while a former Okehi Local Government Chairman, Abdulmalik Abdulraheem Danga emerged as Adavi/Okehi House of Reps flag-bearer.

In the state House of

Assembly primaries, Ovurevu Sheidu Abara emerged in Adavi, Mohammed Haruna

Ganaja in Ajaokuta, a former publicity secretary of Kogi PDP, Prince Bode Ogunmola picked the ticket for Ogori-Magongo, Onivehu Musa Siyaka emerged in Okehi for state assembly and Ajanaku Tijani Umar emerged in Okene II state constituency.

produce our presidential candidate that would bear the party's ticket come 2023 general elections he assured.

The primary elections to be organized by our party would be conducted in a free, fair and credible manner in such a way that a level playing ground would be provided to all the aspirants with all view to attract the much needed support from the general voters during the main elections," he re-assured.

Commenting on the Nasarawa West Senatorial primary elections he just witnessed, Senator Jibrin described the process and

procedure as quite transparent and encouraging and expressed the optimism that such would go a long way in paving ways for victory for the party during the forthcoming election.

"The arrangements I have just witnessed is quite good and encouraging as anyone produced from it has come through a transparent process that would at the end of the day be elected overwhelmingly during the main elections" he asserted.

Senator Jibrin therefore appealed to all the contestants to continue to exhibit a high sense no matter the outcome of maturity, decorum as well

as the spirit of sportsmanship and magnanimity with a view to work together collectively for the overall victory of the party.

Speaking about the allegation of use of money to buy delegates, the BOT Chairman stated that the party does not tolerate such attitude and if found it should be reported for appropriate sanctions.

"Our party only believes in credibility not corruption. And what essentially we are working for is a credible and reliable candidate that would be marketable and be able to work for the people that elected him at the end of the day," he stated.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Galadima takes the day as PDP senatorial flagbearer

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

DELEGATES of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the Nasarawa West Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State have elected Surveyor Umaru Musa Galadima as the flagbearer of the party for the 2023 Senatorial elections.

The primary election which took place at the Lion Gate Hotel Keffi saw Galadima scoring 152 votes out of the 181 votes being contested for.

The winner beat three others to include Ali Bala Tafida who scored 17 votes while a former commissioner in the state, Mr. Angama Weibey scored 12 votes and the aspirants who was even absent during the voting process scored no vote.

Declaring the result, the Returning Officer, Barrister Ogaza Dennis stated that the winner Galadima after scoring the majority of the lawful votes cast during the elections, is therefore returned elected.

The returning officer who expressed delight with the peaceful and orderly conduct of the exercise, urged the delegates to continue to uphold such spirit with a view to keep the party on the victory side.

Responding after the announcement of the result in an interview with newsmen, Surveyor Umar Musa Galadima expressed his gratitude to the Almighty God, the delegates, organizers and



Ayu

even his co-contestants for making the process a peaceful and successful one.

He described his victory as a victory for all and assured of his determination to work together with all of them and the party with a view to secure victory in the main elections.

Galadima however solicited

the support and cooperation of all in order to make the project a victorious one at the end of the day.

Our man has observed that after the announcement of the result one of his co-contestant that was there, Mr. Angama Weibey congratulated him.

Lawmaker empowers constituents in fulfilment of promises

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

In fulfillment of his campaign promises, a member of the House of Representatives for Karu, Keffi and Kokona Federal Constituency, Hon. Jonathan

Gaza Gbefwi has empowered his constituents with three Pregeot 406 saloon cars, 30 motor cycles and 30 grounding machines.

Presenting the items during a ceremony that took place at the frontage of the Esu-Karu in Karu during the week, Hon Gaza

By **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

DELEGATES of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Gombe State have unanimously voted Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya to fly the party's ticket in the 2023 general election.

He was declared winner by Dr. Danjuma Dabo, the State's Returning Officer for the primary election after securing the 563 delegates voice votes.

Governor Yahaya, who was first elected in 2019, appreciated the support given to him by the delegates to fly the party's flag again.

Declaring the results, Dr Dabo explained that five delegates were elected across 114 wards of the 11 Local Government Areas of the State but due to various challenges, only 563 were ratified instead of 570.

He said the governor had proven himself by securing the votes of the entire delegates without any dissenting voice.

He told the Governor that, "You have just been affirmed through voice votes, without dissenting voice as the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress in Gombe State.

"By the powers confirmed

Gombe 2023: APC delegates gives Inuwa Yahaya second term ticket

on me I hereby announce Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya as candidate of the All Progressives Congress for the 2023 election," he said.

In his response, Governor Yahaya lauded the delegates for the trust in his leadership, while promising to consolidate on the ongoing infrastructural development.

He said, "I thank the president for standing firm in this hard time and in providing good leadership. Together with you we shall work and fight to

come back to Gombe government house.

"I'm convinced that the people are supportive, I will like to assure everyone especially the delegates that their support will not go in vain. I thank you all for this profound opportunity, with you all we stop to conquer, No-shaking! No-shaking," Yahaya said.

The highly attended primary election, which was organised in a crowded conference centre, had some delegates standing as they rejoiced about



Yahaya

Former Bauchi SSG, emerges PDP guber candidate.

By **ABBAS SHEHU, Bauchi**

A former University Don and immediate past Secretary to Bauchi State Government (SSG), Barrister Ibrahim Kashim, has emerged the winner of the state People's Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial primary election.

Announcing the winner of the primary election, held at the Zaranda Hotel in Bauchi, the Returning Officer for the state, Hassan Ahmed Grema, stated that despite being the sole aspirant in the election, Kashim polled a total of 655 votes out of the 656 accredited delegates, with one invalid vote.

"By the powers conferred on me by the constitution of the PDP, I hereby declare Barrister Kashim Ibrahim as the winner of the PDP gubernatorial ticket for the 2023 general elections," he said.

In his acceptance speech, the PDP candidate Kashim, said the race for the 2023 gubernatorial election in the state had just begun, declaring that PDP was already poised to win the next general election in the state.

He urged party faithfuls and the good people of Bauchi state to rally round and give him and the party the needed support that will ensure the

party's victory in the 2023 general elections.

Kashim also called for unity among PDP members in the state to enable the party take advantage against others in the next round of elections.

"We must be a united party to be able to defeat others in the general elections. I am appealing to all of you to rally round and give the maximum support needed to win the general elections come 2023," Kashim said.

He expressed gratitude to the delegates for electing him as the gubernatorial candidate of the party and also commended the party for providing a level playing ground which led to the emergence of all its candidates for the general election without any rancour.

Kashim also used the forum to commend the state governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, for providing purposeful leadership that has transformed Bauchi State for the betterment of the citizens, which he wants to emulate.

He made it clear that if elected as state governor next year, he will consolidate on the track record of achievements of Governor Bala Mohammed in the state.

According to him "Our focus when eventually elected

in 2023 is to build on what has been achieved by our great political leader, Senator Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir who has demonstrated his competence, ability and result oriented leadership that attracted the attention of the nation".

Bauchi PDP Governorship candidate Ibrahim Kashim in acceptance speech after being announced winner at Zaranda Hotel Bauchi.

Barde wins Gombe PDP Gubernatorial primary election

By **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

ALHAJI Mohammed Jibrin Barde has been elected to fly the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) Governorship ticket for the 2023 general elections after keenly contested Governorship primary election.

Mohammed Jibrin Barde popularly called Danbarde, stood for the election with five others, won the election with 160 votes, beating his closest rival, Dr Jamilu Isyaku Gwamna who polled 119 votes.

Announcing the results, Chief Mike Oghiadomhe, Chief Returning Officer for the PDP primary election said the committee had accredited 329 delegates but canceled one vote making a total 328 valid votes.

stated that the gesture was meant to keep his covenant with his constituents and to re-assured them of his readiness to continue to serve them better in the green chambers.

He expressed the delight that now that he has succeeded in fulfilling his promises unto them,

the people should now reciprocate the gesture by giving him all the necessary support especially that he has made himself available to re-contest his position.

"Now that the constituents were able to have their promises fulfilled what becomes highly

imperative upon them is to endeavour to make the gesture a reciprocal one" he pleaded.

Gaza then re-assured of his determination to continue to serve his constituents diligently in line with their covenants even as he pleaded with them to continue to live in peace and harmony with one another and also support his re-election bid.

He therefore enjoined the beneficence to make the best use of all what they were given and assured those that were unable to get to exercise patient as tomorrow would be their chances also.

The lawmaker who expressed his gratitude to Governor AbdullahiSule for his continued efforts towards taking the state to the next level of peace, unity and prosperity through the initiation and execution of meaningful development programmes and projects that are touching the lives of the people in positive ways, urged him to continue to do more in other to further win the confidence of the people in the state.

He further commended the party leaders in the state and all others for their commitments towards promoting the ideals of the party and winning more membership to their sides.

In their solidarity speeches the chairman of Karu and Keffi Local Government Areas Mr. James Thomas and Hon Mohammad Baba Shehu through his deputy Hon Vincent Anzaku congratulated the lawmaker for what they described as his untiring commitments toward the provision of a fruitful and result oriented representation and vital services to his constituents in return for their mandates.

In his remarks, the state's chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the state Mr. John D. W. Mamman expressed his happiness with the performances of the lawmaker towards empowering his constituents in many ways, action he believed that would continue to retain their confidence on him.



Abdullahi

renowned businessman and was the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SunTrust Bank.

A young and vibrant politician who has created a niche for himself in the political space of the state. He contested the Primary election of the APC in 2019 and was the runner up.

He dumped the APC on July 12th, 2021 and joined the opposition PDP where he laid strategies on how to claim the PDP Governorship ticket.

A breakdown of the results is as follows; Mohammed Jibrin Barde.....160

Dr Jamil Isyaku Gwamna.....119, Adamu Shehu Suleiman...18., Abubakar Ali Gombe...17, Dr Babayo Ardo Kumo...13, Dr Gimba Ya'u Kumo...1

51 year old Danbarde is a

SUNDAY POLITICS

INEC on increasing money politics in Nigeria

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) says the current democracy in Nigeria is being threatened by the predominance of money politics. Angela Atabo writes.

THE INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu said this at a one-day colloquium on Emerging Issues that will Shape the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria organised by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) in collaboration with Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) on Wednesday in Abuja.

Yakubu said that there were three critical challenges to be overcome in the conduct of the 2023 election, namely: insecurity, fake news and money politics.

"My third area of concern is the influence of money on politics and is becoming more present and the risk is that ours may soon become a plutocracy for the rich rather than a democracy for the people.

"The way money is exchanging hands is a source of concern. Yes, we have collaboration with ICPC and the EFCC and only recently we renewed our collaboration with the EFCC, saying that we are going to do something together.

"However, there are two dimensions to it, when you have willing connectors it becomes a bit more difficult to contain the situation.

"On the one hand, you have brilliant examples. We all saw this on the social media in Anambra when there was an attempt to bribe voters and the women refused to accept the money and voted their conscience," he said.

According to Yakubu, what political parties do is critical to what INEC does because that is what is called the primary election.

This, he said, was because the candidates that emerge from the primary elections were the ones that would participate in the secondary election which INEC would conduct.

He said that the commission was working with anti-graft and finance agencies to see how to curb the challenge of money politics.

He added that the commission was concerned about the security situation in the country as it prepares for the 2023 general election because it was a major challenge. But said that the commission has been meeting with security agencies to tackle the challenges.

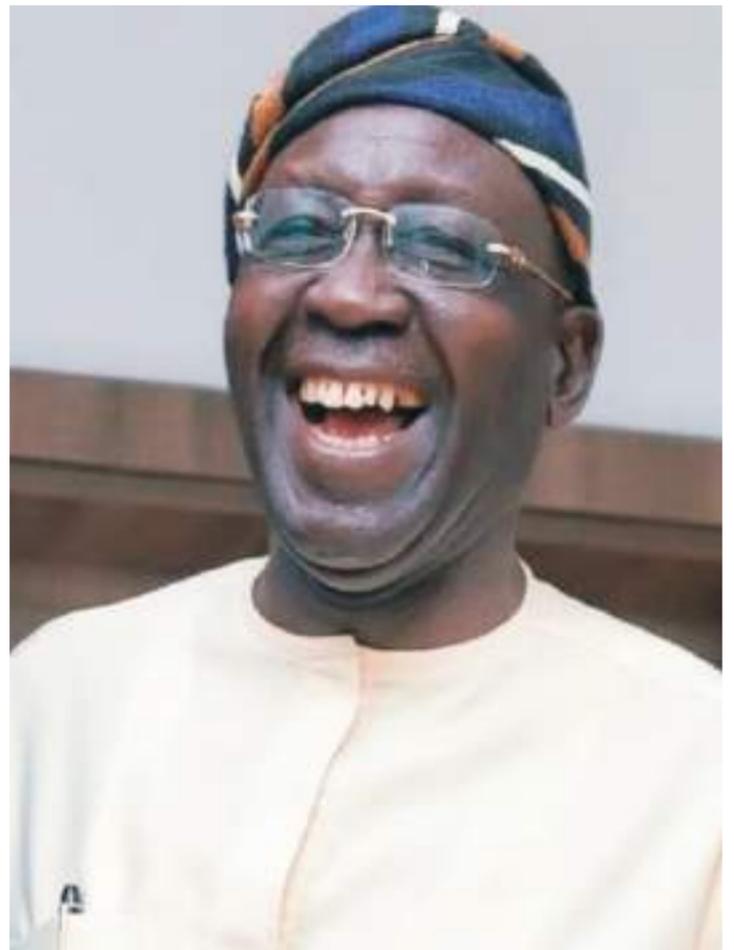
Yakubu added that the commission would try as much as possible to be transparent during the elections in order not to give room for fakenews.

"I believe that the antidote to fake news is more real good news, and greater openness and transparency, we will continue to be open and transparent," he said.

Prof. Attahiru Jega, former INEC chairman, said that the use of money in Nigerian politics was a source of concern and added that,



Mahmood



Ayu

the way money is used, many of us are now saying that we are moving in the direction of becoming a plutocracy rather than a democracy.

"Plutocracy is basically government of the rich for the rich by the rich.

"Imagine, the National Assembly altered the Electoral Act to increase the threshold of how much a candidate can spend for election finance. That is something that we should all have opposed. Regrettably, we were too busy with the issue of electronic transmission and so on that we lost focus.

"We did not pay sufficient attention to what they were trying to do because they now smuggled the issue of huge financial outlays required of candidates," he said.

Jega said that in addition to that, many political parties, especially the so called big ones, now put huge amounts as nomination fees, which automatically excluded women, young men and people with disability from the contest.

He said that attention has to be focused on money politics for the next cycle of electoral reform to the electoral legal framework.

"There is need for elections to be less and less costly, because otherwise marginalised groups will continue to be excluded from the process," he said.

He commended INEC for refusing to yield to the pressure of political parties to change the timetable for elections.

"The timetable was set under a process of very careful contemplation and in the context of the new electoral law.

"Shifting the timetable is a recipe for electoral disaster because once you shift one time frame, it affects virtually all the others," he said.

Mr Yabagi Sani, Chairman, Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) said that political parties were in top gear preparing for the elections in compliance with the legal framework.

Sani however, complained that INEC did not carry political parties along before when setting the election timetable, leading to some problems.

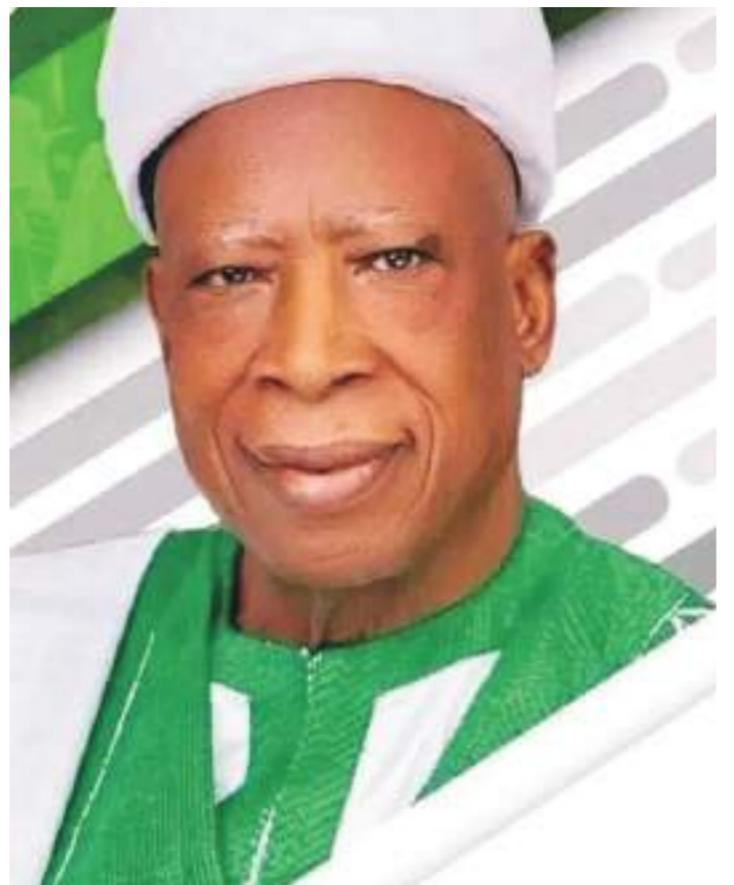
This he said was why they were calling for extension of time for the conduct for party primaries to allow for a thorough job.

CDD's Director, Idayat Hassan, said that the meeting was convened by the Centre with the view of briefing ahead of the 2023 general elections.

"Choosing today, the Africa day to host the colloquium is instructive, for its importance democracy.

"Parts of the country are embroiled in different forms of conflict and violence and all these threats have implications for the conduct of elections- both in terms of safety of election materials, personnel and even voters.

"This also has the potential of affecting voter turnout and the legitimacy of the result," she said.



Adamu

She added that the level of political violence witnessed in the last five months was unprecedented as it was revealed that between Jan. 1 and May 13 at least 76 incidences of politically related violence occurred in Nigeria.

"The violent incidences cuts across 24 states and the six geo-political zones of Nigeria with the North Central having the most number of incidences and South East recording the most

fatalities. "The Brand New Electoral Act while creating a new dawn for electoral administration do also have implications and challenges particularly as the parties grapple to comprehend and comply with the new act."

She said that the CDD and OSIWA organised the colloquium to set the threshold for the 2023 general elections because Nigeria needs to get it right.

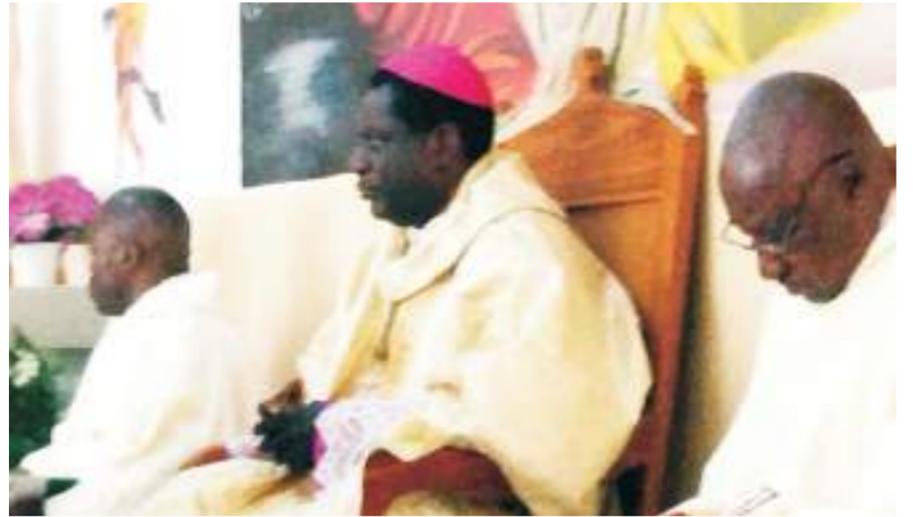
SUNDAY PEOPLE

SENATOR PROF DADU'UT AND FAMILY THANKSGIVING

Sen. Prof. Nora Ladi Daduut and family held a thanksgiving Mass last week at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Rayfield, Jos



Mr. John Daduut and wife, Sen. Prof. Nora Ladi during the family thanksgiving Mass



Bishop Hilary Dachelem, Bishop of Bauchi Catholic Diocese who officiated the Thanksgiving Mass



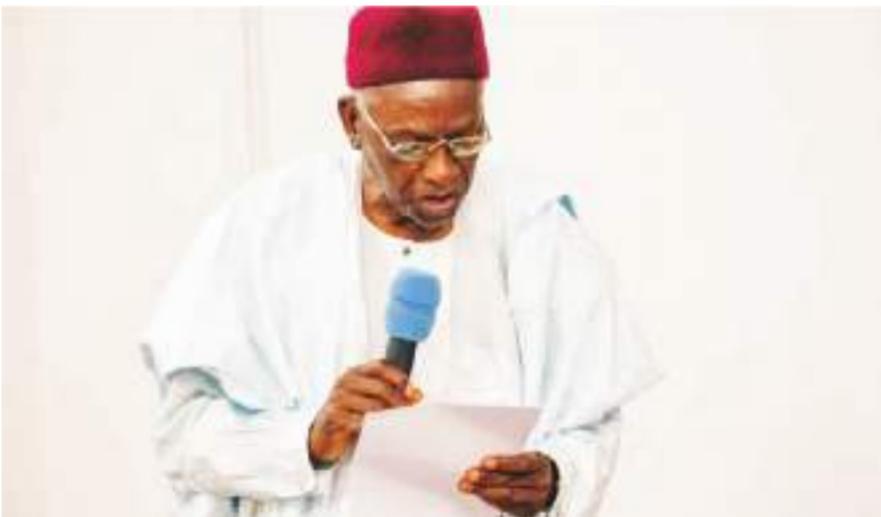
Celebrant, Sen. Prof. Nora Ladi Dadu'ut (middle), NUJ State Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau in a group photograph with members of his EXCO and other journalists



Prof. Nora Ladi Dadu'ut, Director General, ITF, Sir Joseph Ari with well-wishers after the Mass

COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF CHIEFDOMS SUBMIT REPORT

The Committee setup by Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State to look into the issue of Chieftdom and Districts Creation recently at Government House, Jos submitted its report



Chairman of the Committee through, Mr. Lita Shindai making some remarks before the submission of the report



Plateau State Governor, through the SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (left) responding after receiving the report by M Lita Shindai



Governor Lalong through the Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (left) receiving the report



SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (seated left) in a group photograph with members of the committee after the ceremony

It is no longer news that we are witnessing a deteriorating level of insecurity in the country. What is most worrisome is the fact that the security challenges are threatening our existence as a nation and if nothing urgent is done about it, one doubts if this entity called Nigeria will still be standing in the next few years. From the North, West and South, the story is the same. Acts of terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, resulting to killings have become the order of the day. No where and no one is safe anymore. The most frustrating part is that the perpetrators seem to be having it their own way.

Recently, the Senate passed a bill seeking to amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2013, which prohibits the payment of ransom to kidnappers. This is coming on the heels of a report by the Financial Act Task Force (FATF). For those who are oblivious of what it is all about, a mutual evaluation report was conducted of Nigeria's Anti-money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (CTF) by the ECOWAS Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money-Laundering in West Africa in collaboration with the FATF, where Nigeria fell short and was rated below par.

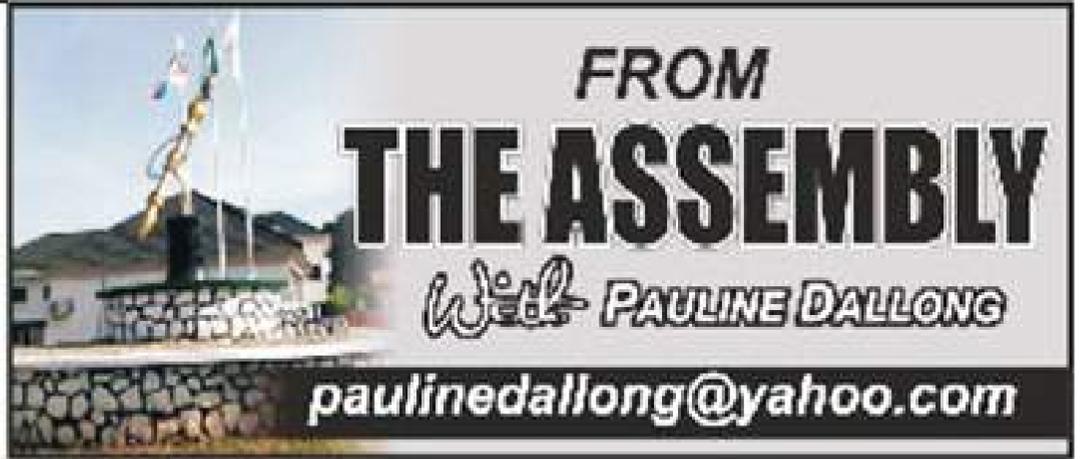
And so for the National Assembly, the passage of this bill will save Nigeria from being included among countries in the FATF grey list with its attendant negative consequences, which might in the long run result in certain international sanctions that would affect the country's image particularly before the comity of nations. As such, the Senate's first thought towards reversing this was to come up with a legislation that will repeal the Act. A proposed repeal off an act will put in place a set of standards and regulatory framework aimed at preventing terrorist groups from laundering money through the country's banking system and other financial network.

In the lawmakers opinion, the bill when signed into law will complement government's effort in the fight against insecurity. However, majority of Nigerians are not in tandem with the lawmakers point of view. It is viewed that this bill which seeks to criminalise the payment of ransom by victims of kidnapping or their families, does not add much value in the efforts to curb the crime. The long and short of it is that if the amendment becomes law, Nigerians who pay ransom to kidnappers risk spending fifteen (15) years in prison. In other words, families of victims will no longer be able to help their loved ones who are kidnapped and held captive.

Sponsored by Senator Francis Onyewuchi from Imo State, section 14 of the bill reads: "Anyone who transfers funds, makes payment or colludes with an abductor, kidnapper or terrorist to receive any ransom for the release of any person who has been wrongfully confined, imprisoned or kidnapped is guilty of a felony and is liable on conviction to a term of

imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years".

The question is, if the Senate is through this legislation criminalising ransom payment for kidnapped victims, what punishment has it proscribed for the perpetrators who commit such heinous crimes. As far as one can remember, no offender has been caught and brought to book yet. While it is agreed that payment of ransoms help in fortifying these criminals and terrorists who see this act as an avenue to enrich themselves,



On the Terrorism Act amendment bill



Lawan



Omo-Agege



Onyewuchi

government must also share in the blame for failing in its responsibility to protect and safeguard citizens. Government must also show responsibility by looking at ways of managing these incidents when they occur and ensure that victims are rescued safely.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the bill is generating so much outcry with some members of the

society calling on the Senate to step down the bill. Among those who reacted to the issue is a group under the auspices of Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) who warned the National Assembly on the decision to outlaw payments of ransom to terrorists without any effort or attempt at rescuing kidnapped victims. The body who faulted the passage of the bill,

blamed the government for not doing enough to curb the security challenges being faced.

Addressing a press conference on the matter, President of SOKAPU Jonathan Asake said: "We are surprised that the National Assembly are contemplating to criminalise payments for ransom to bandits who kidnap their victims. The question is, has the government or lawmakers made alternative measures in securing victims or hostages from the hands of terrorists? Another body known

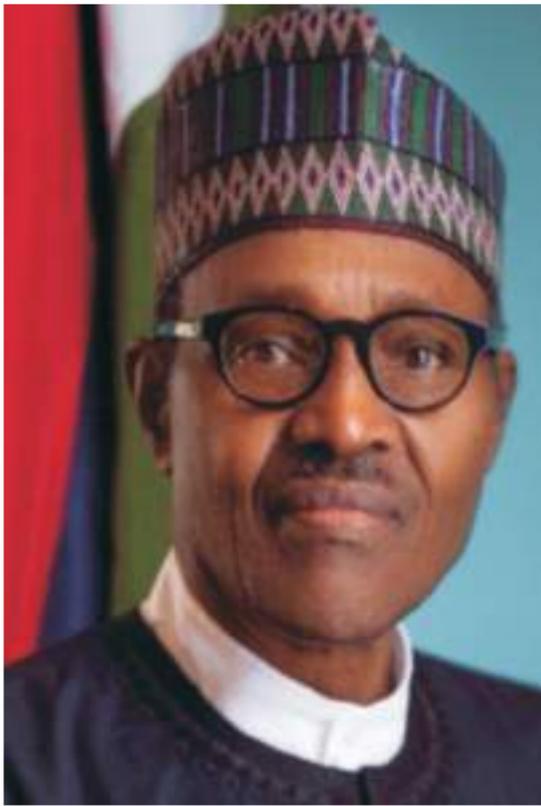
as the Pan Yoruba Socio-Political organisation, Afenifere has also faulted the Senate over the bill's passage.

In a statement credited to the body's Publicity Secretary Jare Ajayi, he stated that the terrorism amendment act left the substance to chase shadows as well as further punishing victims and their families. He further added: "According to those behind the bill, the intention is to block the source of money, which seems to be the motivation for kidnappers but what happens to the victims? Without advocating the continuation of this dastardly act, is the Senate saying that families of kidnapped victims should fold their arms and watch as the person's life gets wasted?"

It will interest you to know that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Nigerian Navy had both during the public hearing for the bill, put together by the Senate Committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters as well as that of Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes rejected the bill. The Navy had proffered that instead of criminalising ransom payments to abductors, such negotiations should be subjected to security vetting. While applauding certain provisions of the bill, the anti-graft agency on its part suggested that the penalty be narrowed down to receivers of the ransom rather than the givers.

“
Recently, the Senate passed a bill seeking to amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2013, which prohibits the payment of ransom to kidnappers. This is coming on the heels of of a report by the Financial Act Task Force (FATF). For those who are oblivious of what it is all about, a mutual evaluation report was conducted of Nigeria's Anti-money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (CTF) by the ECOWAS Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money-Laundering in West Africa in collaboration with the FATF, where Nigeria fell short and was rated below par.
 ”

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Bawa



Bolaji

Nigeria as haven of corruption

Recent revelation of financial crime, associated with high-profile Nigerian government officials has become worrisome. In the midst of this monumental theft, majority of the people are living in abject poverty, want and degraation something ought to be done. VICTOR ALI writes.

REPUTEDLY blessed with abundant resources, Nigeria, the self-acclaimed "giant of Africa" is enmeshed in a terrible malaise – corruption. It beats the imagination of right thinking people that an individual, the Accountant General of the Federation, Ahmed Idris 'was allegedly said to have stolen eighty (80) billion naira from the treasury. In a country of over two hundred million (200) people, poverty ravaging, wants and diseases pervading, this actually is bestial. It has become the norm rather than the exception. Remember the case of the erstwhile, Minister of Petroleum Resources under the then president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Deziani Allison Madueke? And what about the expansion conman, Rashed Maina? Several issues are in the public glare, yet; Nigerians go to bed on empty belly. It is sad and totally unacceptable. After all the M u h a m m a d u B u h a r i administration came with its change mantra with one of its key pillar of fighting corruption. Is that promise working? Was it a mere political gimmick?

The Federal Government says the President Muhammadu Buhari administration's policy plan of fighting corruption is unwavering and on course. The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed who said this at a media briefing on Thursday in Abuja, said the administration had put in place structures that would not only check corrupt tendencies but make it unattractive and costly. Mohammed highlighted the

fundamental strategy of the administration in the fight against corruption and the successes recorded by the various anti-corruption agencies in justifying his position.

"The Buhari administration has taken bold measures to streamline cumbersome bureaucratic precesses in the implementation of government policies, check corrupt practices and ensure accountability in the implementation as well as delivery of these policies.

"These reforms are all inclusive, cutting across all spheres of governance and not excluding even the private sector.

"They included the Treasury Single Account (TSA), Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS), Petroleum Industry Act, Financial Autonomy for State Legislature ad judiciary (2020), Whistle-Blower Policy. Assets Recovery, Justice and Law reforms.

"Nigeria's membership of the Open Government Partnership as well as the various instruments at the disposal of the Federal Government to track, trace and stop the flow of illicit funds used in financing terrorists activities within Nigeria, among others.

"For those who may say that some of these reforms, like the T S A , p r e d a t e t h i s administration, our response is that what's the use of a policy that is not implemented?

"This administration has implemented these reforms with fidelity, and the reforms have made a huge impact in

preventing corruption", he said.

Specifically, the minister said the TSA system has been implemented in more than 90 per cent of all Federal MDAs.

He said the TSA has resulted in the consolidation of more than 17,000 bank accounts previously spread across Deposit Money Banks in the country monthly savings of an average of N4 billion in bank charges.

The minister said against stiff opposition, the Buhari administration expanded the coverage of IPPIS.

He said the use of BVN to verify the Federal Government's payroll on the IPPIS platform had so far led to the detection of 54,000 fraudulent payroll entries.

Mohammed said the whistleblower policy had helped in the cleansing of IPPIS, compliance on TSA and enhanced the Procurement Act 2007.

He said that as at 2020, a total sum of N700 billion had been recovered through the Whistle-Blower Policy.

The minister said the Petroleum Industry Act (2021) had helped the country to reform the laws regulating its oil and gas sector and blocked all loopholes hitherto being exploited by corrupt practitioners.

To check terrorism financing, the minister said the administration deployed a plethora of tools, including the Money Laundering Act, 2004, the EFCC Act. 2004, the ICPC Act. 2000. Department of State Services (IDD) and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU).

He said the tools had helped to deal with the issue of corruption, money laundering and terror

financing.

"On Assets Recovery, the Presidential Advisory Committee against Corruption (PACAC) has assisted anti-corruption agencies in devising clearer strategies for obtaining forfeiture of assets suspected to have been fraudulently acquired from state coffers before prosecuting suspected culprits.

"The President also signed an Executive Order in May 2020 that unequivocally granted financial autonomy to State Houses of Assembly, State Judiciaries as well as the Local Governments as the third tier of government.

"The order also mandated the Accountant-General of the Federation to deduct from source, funds due to state legislatures and judiciaries from the monthly allocation of states that fail to comply.

"The financial suffocation of LGs is a major enabler of insecurity and terrorism in the Nigerian countryside," he said.

According to Mohammed, one of the most difficult tasks for any government is to fight corruption, because when you fight corruption, corruption will fight you back!

He said that was the reason why naysayers had continued to belittle or dismiss the administration's anti-corruption efforts.

The ranking by the global anti-corruption coalition, Transparency International (TI) of Nigeria as a country in which corruption phenomenon is worsening should not present a surprise to keen watchers and followers of events in the country.

The high economic and social instability pervading the polity surely are patent proofs that all is

not well, as most of the situations bloom from corrupt practices.

Indeed, the persistent refusal of governments at all levels to prune spending, avoid wasteful expenditure and focus only on projects of value to the greatest number have been attributed to corruption. The result is the very poor state of the country in all ramifications.

In its 2021 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released recently, Nigeria is ranked as the second most corrupt nation in West Africa. The country dropped five places and scored 24 out of 100 points in the index. Her current 154 ranking in 180 countries is a drop from 149 in the 2020 index. This country's second consecutive year of a downward spiral on the CPI ranking is most unwholesome.

Nigeria's score dropped from 26 in 2019 to 25 in 2020 and further downwards to 24 in 2021. This is coming after President Muhammadu Buhari's avowed fight against graft as the lodestar of his administration.

The CPI is IT's tool for measuring corruption levels in countries around the world. Zero is the measure of the worst country while 100 is for the best-ranked country. The organisation's representative in Nigeria said, during the presentation of the report, that Nigeria's decline made corruption the greatest contributor to underdevelopment in Nigeria. Despite the boasts by the Nigerian government on fighting corruption, many public service endeavours are still filled with corrupt tendencies as officials in charge still demand kickbacks

Continued on Page 31

NEWS

Bauchi collaborates with UNICEF to train healthcare providers

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Executive Chairman of Bauchi State Primary Health Care Development Agency, (BSPHCDA) Dr Rilwanu Mohammed has disclosed that over 600 health care service providers on gender responsive healthcare services are to be trained.

The Chairman made the disclosure at the flag off of the training held at the Conference Hall of Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State on Thursday.

Rilwanu said that the training was facilitated by UNICEF Field Office Bauchi with funding from Global Affairs Canada adding that the training will specifically focus on gender responsive approach to Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health, (RMNCAH).

The Chairman then called on participants to pay attention to what the facilitators will impact on them, saying, "the training will expose you to simple and practical actions that can be taken by you to incorporate gender responsive approach to services rendered at the primary healthcare facilities and also make RMNCAH services user-friendly for clients".

Dr. Rilwan revealed that the state government has taken deliberate steps to address man power gaps at PHC level through the recruitment of over 1000 health care workers that would soon be deployed to all the PHCs to argument the current staff strength of the PHCs across the state.

"The Canadian government has donated the sum of 3 Million Canadian Dollars through UNICEF in an effort to strengthen healthcare services around RMNCAH", said Dr. Mohammed.

Giving an overview of the training, UNICEF Gender Consultant, Kabati Baba-Tokara said that the objective of the training was to increase healthcare service providers' understanding on common gender related issues and barriers women and girls face in accessing and utilizing health care.

Tokara also said that the training will seek to orient healthcare providers in recognizing and addressing some common gender sensitive gaps in health service provision.

Presenting his goodwill message at the occasion, the Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Bauchi Field Office, Mr. Tushar Rane said that the training was part of a wider health sector development initiative funded by the Government and People of Canada, through its agency, Global Affairs Canada.

Represented by the Health Specialist of the Bauchi Field Office Dr. Emedo Emmanuel, Mr. Rane said, the training was designed to strengthen



Bala

Primary Health Care, (PHC) delivery system especially Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in the state.

"Commendably, compared

to a decade ago, Bauchi state has had an improved trajectory in PHC delivery services in recent years. This can be credited to the commitment of the state government under the leadership of the Executive Governor, His Excellency

Senator Bala Mohammed. Worthy of note among these, is the multi-partner MoU with the Aliko Dangote Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, UNICEF and USAID. The MoU has activated the financing, accountability, coordination and partnership required for strengthening RMNCAH+N services in the state".

"Despite the successes of the MOU, the state must keep building on its achievements by working to bridge identified gaps such as in knowledge, gender responsiveness and supply side of RMNCAH delivery. For example, the lack of female practitioners and poor health staff behaviours have been identified, among other factors, as hindrances to the demand for health care among pregnant and parenting young people, and adolescents in Bauchi".

"By embedding gender responsiveness in the PHC system, we can amplify the rights and dignity of clients, most importantly women and adolescent girls", said Mr. Rane.

NCC tasked on professionalism, collaboration

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

THE Nigerian Communications Commission, (NCC) has once again reiterated its stance on professionalizing its workforce and strengthening collaborations with strategic partners such as the Nigerian Institute of Management, (NIM) in order to enhance operational efficiency.

The Executive Vice Chairman, (EVC) of NCC Prof. Umar Danbatta, stated this while receiving a delegation led by the Acting Registrar and CEO of NIM, Jude Iheanacho, who paid a courtesy visit to the NCC Head Office recently. Director, Human Capital and Administration, Usman Malah, who represented the EVC at the event noted that the Commission places a high premium on capacity building and is implementing policies geared towards achieving this vital objective.

Malah also said that it was in the Commission's best interest to deepen its collaboration with NIM, through strategic partnering, so that NCC can improve organisational efficiency and regulatory excellence.

Speaking further, Malah declared that the Commission's faith in the transformational capacity of skilled human resources is demonstrated by the Commission's support to staff who are members of the Institute. The support includes prompt payment of membership fees for its staff; and subscription to and participation in NIM's mandatory capacity building programmes for members.

Malah promised to make recommendations to the Management of Commission to take additional steps in solidifying the strategic relationship, such as setting up a joint committee of the two bodies to draw up

Programme; and the Continuing Learning and Development programmes were examples of programs that dealt with contemporary issues in management which NCC can leverage for improved workplace efficiency.

The Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) was established in 1961, though the enabling Act, the Nigerian Institute of Management (Establishment) Act was enacted by the National Assembly on July 19, 2003. The objectives of the institute include the development of good management, professionalizing management, and improving and standardizing management in Nigeria.

The reception of the NIM team and the interaction took place at the NCC Conference Hall and was attended by the Head of Administration at NCC, Ibrahim Aliyu; Head of Human Capital, Safiya Jijji, who was represented by Folorunso Mesele, a Principal Manager in the Human Capital Department.

Iheanacho also informed the Commission that programmes such as the Mandatory Continuing Professional Education



Dantata

Events of last WEEK

FG revokes NDDC unexecuted contracts

The Federal Government has revoked all contracts awarded by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) before December 31, 2019.

This came in a statement signed by NDDC and made available to pressmen. It said the Presidency directed that the affected contractors be made to refund to the commission all monies paid to them for the projects that were either not started or left uncompleted.

PLSG approves creation of Chiefdoms, Districts

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, has approved the creation of 26 Districts and village Areas including two Chiefdoms. Also 3 others were restored to 2nd Class Status and approved the grading of five others on 3rd Class Status.

The development was given in a statement signed by the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Governor, Dr. Makut Simon Macham and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** recently in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Lalong signs VAPP Act into Law

Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State, has signed into law the Violence Against Persons Act (VAPP) recently passed by the Plateau State House of Assembly.

The Governor signed the Act on Thursday May 19 2022 at the Government House Jos, saying "once again, Plateau State has taken the step to address social ills and the needs of vulnerable groups in the country.

Lalong inaugurated Commission members, Liaison Officers

Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong, has inaugurated members of Judicial Service Commission (JSC) and some former political office holders from the 17 Local Government Areas to serve as Liaison Officers.

The Governor conducted the inauguration rites on Thursday May 19, 2022 at the Governor's Office Rayfield Jos with key government officials in attendance with Chief Judge of the State, Justice David Mann, as the Chairman.

Kaduna raises alarm over terrorists infiltration

Kaduna State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said members of the Ansaru and Boko Haram terrorists groups have infiltrated some parts of Birnin Gwari and Giwa Local Government Areas.

Speaking during the presentation of the first quarter Security Council report for 2022, Aruwan said the terrorists have been luring locals with gifts with a view to recruiting them into the criminal organisation.

Yilwatda emerges Plateau APC Governorship Candidate

Former Benue State INEC Commissioner, Dr. Nentanwe Yilwatda Goshwe, has emerged winner of Thursday Gubernatorial Primary Election of the All Progressive Congress (APC) held at the Lanfield Leisure park Jos after a keen contest to defeat others with 803 votes.

Although, there was mild drama when three (3) aspirants staged a walkout when they perceived that they may not scale through, leaving four (4) others who made last-minute withdrawal because they thought it was an act of imposition.

Mutfwang emerges Plateau PDP flag-bearer

FORMER Campaign Director General of Late Senator GNS Pwajok, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang, has emerged the flag-bearer of the Plateau State People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the forthcoming General Elections in 2023.

He emerged the winner after a keenly contesting among fourteen (14) aspirants out of the earlier eighteen (18) that contested Wednesday 25 to Thursday 26, 2022 held at the Lanfield Leisure park Rayfield, Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Sports Minister hosts victorious Flying Eagles, Scrabble Team

The Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare, has received the National U-20 Male team, the Flying Eagles and the All-Conquering Scrabble Team to the West African Championships in Ghana at the Minister's Conference Room inside the Moshod Abiola National Stadium Abuja.

Compiled by EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Feature

Religious extremism and the Nigerian state

Nigeria is a multi-religious nation with diverse people practicing three main religions-Islam, Christianity and the traditional African religion as a way of worship. Unfortunately, religion today in Nigeria has become a tool or weapon for fermenting trouble as a result of the views of narrow-minded people who in the name of carrying out their religious obligation, have resorted to violence which contradicts both the religious and cultural principles which the society is known for. HOSEA NYAMLONG writes.

THE Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion, it defines religious extremism as a longstanding phenomenon that manifest in different forms. It is a concept which has been viewed as a high sense of ideological commitment that is expressed through certain actions that shows deep loyalty to a belief system, it includes practices characterize and define rituals and customs of many religious groups.

Some of the characteristic features of religious extremism include isolation, evangelizing to non members, maliciousness, criminalization and elimination of recalcitrant persons or those considered to be enemies or pagans.

Although non-members consider the behavioural patterns or actions of a religious group as extremist, religious extremism has been seen as the quest to enlarge the space of religious doctrine.

Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani education advocator and the winner of the Noble Peace Prize said that, "religious extremism is a behavior, an attitude or belief outside the norm of religious belief, practices. Often, this extremism can manifest itself in the form of violence or the creation of smaller groups, cults.

Religious extremism is present in all religions. Ikenna Umeanolue and Kanayo Nwadior alluded to the fact that, religious extremism is a global issue that raises questions and tension in many countries. In Nigeria, it is a known fact that religion has been abused in many ways, especially among those who consider themselves as custodians and defenders of religious values and faith.

Apparently, the trend of violence in Nigeria today requires urgent and thorough measures to curb the activities of the extremists who use religion as a shield either for political or economic agenda to manipulate their gullible followers in order to impose their ideology on them.

Silber and Bhatt from the researchgate have both described religious extremism as "process of being extreme which begins with an openness to a new thought (eg in religion), that lends to process the world views, change the adoption of extreme belief and norms which also enhanced indoctrination process operated by an extreme organization."

Again, religious extremism can therefore be as an ultimate end in the expression of violence by the actors. To this end, religious extremism in Nigeria has led to violent conflicts resulting in destruction of lives and property with varying degree of physical and psychological damages to the citizens across the conflict regions of the country.

Religious extremism is the major derivation of terrorism in contemporary Nigeria today which has led to upsurge of violent religious movement that has in recent times gradually



Buhari

metamorphosed into all forms of terrorism thereby, causing intolerance and crises within the geo-political spectrum of the nation this has given birth to the Boko Haram insurgency and whose primary objective is to establish an Islamic state and strict Islamic Sharia law in Nigeria while its secondary mission is the wider imposition of Islamic rule beyond Nigeria.

Since 2009, Nigeria has been in the grip of violence by Islamic extremist sects which at least had claimed the lives of over 350,000 people across Northern Nigeria and hundreds of thousand of people displaced from their ancestral homes and more than 310,000 estimated numbers of Nigerian refugees as a result of Boko Haram activities over the years.

According to foreign policy experts, the Boko Haram group's attacks and kidnapping of citizens including students and pupils seem to have overwhelmed security agencies. The fear now is that Boko Haram operations in the North-East, North-West and North Central could eventually lead to a deep humanitarian crises.

Nigeria's school children kidnappings have become a key security challenge to the students in various schools within the North-East. It is on record that 276 school girls from Chibok in Borno State in 2014 were abducted by Boko Haram which became a motivational factor that led to over one hundred and ten female students from Government Girls Technical College, Dapchi in Yobe State were also abducted by the Boko Haram on February 19, 2018, while on February 17, 2021,

twenty seven boys and their teachers from Government Science College in Kagara in Niger State were also kidnapped. Similarly, over 300 female students from Government Girls Junior Secondary School, Jangebe in Zamfara State were abducted by Boko Haram on February 26, 2021. Therefor another abduction of school pupils and their teachers from Universal Basic Education (UBE), Primary School in Rama, a village in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State. Students of Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, Afaka, Kaduna State were also kidnapped by gunmen while the criminals placed a ransom tag on over thirty nine students, demanding ransom including host of other students kidnapped across the country.

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly deliberated on the human rights violations, abuses and atrocities committed by Boko Haram group over the years in Nigeria and have called for concerted efforts in dealing with the ugly trend which has subjected women and girls to wide spread and severe forms of abuses, including sexual slavery, sex violence, forced marriages, forced pregnancies and forced conversions. According to the UN, the group justifies the role of women and girls in society. And this could be seen in a video message by the Boko Haram, claiming responsibility for the abduction of Chibok girls, with Shekau declaring that God instructed him to sell them, they are property and "I will carry out his instruction".

Sadly, many young girls were married off to fighters and the older women are forced as cooks and cleaners, numerous women and girls reportedly giving birth in extremely difficult conditions, while some of the women die in the process.

It is worrisome that children aged between 6 to 15 years who had been abducted were forced to use guns and armoured vehicles to attack their own families to demonstrate their loyalty to Boko Haram.

Meanwhile, Boko Haram has been reported to have targeted civilians as soft targets which are supposed to be protected under international law including schools, mosques, churches, prisons, hospitals and markets but have been destroyed including contaminating water installations, dams, rivers etc.

In Nigeria, in most villages recaptured by the Nigerian military force, it has been observed that all social amenities and infrastructure have reportedly been destroyed. The education authorities in various states in the country reported that over 338 schools have been damaged or destroyed to date.

The destruction of property by Boko Haram is a systematic way of looting homes during attacks. These practices were adopted by the group as a fighting tactics to gain control over territory and to also prevent escapes from returning to their ancestral land. It has equally been reported that after attacks in some villages in the North-East, some of the Boko Haram fighters have appropriated and taken over homes and they stole their possessions and food, example in Baga, Borno State.

On the other hand, it is important to note that religion is the belief in God and worship through a devotion that inculcates fear of God, peace, love and good moral life in people in the society. The fear of God and peace are necessary conditions that provide the well being of the citizens and their environment that is free from any form of violence. Religious extremism is a new threat to Nigeria and the world at large. The place of religion in Nigeria cannot be underestimated because religion is an integral part of peace, unity, moral reformation and social change. This is regardless to the fact that religion has been misused by some individuals, groups of people in the society.

In view of the perennial religious tension between the two dominant religion in Nigeria today, Christianity and Islam, there has been a sustained culture of mutual suspicion and unhealthy rivalry between them that has brought about religious violence largely to the detriment of socio-economic, political development of the country.

The Nigerian Constitution as amended, Section 38 (1) and 10 which has guaranteed freedom of religion and prohibits the declaration of state religion which has done little to attenuate

the frequency of religious conflicts as state patronage and veneration of the two dominant religious groups.

Government in her effort to stop the activities of the religious extremist, like Boko Haram in the country, but on daily bases, attacks are being meted on innocent citizens in Nigeria which has been persistent.

Perhaps it is now apt for government at all levels to set up religious committees made up of religious leaders and intellectuals from the major religious groups in the country with representative from the federal, state and local government that would serve as a regulatory body to all religious activities in the country. Government should encourage the teaching of genuine dialogues at all levels of education and spiritual leaders should tear people with sincerity that they should always tolerate and respect others religion.

Religious leaders should also learn to tolerate and respect others' faith and accept them as part of the reality of life which security measures should be improved in order to maintain safe and secure Nigeria where lives and property of citizens at their well being can be enhanced.

Improvement of education and religious awareness would help to reduce the number of illiterate people in our society, so government should establish special units that would maintain equal rights to all ethnic groups and religions that solution disagreements that may arise within and religious or ethnic group. The unlimited state institute of peace affirmed that religious leaders should strive to counter extremist violence should adopt that government should be very proactive to nip the bud before religious violence erupts.

It is also advisable an expedient for government to note that it should not rely on the use of military force to proffer solutions to violent extremism rather religious leaders have an important role to play in preventing radicalization and violent extremism at the early stages. It would be proper to engage religious leaders at the beginning, identifying the root causes of problems that have religious connotation.

Government should understand that religious leaders can use education, information many ways to counter violent extremism among members promoting peace and tolerance through a correct interpretation, formal and informal religious preaching's.

Helping religious leaders leverage various means to educate its members through means of mass media to amplify voices and counter narrative and to also encourage critical thinking among people. Government should respect the complexity within each religious community, in this context and recognize the strategy to combat violent extremism from its roots.

SUNDAY FEATURE

By **OKHEMUKHOKHO
BENEDICTA OMUA**

The significance of Ndakogboya masquerade Festival

Emidawu came into existence in the era of Etsu Sule which dated back to the 17th century during the Tsoede dynasty. The founder was Emi Dawu, which literally means "house of person". He was a traditional healer who went far and wide collecting herbs for the tradition treatment of people with various ailments. This, he did completely naked from head to toe in order to get the right herbs spiritually.

His search for herbs took him from his native settlement to Doko, where he met a friend at Kusagi. Together, they went to Lafiagi in Kwara State learning and practicing the act of masquerade. Leaving his friend behind in Lafiagi, he went through Bida axis practicing his traditional medicine. Here, he met Etsu Usman Sariki whose mother was sick. After treating her, he proceeded to Shebe area.

The ritual involved in gathering his herbs which entails being naked made him move from Shebe which was becoming more populated to a secluded place called Lalikanata. He moved again from Lalikanata to a nearby mountain called Buchita. On this mountain, a lady called Gogo Bini, who had partial stroke, was brought to him for treatment. Sympathizing with her, he left the mountain with her to her place for treatment. There, he stayed until she was healed. From here, he went to Inwasa and eventually returned to the mountain that is known today as Emidawu village. Legend has it that he will usually transform himself into a hyena to hunt for animals which he fed on. The Emidawu people are Nupes by tribe whose major occupation is traditional healing. They are also into palm wine tapping, red oil production, and maize farming.

Festival is an event that is celebrated by a community which centres on some characteristic aspects of that community's religion, culture or tradition. A festival serves specific communal purpose such as commemoration or thanks giving. The celebration of festival offers a sense of belonging to a religious, social or geographical group. It enhances the group's cohesion. Festival also provides entertainment which was then important to local communities before the advent of mass media entertainment. In addition, it helps to resolve conflict, checkmates evil acts in the society and to boost the economy of the community.



The Ndakogboya Masquerade Festival is held annually after each harvest season. It starts with the traditional medicine men concerned entering the forest to gather herbs for the preparation of Evunko (back to sender concoction). Two weeks after this procession, a suitable date is chosen for the festival to commence. It usually lasts for five days. Before the determination of the festival day, the traditional medicine men consisting of Emidawu family who are the custodians of the festival remain in the forest with the masquerade to purify and fortify themselves before the festival. The masquerades are about ten in number. Their ages are from ten years and above. Among them is a masquerade called an orphan.

The festival date fixing is usually the responsibility of the Ndadawu's companion, Kusoki, who is Indama'aji of Doko (the first in command). After fixing the date, the festival begins with singing, dancing and cooking of all sorts of meals which is the sole responsibility of the women during the festival. Meals such as Tuwo Shinkafa (Rice meal), Tuwo Dawa (millet meal), Miyan Wake (beans soup), Miyan Rago (goat soup) are feasted on with a lot of palm wine during the festival. These meals are prepared at a central point as every household brings their different food items for cooking centrally.



Before the appearance of the masquerades, a musical group led by Hajiya Zduama sings and praises to welcome the masquerades from the mountain to entertain the people. On the fourth day of the festival, everyone proceeds to the foot of the mountain to welcome all the masquerades with songs, clapping and dancing. They all dance to the central point of the town to continue the celebration. On the last day, the 'back to sender' concoction

which is usually eaten with palm wine is given to each family head in exchange for two thousand Naira and a cock. The concoction cures many ailments (both spiritual and physical). When added to food or palm wine, the middle finger is used to mix it before consumption. The concoction has a spiritual potential to neutralize any harmful charm prepared against an individual. The concoction is sacred and has certain taboos:

a pregnant or a menstruating most not eat or use it to avoid contamination.

In conclusion, Ndakogboya Masquerade Festival is an event of great entertainment and fun for this ethnic group in Niger State and beyond. It offers an opportunity to experience the culture of the people and preserve it into the past. Finally, it unifies the people of Emidawu community for lasting peace and mutual coexistence.

STEREOTYPING... "All Igbo people will do anything for money". "All Yorubas practice discrimination along ethnic lines" etc etc. This is how most of us refer to each other on socio-cultural lines, demonstrating our cultural illiteracy through stereotyping. To assume that a man can do anything for money simply because he comes from a culture that places a very high premium on money making, is stereotyping. This is because many people who belong to one culture might share some characteristics, but this does not make them all the same. According to Simple Psychology: "In social psychology, a stereotype is a fixed, over generalized belief about a particular group or class of people. By stereotyping we infer that a person has a whole range of characteristics and abilities that we assume all members of that group have. One advantage of a stereotype is that it enables us to respond rapidly to situations because we may have had a similar experience before. One disadvantage is that it makes us ignore differences between individuals; therefore, we think things about people that might not be true (i.e. make generalizations).

The forgoing is from *simple psychology*. When we generalize and categorize people from a geographical area or tribe into one group, based on certain criteria, and then proceed to interact with them based on the preconceived notion of who they are, we are practicing stereotyping, which is a key element of cultural illiteracy.

Our ability to cultivate interpersonal relationship with no preconceived notions, taking into consideration the individuality of the person we are interacting with, is what makes us emotionally, socially and culturally intelligent. Emotional intelligence as defined by Oxford languages, is the capacity to be aware of, control, and express one's emotions, and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically. Oxford Languages goes on to add that "emotional intelligence is the key to both personal and professional success". On the other hand, social intelligence is slightly different. It is defined in an article written by Sofía García-Bullé, as the capacity to communicate and form relationships with empathy and assertiveness.

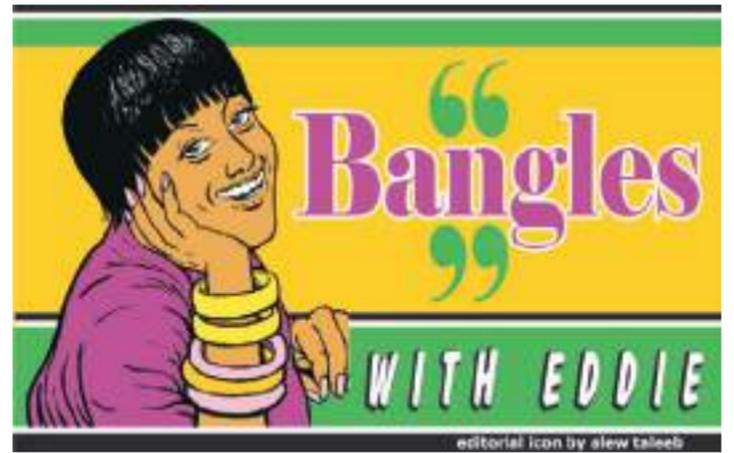
García-Bullé says that it comes from knowing yourself and exercising proper emotional management and it could be said to be closely linked to emotional intelligence, but it is not exactly the same thing. She goes on to add that emotional intelligence comes from introspection and covers aspects like emotional awareness and the role of emotions in the problem-solving process and has more to do with how people manage themselves before they make contact with another person. According to her, when you start interacting, social intelligence skills should kick in, along with emotional intelligence which covers tasks like expression, dialogue, listening, conciliation, and learning through communication with others. She goes on to itemize the abilities that social intelligence conveys and explains that social intelligence manages the required abilities for effective communication based on empathy, self-knowledge, listening, and reading of emotions. These abilities are verbal and non-verbal fluency, knowledge of social rules and roles, listening skills, understanding how other people's emotions work, self-image and impression management.

Why is success in interpersonal relationship important? It is the bedrock of peace and harmony in the society. It therefore means that cultural literacy helps us not only to develop cultural sensitivity but also

emotional and social intelligence, in the way that we navigate our relationships in society. It also means that if we are culturally, socially and emotionally intelligent, we will avoid the mistake of stereotyping by thinking that an individual is a product of his tribe, and it is compulsory for him to act in a particular way that portrays him as a part of that tribe. It also helps us to avoid the belief that it is imperative for us to reciprocate by treating him or her in a particular manner reserved for people from his or her tribe.

Stereotyping breeds bias and prejudice. When one is biased or has

individuals can have serious negative ramifications. The horrible mistreatment of particular groups of people in recent history, such as that of Jews, African Americans, women, and homosexuals, has been the major impetus for the study of prejudice and stereotyping. Thus, the original conceptions and experiments were concerned almost entirely with conscious, negative attitudes and explicitly discriminatory actions. However, as the social acceptability of prejudice and stereotypes has changed, the manifestations of prejudice and stereotypes have also changed. In response to these changes, and



Stereotyping and ethnocentrism as elements of cultural illiteracy (2)



Lai Mohammed

a prejudice against the another, it could result in conflict. This is why stereotyping is considered cultural illiteracy in conflict resolution, business negotiations and especially community development. Let me share the following, which I consider a deeper perspective on stereotyping. It is culled from a review of the book, *Prejudice and Stereotyping* written by Theresa Vescio and Kevin Weaver and published in Oxford bibliographies:

Prejudice and stereotyping are biases that work together to create and maintain social inequality. Prejudice refers to the attitudes and feelings—whether positive or negative and whether conscious or non-conscious—that people have about members of other groups. In contrast, stereotypes have traditionally been defined as specific beliefs about a group, such as descriptions of what members of a particular group look like, how they behave, or their abilities. As such, stereotypes are cognitive representations of how members of a group are similar to one another and different from members of other groups. Importantly, people can be aware of cultural stereotypes and have cognitive representations of those beliefs without personally endorsing such stereotypes, without feelings of prejudice, and without awareness that such stereotypes could affect one's judgment and behavior.

Prejudice and stereotyping are generally considered to be the product of adaptive processes that simplify an otherwise complex world so that people can devote more cognitive resources to other tasks. However, despite any cognitively adaptive function they may serve, using these mental shortcuts when making decisions about other

given that people who reject prejudice and stereotyping can still unwittingly internalize stereotypic representations, the study of prejudice and stereotyping has recently moved to include beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that could be considered positive and not obviously or overtly prejudiced. Importantly, even when prejudice and stereotypes are ostensibly positive (e.g., traditional women are wonderful and adored), they preserve the dominance of powerful groups: they not only limit the opportunities of stereotyped groups but also produce a litany of negative outcomes when those group members defy them. Because of these new conceptions of bias, there have also been methodological adaptations in the study of prejudice and stereotyping that move beyond the conscious attitudes and behaviors of individuals to measure their implicit prejudice and stereotypes as well.

The forgoing from Oxford Bibliographies has given us a deeper look at the serious nature of stereotyping and its effects on intergroup interactions and its effects. It is imperative to understand ourselves and each other, through cultural literacy, to see if we, as individuals and groups, engage in stereotyping and how our thoughts influence our actions. When engaging with people of another group, it is also very important to gauge our social intelligence and if we fall below the pass mark, we need to work on improving our understanding of people not only as a group but also as individuals in order to foster peace and harmony in our community. Having said the forgoing. Let us look at Ethnocentrism.

According to the free dictionary, ethnocentrism is "the belief in the

inherent superiority of one's own ethnic group or culture" and "a tendency to view alien groups or cultures from the perspective of one's own". The average Nigerian is very ethnocentric. We are very guilty of considering our culture, language, and religion better than everybody else's. In my ethnic group, we have a derogatory name for anyone who is not a member of the tribe and I grew up thinking that everyone outside our group was a lesser human. In hindsight, I think that it was delusional. I think that the collective culture of viewing our culture as more civilized than those of others, is rather delusional. When I stepped outside of my community to go and leave in a place like Lagos, I saw the richness of the Yoruba culture and how well it has been preserved over the years and through thousands of generations. I told myself how delusional my culture is.

The truth is that if we are to remain together as one in our diversity, we need to stop considering our religion, language, customs etc, as being superior to those of others because every culture and every group has something to contribute to the richness of our national culture. It is up to us to harness this wealth by leveling up with each other by accepting and respecting each other's cultures and differences.

As always, we like to share expert views about sensitive subject matters. It is in light of this that I have culled from Ivy Panda, a forum for certified writers, on the effect of ethnocentrism. The following are the perspective:

Introduction

The terminology *ethnocentrism* refers to the tendency of people believing that their race, culture or ethnic groups are better than all the others. Such individuals measure and judge all the other cultural or ethnic groups in relation to theirs. These judgments are made in relation to aspects like religion, race, behavior, custom and language. The cultural identity of any ethnic group is uniquely identified by the above mentioned aspects. This attitude makes an individual to view other groups as being inferior in comparison to his or her own.

How ethnocentrism affects individuals

Ethnocentrism is a bad practice because it leads individuals to make false assumptions about other cultures. Ethnocentrism leads people to making generalizations about the customs and cultures of other people that are not true. This leads to false judgment of others using their own ethnic belonging as the yardstick. At the end of it all, individuals may make harmful judgments concerning other communities. Ethnocentrism makes people rigid to change. Individuals who are ethnocentrism hold to their own culture and they cannot appreciate change that is being brought by modernization. Such individuals may end up remaining illiterate by rigidly holding on to their own cultures and not being ready to embrace change.

Ethnocentrism hinders individuals

from learning about other cultures. People who are ethnocentric normally do not take time to learn about other cultures that exist around the world. This leads them to make judgments that are uninformed about other ethnic groups. Ethnocentrism hinders individuals from communicating to individuals of other cultures. This is because such people view others as a lesser people or harmful, for example a belief that a certain community is made of witches. This leads to communication breakdown within the society.

How ethnocentrism affects societies

There are so many ways that ethnocentrism may affect societies. Ethnocentrism closes the minds of individuals from understanding the way of life and cultures of other people. This may affect social interactions among people of different cultures living in the same geographical area. This may end up affecting the functioning of the social group by making it unstable. The society may exist in fear because individuals do not trust one another. Ethnocentrism may lead to situations that are terrible like deaths and wars in a given country. When communities view others from a negative perspective, it may lead to animosity that may cause ethnic or tribal clashes that may end up leading to several injury and death cases within the society. The way societies look at history and understand it can also be affected by ethnocentrism. The society may believe that those who lived before them were a foolish generation. This is a false judgment that does not put the time gap factor in consideration.

The forgoing is from Panda ivy.

As a country, it is not far fetched to say that we think that having a western education is equal to being literate. This is not entirely true. In this present day and age, the currency of peace and harmony in our society is understanding each other through cultural literacy and interacting with each other using emotional and social intelligence as marks of cultural sensitivity. These are not elements that are taught in school generally. It is the psychologist and the anthropologist that can school us in this area. As such, it is important for us to consciously seek knowledge and understanding in the areas of cultural literacy, with emphasis on the effect of stereotyping on the peace and harmony that we desire so much. It is also imperative to learn the interpersonal and the intergroup skills of emotional and social intelligence in our interactions with others.

In conclusion, we cannot continue to apply the old way of doing things and expect to have peace and harmony in our society. We should be deliberate in unlearning our cultural illiteracy as demonstrated through stereotyping and ethnocentrism, and learning the new currency of human interaction which are cultural literacy and sensitivity, emotional and social intelligence.

OUR subject in recent weeks has been Fear Not, Trust God. I believe the Spirit of God is putting this thought in our heart because of the challenging times in which we are living in. Certainly, in Nigeria, we are suffering from a great deal of terrorism, banditry and all kinds of things that are putting people's hearts in fear and so I felt, by the Spirit of God, to bring this word of comfort to everyone.

I want you to know that no matter what is going on in our country today, or no matter what is going on, on the earth today and no matter what is going on in your life, there is no cause to be afraid if you would choose to trust God.

Now our text has been Isaiah 12:2 **Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.** Notice the text that is used. It says I will trust and I will not be afraid. It is a decision that you make. Trusting God is a decision that you make. A decision to be dependent on God to take care of you, to provide for you and to defend you; to keep you in all of life's circumstance.

So again you see two different options that the word of God presents to us. It is either you are trusting God and you are not afraid or you are afraid and you are not trusting God. The verse also gives the reason why I will trust God and not be afraid - because the Lord Jehovah is my strength, he also is my song and he also is become my salvation.

Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I want you to understand that no matter what is going on in our country today; no matter the report that we hear, though we are not



For some reason, most of us think that fear is normal and that it is a normal part of life but it is important for us to take the word of God as our source of instruction, information and our source of ultimate knowledge. If the Bible says God has not given us the spirit of fear, then that means that God does not want us to do anything or to have anything to do with the spirit of fear.



denying the things that are going on, but I tell you the truth, the power of God is bigger and greater and is able to preserve you in spite of what is going on.

As we look to God for help, he is able to turn around the circumstances of our lives and to take that which the devil intended for evil and to turn it around for good.

Again, what is fear? Fear is

the spirit of power, and love and of a sound mind. We have also established the fact that Satan cannot do anything in anybody's life outside of the spirit of fear.

I would like to say it this way; the spirit of fear is Satan's primary or foremost assassin. In other words, before Satan does anything in the life of an individual, that person must have opened the door through



Fear not, trust God (11)



not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. How very strongly worded the word of God is concerning the operation of the spirit of fear. God gives us a "fear not" commandment in the scriptures.

Why? "for I am with you". That is the reason why. God's presence with you is bigger than anything that can ever come against you. My dear one, there is nothing in your life you are faced with today that is bigger than God. God said that no matter the reality of the threat against you, it is not bigger than Me. This is the number one reason why we are not to be afraid. He said fear thou not for I am with you. He also said, do not be dismayed for I am your God.

Dismayed there means to lose hope, courage or confidence concerning the future. Why should you not lose courage or confidence concerning the future? Because He said **"I am your God". He said "I will strengthen you, I will help you; yes I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.** Friends, these are precious thoughts that are coming to us from the spirit of God through the Holy Scriptures today.

If you are connected to God, if you are a child of God, if you have confessed Jesus to be your Lord and Savior; you are not to deny the reality of the things that are coming against you today but, you are to refuse to accept or believe that because those things seem to be great, they are bigger or greater than your God.

God's presence with you is bigger and greater than anything that can come against you today. So no matter the threat of the devil against your life, understand this; because God is with you, and if you have made him your God and confessed Jesus to be your Lord and savior, there is no need for you to lose all hope or confidence or courage concerning the future. He has promised to be with you, to strengthen you, to help you and to uphold you with the hand of righteousness; with his mighty power and with his mighty glory.

actually a spirit. The Bible makes us understand that in II Timothy 1:7, the apostle Paul talking to his protégé or son in the faith said **For God has not given us a spirit of fear but a spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind.** We see right here that fear is a spirit. Fear is not normal. Fear is not at all normal to the human race. The Bible says God has not given us the spirit of fear. I want you to understand that if God has not given us the spirit of fear, then we should not accommodate it in our lives.

Without fear operating in the life of an individual, Satan cannot do anything. Fear is Satan's primary access into an individual's life. That is why the Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7, God has not given us the spirit of fear.

For some reason, most of us think that fear is normal and that it is a normal part of life but it is important for us to take the word of God as our source of instruction, information and our source of ultimate knowledge. If the Bible says God has not given us the spirit of fear, then that means that God does not want us to do anything or to have anything to do with the spirit of fear.

The Bible makes us to understand that the spirit of fear came into the world when our ancestor Adam sinned and disobeyed God. This means that fear was not present in the world when God created Adam; when God renovated the earth and put Adam in the garden.

The presence of fear came because of man's sin and disobedience. That is why II Timothy 1:7 tells us that God has not given us the spirit of fear but rather he has given us

the spirit of fear. Now Jesus teaching in John 10:10 said **The thief cometh not but to steal, to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.** Jesus described the devils three fold ministry as stealing, killing and destroying but you see, the open door to the devil's ministry is the spirit of fear.

Now I want this thought to really register and sink deep into our understanding: the moment the operation of the spirit of fear is cut off from our lives, Satan's access is totally cut off from our lives. He is not able to fulfill his ministry of stealing, killing and destroying outside of the operation of the spirit of fear.

So it is very important to note that fear is not something that we are to toy around with and fear is not something we are to normalize.

We are to understand that the origin of fear is a spirit of fear that came into the earth and began to afflict the human race as a result of the disobedience of Adam; and the spirit of fear is not to be tolerated.

Now one of the deceptions of the devil is to make you feel

that the things that God has called abnormal are normal. There are certain things that are abnormal as far as the word of God is concerned, but through deception, Satan wants to make us receive as normal those things that God has called abnormal.

When you yield to the spirit of fear, Satan has access to every area of your life. He has access to your health, he has access to your family, he has access to your finances, to your business, your career and everything that you hold dear and that you love.

So this is sort of like a one stop shop to shutting down satanic activity in your life. Understand that the spirit of fear is not normal but abnormal, and understand that God has put you in a position to be able to deal with the spirit of fear.

Now, I also want us to understand that there is a commandment from God, knowing how important it is that the spirit of fear should not be given opportunity to direct the life of the human being, particularly the believer because, whose deliverance from the spirit of fear will come ultimately when you place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God and the Bible are very strong worded about how to handle the spirit of fear. Fear is not to be tolerated in the life of a believer in any way, form or fashion and here we find these thoughts from the word of God. Isaiah 41:10 says, **Fear thou**



With **BULUS GAMBO**

Life's too short to worry about feeling guilty or regret – Naomi Cowan

Naomi Cowan is an international singer and songwriter who has performed in Jamaica, Trinidad, New York, Toronto, and Miami. She was raised by reggae music producer, songwriter, and former road manager for Bob Marley, Tommy Cowan and reggae artist, Dr. Carlene Davis-Cowan, OD. In 2019, her hit "Paradise Plum" brought her to the top of reggae charts and Naomi was awarded Breakthrough Reggae Artist of 2018. Her other achievements include the 2019 Brand Ambassador for the Bob Marley Foundation, opening for Grammy-award winning R&B artist Estelle, gracing the cover of Buzz Magazine's April issue, performing on the 2018 Reggae Sumfest, and collaborating with UK-based Fashion brand Coconautical on a Topshop promotion. As a former Miss Teen Jamaica, Naomi works to empower high school girls in Toronto and Jamaica as a speaker on the We Inspire Girls to be Strong Women tour, an island-wide initiative endorsed by the Ministry of Education.



consider myself a 'multi-potentialite' (Google it. Lol.) and I've found that it's most fulfilling for me to spend my life exercising all of my gifts and talents – ensuring that I give each one an opportunity to shine, also deep down knowing that there are a few primary gifts that will be used the most... my journey has brought me to being a full-time artist and singer and I couldn't be happier.

So funny, every time I wear my hair out in an Afro – people ask me if I'm a model... then when I crack jokes, others ask me if I'm an actress and then, of course, there are those who know that I'm a singer

TELL us about your background. How did you get started in the entertainment industry?

Really hard to say when I got started in entertainment because I feel like I was born into it and I've been on the road and in-studio with my mom ever since I can remember. However, I would say – perhaps when I started doing commercial & TV modelling was when I started to actually 'work' in the industry for myself... and earn money.

Also, tell us about the Jump from Miss Teen Jamaica to modeling to singing.

Wouldn't call it a jump, just a transition. I

because of the rasp in my voice... the way I see it I'm a voice... and I like it that way.

How would you describe your sound?

Sweet and fresh.

Tell us about your song "Paradise Plum"? Did you write the song? What was your inspiration to write the song?

Paradise Plum describes an organic connection between two people. I call it when you've got that 'click' with someone – without trying too hard

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Famous couples who became close friends after ending marriage

Not all marriages last forever, but that doesn't mean the separation has to be final. Some former celebrity couples decided to stay friends, even after they went through a divorce. Whether they have children that they're co-parenting, or just decided to have an amicable separation, these celebrity couples can prove to be an inspiration for all of us.

Demi Moore and Bruce Willis



Although Demi Moore and Bruce Willis were married for over a decade, and eventually got a divorce in 2000, they are still very good friends. Demi even attended Bruce and his second wife's vow renewal ceremony in 2009.

Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan



Although they went through a difficult divorce, the former couple are still friendly with each other. Jenna Dewan said that she is happy about starting a new chapter in her life.

Orlando Bloom and Miranda Kerr



Miranda Kerr also has a good relationship with both her ex and his current partner, Katy Perry. The supermodel revealed that they often hang out together and that Orlando Bloom likes Miranda's new boyfriend too.

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INTERNATIONAL



Ursula and Orban

Phasing Russian oil is doubtful

The head of the European Commission rushed to Hungary earlier this month in a bid to unblock the oil proposal. There are serious issues on the agenda centred around the war in Ukraine. But it's doubtful the major, unresolved matter will specifically be up to discussion. That is the EU's beleaguered attempts to ban imports of Russian oil. JESSICA PARKER writes.

IT'S now nearly a month since European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced her proposals.

"This will be a complete import ban on all Russian oil, seaborne and pipeline, crude and refined," she told the European Parliament.

It was to be an "orderly" transition, phasing out Russian crude within six months and refined products by the end of 2022.

But resistance, notably from Hungary, has held up the EU's troubled sixth package of sanctions.

Other landlocked countries, such as Slovakia and the Czech Republic, have also asked for more time due to their dependence on Russian oil. Bulgaria, already cut off from Russian gas by Gazprom, has likewise sought opt-outs.

But Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Hungarian government, which has compared an oil ban to dropping a nuclear bomb on its economy, is seen as the ultimate obstacle. He wrote to the European Council to say he didn't even want to discuss it next week.

Diplomats are getting frustrated but they also concede that, with soaring energy prices, some countries may not be entirely unhappy that a decision is being blocked.

More hard-line nations are clear that Europe must stop handing Russia billions in what they see as "blood money".

However, there's also a feeling that Ursula von der Leyen has mishandled things, announcing plans before doing the necessary groundwork.

Nevertheless, both she and the head of the European Council this week suggested a deal on oil might happen within days.

That was "absolutely bonkers", remarked one EU diplomat:

"Charles Michel is setting his own European Council up for failure."

Little time is left with leaders gathering in Brussels on Monday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has voiced his anger at the delays: "Of course, I am grateful to our friends who are promoting new sanctions," he said in Thursday's late night address.

"But where did those who block the sixth package get so much power? Why are they still allowed to have so much power, including in intra-European procedures?"

While sanctions are signed off at ambassador level, rather than at big EU summits, there had been hopes that the European Council might focus minds and force the issue.

The extraordinary council was originally called, in part, because the pre-scheduled June summit felt a long way away, in the midst of a war on European soil. But items actually on the agenda, say diplomats, are principally things that are already bubbling along without the need for a major meeting.

Officially up for discussion are financial support for Ukraine, food security, defence procurement and broader issues on the EU's energy transition.

Draft conclusions, seen by the BBC, do refer to the phase-out of Russian fossil fuels while glossing over the specific issue of oil sanctions.

"Avoiding a debate is not very realistic," suggested one senior diplomat.

The odds are that someone will bring it up: elephants in the room have ways of making themselves heard. The question is whether a debate turns into a bust-up.

There is frustration that this delay is preventing other measures from going forward, given that the sixth

sanctions package isn't just about oil.

It also proposes expanding export controls and the list of individuals subject to asset freezes, as well as targeting Russia's majority state-owned Sberbank.

Member states quickly signed off the other sanctions packages, including a phased embargo on Russian coal.

Officials had talked proudly about how the EU had defied the old narratives about sluggish, tortured EU decision-making. And they had, until now.

But in his letter this week the Hungarian leader warned Charles Michel that discussing the oil embargo would "only highlight our internal divisions". Phasing out Russian oil, he argued, would require "a complete rearrangement of our refinery capacities".

Hungary argues it will need billions of euros to wean itself off Russian oil

In other words, it's going to cost a lot of money, which has made some suspicious that Mr Orbán is ultimately angling for more cash.

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola is optimistic that Hungary is essentially adopting a "negotiating stance".

However, funds recently earmarked to help with the EU's energy transition come from a pot of money that Hungary does not yet have access to.

It's all part of a financial tug-of-war between Brussels and Budapest, over accusations that the Orbán government is presiding over an erosion of democratic standards.

His supporters argue Hungary is maligned for forging its own path

and quite justified in resisting a ruinous oil ban without sufficient guarantees.

Various ideas have been floated, such as putting price caps or tariffs on Russian oil to squeeze the Kremlin's revenues. Another recent proposal was cutting seaborne supplies first and leaving pipelines until later.

But while it is widely accepted that some countries will need more time and support, each compromise brings its complications.

EU ambassadors gather for a preparatory meeting on the eve of the summit. Most think this troubled sanctions package will get over the line at some point but this has been an embarrassing episode for the European Commission.

How far it will have to water it down will dictate any further level of embarrassment.



INTERNATIONAL



Jammeh

US secures forfeiture of Jammeh's Maryland property

THE United States Department of Justice (JOC) says it has secured the forfeiture of a Maryland property purchased by former Gambian President Yahya Jammeh with about \$3.5m in alleged corruption proceeds. In a statement said the JOC court-ordered judgement and order of forfeiture had been given on Tuesday.

The judgement was the result of a civil forfeiture complaint filed by the US in 2020 seeking the forfeiture of the Montgomery County estate purchased in 2010 by Jammeh through a trust set up by his wife Zineb Jammeh.

"The United States intends to sell the property, and recommend to the Attorney General that the net proceeds from the sale of the forfeited property be used to benefit the people of The Gambia harmed by former President Jammeh's acts of corruption and abuse of office," the JOC said.

Jammeh, who seized power in the tiny West African nation in a 1994 coup, initially refused to concede defeat in a 2016 election to the current President Adama Barrow.

But he fled into exile after the intervention of troops from the regional bloc, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

He now lives in Equatorial Guinea, which has no extradition treaty with The Gambia and has denied allegations of wrongdoing, including corruption, levelled against him.

The US alleged that Jammeh corruptly obtained millions of dollars through the misappropriation of stolen public funds and by soliciting bribes from businesses seeking to obtain monopoly rights in various sectors of the Gambian economy.

"This case demonstrates our ability to work with foreign partners to secure the forfeiture of assets allegedly derived from illicit bribes and stolen funds

despite complex attempts to disguise the proceeds and their intended recipients," said Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A Polite Jr of the department's criminal division.

The statement came on the same day the government in The Gambia said it had accepted recommendations

by a truth and reconciliation commission that Jammeh be prosecuted for murder, rape, torture and other alleged crimes committed during his 22-year presidency.

Its justice ministry had said on Wednesday that it accepted all but two of the 265 recommendations made by the commission.

Iran summons Swiss envoy over US oil seizure

IRAN'S foreign ministry has reportedly summoned the envoy of Switzerland, which represents Washington's interests in Tehran, to protest against the American seizure of

Iranian oil from a Russian-operated ship in Greek waters.

The ministry also called for the immediate release of the ship and its cargo, the IRNA state news agency reported on Friday.

Pakistan hikes fuel prices

PAKISTAN'S government increased local fuel prices from Friday to meet a key condition set by the International Monetary Fund for reviving its bailout program.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's administration raised the cost of gasoline and diesel by 30 rupees a liter each, finance minister Miftah Ismail said in a Twitter post. The decision comes a day after the two sides ended week-long talks without reaching an agreement to revive the stalled loan.

The resumption of the bailout will provide a much-needed relief to keep the South Asian nation's economy afloat and avert a default. The stocks have tumbled and the Pakistani rupee dropped 9% in the past month, the worst performer among Asian nations, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The country's dollar bond dropped to a record low last week.

The program announced in 2019 was suspended earlier this year after ousted prime minister

Imran Khan reduced fuel prices and then froze them for four months that cost the government \$600 million a month in subsidies. Premier Sharif deferred price increase three times since coming to power on April 11, causing a panic in markets over whether the government will be able to resume the IMF program.

The fund's team emphasized the urgency of "concrete policy actions,"

"The Islamic Republic expressed its deep concern over the US government's continued violation of international laws and international maritime conventions," IRNA and other media

outlets quoted the foreign ministry as saying. The Swiss envoy told Iranian officials he would convey Tehran's message to Washington, IRNA reported. The developments came after the cargo ship was seized on Wednesday.

The news agency quoted Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization as saying the tanker - named the Pegas - had sought refuge along the Greek coast after experiencing technical problems and poor weather, adding the confiscation of its cargo was "a clear example of piracy".

Separately on Wednesday, the US imposed sanctions on what it described as a Russian-backed oil smuggling and money laundering network for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The Iranian-flagged Pegas was among five vessels designated by Washington on February 22 - two days before Russia's invasion of Ukraine - for sanctions against Promsvyazbank, a bank viewed as critical to Russia's defence sector.

The vessel's Russian owner Transmorflot was subsequently designated on May 8. The tanker, renamed Lana on March 1 and flying the Iranian flag

Monkey pox outbreak- CDC warns against vaccine hoarding

THE acting director of Africa's top public health agency says he hopes rich countries will not hoard vaccines during the current monkeypox outbreak, as they did with the jabs against Covid-19.

Monkeypox, a mild viral infection, is endemic in 11 African countries including Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria.

Since early May, more than 200 suspected and confirmed cases of the virus have been detected in at least 19 countries, mostly in Europe.

Last weekend, the World Health Organization (WHO) said it expects to identify more cases of monkeypox as it expands surveillance in countries where the disease is not typically found.

"Vaccines should go to where it is needed the most and equitably, so based on risk, and not on who can be able to buy it," Ahmed Omgwell Ouma, acting director of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and

Prevention, told a weekly press briefing on Thursday.

"We are working with all our member states on the continent to step up surveillance for monkeypox," he said.

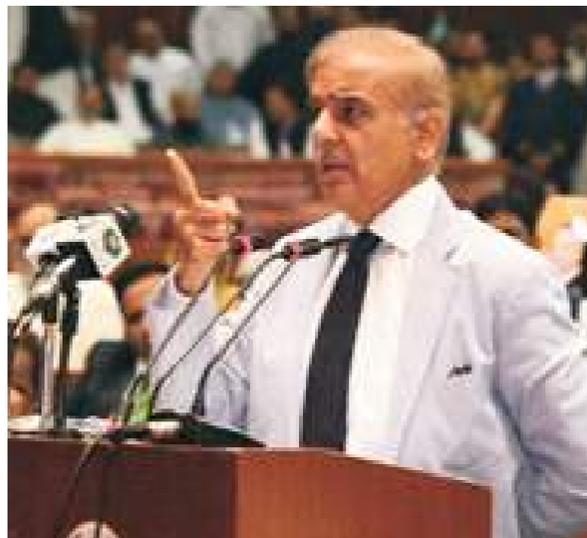
There are no current vaccines for monkeypox but the smallpox vaccine has been shown to offer up to 85 percent protection against monkeypox.

Available supplies of smallpox vaccines will be

prioritised for health workers and areas with confirmed cases of the virus, Ouma added.

"The prioritisation is first health workers who are in the front line, and then the affected communities where the outbreaks are first characterised, before contemplating the general public," he said.

"We do not have yet enough stocks to be able to go into the general public."



Sharif's

EVER'S WORLD

With Henrietta Gonzuk

Health

7 Potential Health Benefits of Mushrooms

By JESSICA MIGALA

WHEN exposed to sunlight, certain mushrooms develop vitamin D, and they can pass it on to you.

"Mushrooms are low in calories. They also provide a wealth of macro and micronutrients, particularly B vitamins, selenium, zinc, and copper," says Katherine Brooking, B vitamins are important in the manufacture of energy in cells, she explains. And selenium is a powerful antioxidant. While zinc and copper are essential for a strong immune system.

It's clear that whole mushrooms that you eat raw or cook for use in recipes are beneficial for your health, and these, rather than mushrooms in processed forms.

The most popular mushroom produced is the white button mushroom.

You have a lot of choices, depending on your taste preferences — and that means a lot of ways to enjoy the following:

seven health benefits of mushrooms.

1. Mushrooms Support Immunity and Bone Health

When exposed to UV radiation, mushrooms generate vitamin D. "There really aren't that many food sources — especially plant sources — of vitamin D," says Brooking. "The vitamin plays an incredibly crucial role in immune and bone health."

When shopping for mushrooms high in vitamin D, look on the front or bottom of the package for this information, says Bedwell. Another way to tell if your mushrooms are high in vitamin D is if they cover at least 20 percent of the daily value, or DV, per serving. You can find this info on the Nutrition Facts label. Make sure that you also pay attention to the "best by" date and eat the mushrooms before that time, as that will ensure you're still getting a good amount of vitamin D.

2. Mushrooms May Promote Gut Health

Your gut contains trillions of bacteria, and consuming mushrooms may help populate your GI tract with the right balance of bacteria to keep your GI tract healthy and strengthen your immune system. Therefore, prebiotics from mushrooms may assist in the growth of this beneficial bacteria. Probiotics are live microorganisms, or bacteria, that may have health benefits for the body, as they aid in digestion and produce nutrients.

3. Mushrooms Are Good for Your Blood Pressure

One whole portobello



mushroom — those popular large mushrooms — provides 306 milligrams (mg) of the important mineral potassium, per the USDA. Potassium helps control blood pressure by counteracting the effects of sodium and by improving blood vessel function, according to the American Heart Association. How? More potassium in your diet encourages the excretion of sodium in your urine. The heart-health benefits don't stop there. Mushrooms may also help improve cholesterol and triglyceride levels and reduce inflammation.

4. Mushrooms Have Been Linked With Cancer

Prevention

Consider adding fungi to your cancer-prevention diet. People who had higher routine mushroom intake had a 34 percent lower risk of any cancer than those who ate the least, especially in the case of breast cancer. Mushrooms are high in antioxidants, particularly ergothioneine and glutathione, which may protect cells from damage.

5. Mushrooms May Promote Longevity When Substituted for Red Meat

Mushrooms add an umami, or savory, meaty flavor, to foods. "They're the perfect extender to add in place of or in addition to

meat in so many recipes," says Brooking. As part of a large prospective cohort study published in April 2021 in Nutrition Journal, researchers found that study participants who consumed one serving of mushrooms per day versus those who consumed one serving of processed or red meat had a 35 percent lower risk of death from any cause.

The possible reason is that in addition to containing those antioxidants ergothioneine and glutathione, mushrooms are also low in calories, sodium, and fat, and high in fiber, the study authors report. At the same time, people who consume mushrooms tend to eat healthier

diets, so it's unclear whether mushroom consumption alone was responsible for the participants' longer life spans.

6. Mushrooms May Boost Brain Health

We all want to stay sharp as we age, but 12 to 18 percent of people age 60 or older have mild cognitive impairment (MCI), a condition that's sometimes a precursor to Alzheimer's and impacts memory, thinking skills, and judgment, according to the Alzheimer's Association. A healthy diet is important for an aging brain, and mushrooms can be a part of that.

One possible reason for their cognitive-protecting properties? Ergothioneine, which is not only an antioxidant but has anti-inflammatory properties, too, both of which may protect against the neuronal damage.

7. Certain Psychoactive Mushrooms Are a Possible Treatment for Mental Health Conditions

There's a lot of talk about using psilocybin, a hallucinogenic compound found in "magic mushrooms," as a psychedelic treatment for conditions like depression and PTSD.

Currently, large research facilities, such as the Center for the Neuroscience of Psychedelics at Massachusetts General Hospital, are researching psilocybin as a therapy for treatment-resistant depression, as psychedelics may be useful in facilitating new neural connections. That said, this type of treatment is in the future.

EVER'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Parenting

Help your daughter have a healthy body image

BY GAIL SALZ

GIRLS coming of age in the 21st century have more opportunities than any of the generations that preceded them. But they also face an array of pressures that are unprecedented. Girls are expected to become corporate executives and brain surgeons and Supreme Court justices, but they're also expected to be beautiful and sexy — more so than ever before.

Which is why raising healthy, happy daughters has become more challenging, not less.

As parents, we know that nurturing a positive body image is crucial to helping our daughters become healthy, well-rounded adults. But our society seems to be fixated, more than ever, on youth and beauty.

Girls can come to see themselves as a collection of body parts—breasts, lips, legs, thighs, butt—which they judge harshly. And, of course, none of it relates to anything about who they are on the inside and what they do.

To put it simply: They need to feel okay about how they look, and not let their looks dominate their sense of self-worth.

How do we get there? It doesn't work to try to pretend the pressure to be model-thin and drop-dead gorgeous doesn't exist, or lecture them on how appearance has nothing to do with who they are. They'll just conclude that you're completely out of touch. **So what to do?**

1. Sympathize

What *is* effective is to listen to your daughter's concerns, acknowledge the reality of her feelings, and let her know that you've wrestled with feelings about your less-than-perfect body, too — "Yeah, look, I was never in love with my thighs." You want to convey, implicitly or explicitly, that while you've suffered, too, it didn't take over your life, or get in the way of your being who you wanted to be, or doing what you wanted to do.

2. Model body comfort

Which means, of course, that if you are very, very wrapped up in anxiety about your own body, it is likely to rub off on your daughter. Girls get much of how they feel about these things from their mothers: If Mom is complaining every time she puts on a piece of clothing that she looks fat, or wondering out loud about which outfit looks sexier, that's what the daughter is going to absorb. Mothers need to model, to some degree, body comfort, acceptance, and appreciation for what their bodies allow them to



do.

This extends to eating—meal times should be about enjoyment, about family time, about nutrition. And I hear women say that all the time — it's not going to help.

3. Enlist Dad

Girls need to hear positive feedback from their fathers, not only for looking beautiful but for other attributes that they appreciate. And girls need to hear dads supporting their wives, too, for *all* that they are.

Of course, fathers have a very difficult line to walk at this age, when daughters are developing, and they need to sort of to step back at the same time that they're being encouraging. So I don't want to say that any of this is easy. It's hard, but it most certainly can be done.

4. Avoid sexualizing

Another part of working for a positive body image — and a positive overall image, frankly — is shielding your girls for as long as you can from the most sexualized and body-obsessed parts of pop culture. That

includes everything from little girls being sold underwear that says "juicy" on the bottom to watching the Kardashians on TV, shows that are all about your booty, or what you injected into your lips, or what guy you were able to get because of how sexy you look.

5. Build resilience

Life throws everybody curveballs, and sometimes the curveball is in the arena of appearance. Most of us are not going to love every single thing we've got, but we deal with it (and not, in most cases, with plastic surgery, at least until your daughter reaches adulthood and can decide for herself). You can help by being sympathetic, but also confident that whatever she doesn't like about herself is not insurmountable. You want her to incorporate both of those things in her thinking: "Oh, gosh, this is tough. This isn't fun." But also "I'm strong and I will figure out a way to cope with this."

6. Move that body

Since you don't want your

daughter to think of her body principally as a way to attract guys, enjoyable physical activity is key. You want to help her experiment and try different kinds of sports, different kinds of activities, so she can find something that resonates for her, but also so she can recognize that having some stamina and some muscle makes your body a lot more enjoyable, not just because of how it *looks* but because of how it *feels*.

Exercise is also wonderful for mood, wonderful for blowing off stress and anxiety. So being in a habit of some sort of exercise is a great thing to set up for your child for life, really. It's a life skill. **7. Set limits on clothing (or lack of same)**

Of course you want to encourage your daughter's self-expression, but I think many parents are erring too far in the direction of letting young girls dress provocatively. The problem is that it sends a message the girls might not even intend — and gets them into sexual situations much earlier than they are ready for. I'm not saying you have to

make your daughter dress like a nun, but frankly she just shouldn't be dressing sexy for school.

When a girl gets a lot of attention for being hot, what she's processing is that she's being valued for how big her boobs are, or how long her legs are. So who cares then if I worked hard and really learned a lot in math?

I believe in women enjoying their sexuality. But until at least the second half of high school, girls aren't ready. And they need to be focused on other things. So you want to temper the sexualized message they're getting from peers and pop culture.

So promoting a healthy body image means helping your daughter feel beautiful overall—the whole person that she is—and at the same time deemphasizing beauty and sexuality as the focus of her identity. Girls who have confidence, who are sure of themselves as *people*, not as sexual objects, are not only likely to wait longer to have sex, but are more able to hold their own in the mean-girl environment they, unfortunately, need to survive and thrive in.



Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi
peekembo@yahoo.com
08036417305, 08095322786

Know about Plateau VAPP Law 2022 (1)

LAST week, it was a success story for rights and legal activists as the Plateau State Government joined states that signed the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Bill 2022 into law on Thursday May 19, 2022 at Government House, Jos.

Plateau was among the first states that passed the Child rights Law including setting up a disability rights commission in the country therefore while signing the bill into Law, Governor Simon Bako Lalong said the Long awaited VAPP Bill had indeed been long overdue.

Many Civil Society Groups in the state like Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), Women Rights Advancement And Protection Agency (WRAPA) and Government bodies like National Orientation Agency, (NOA) Ministry For Women Affairs among others had been at the forefront of spearheading and supporting the processes that eventually led to the passage of the bill. The media too played a key role.

However it is not all about passing the law but a lot of work needs to be done by the media and CSOs in the area of sensitisation to make citizens understand the existence of their rights and when to seek redress, challenged the Governor after signing the bill.

The VAPP law 2022 is a legal document that will give redress to many social ills happening which the penal code could not address and would punish offenders for crimes like rape, harmful traditional practices, emotional abuse, abandonment of spouse, children and any dependents, stalking, spousal battery, among many other wrongs which were not captured as crimes in the past.

The State VAPP Law 2022 has 60 Clauses divided into 5 Parts which are Preliminaries, Jurisdiction of Court, Service Providers, Regulatory Body and Consequential Amendments.

It was first passed by the National Assembly in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja in 2015 and is described as a specialised piece of Legislation that seeks to prevent violence against persons (VAP), by prohibiting certain acts and prescribing penalties for violation because while some of the offences are known to the Criminal Statutes such as the Penal Code Law of Plateau State many of the violent acts against persons sought to be contained are new.

Among some of the major acts of violence against person which the VAPP Law prohibits are Rape and the conviction for rape attracts the punishment of life imprisonment, a person who aids, abets or conceals an offender also commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a minimum of 12 years imprisonment. Gang Rape which unfortunately is fast becoming fashionable amongst young persons attracts upon conviction, imprisonment for a minimum of 20 years without an option of fine. The law also mandates the Court to award appropriate compensation to the victim as it may deem fit in the circumstance.

On Inflicting physical injury on a person, the law states that a person



who willfully causes or inflicts physical injury on another person by means of any weapon, substance or object commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 5 years or an option of fine of not less than N500,000 or to both. Willfully placing a person in fear of physical injury attracts a fine or imprisonment. A convicted offender risks imprisonment for a term not less than two years or fine not less than N200,000 or to both fine and imprisonment.

Harmful Traditional practices

The VAPP Law 2022 also addresses the social ills caused as a result of Harmful Traditional Practices which is found in Clause 8. Female circumcision or genital mutilation of a girl child or a woman is prohibited and anyone convicted risks imprisonment for a term not less than 4 years or a fine of not less than N200,000 or both such fine and imprisonment. While forceful ejection from Home and an instance where a marriage partner who forcefully evicts his/her partner from his/her home or refuses him/her access is seen to commit an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 2 years or to a fine of not less than N300,000 or to both such fine and imprisonment.

However, anyone who incites, aids, or abets another to commit the offence of forceful ejection such as relatives/in-laws who eject widows or persons with disability is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or a fine of not less than N200,000 or both such fine and imprisonment.

Also on Forced Financial Dependent and Economic Abuse, the VAPP law spells out that any person who causes forced financial

dependent or economic abuse of another commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 2 years or to a fine of not less than N500,000 or to both.

While any person who forcefully isolates another from family and friends commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than 6 months or a fine of not less than N100,000 or to both.

Emotional, verbal and psychological abuse is also an offence. Any person who causes emotional, verbal and psychological abuse on another commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 year or to a fine not less than N200,000 or to both. The law defines "emotional, verbal and psychological abuse" to include "a pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct toward any person, including repeated insults, ridicule or name calling...".

Also in the Law, any person who abandons a wife/husband, children or other dependents without any means of sustenance commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than three years or to fine of not less than N500,000 or to both. It also addresses stalking and states that any person who stalks another commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than two years or a fine not less than N500,000 or to both.

Intimidation is also an offence and Clause 19 defines it as "the uttering or conveying of a threat or causing any person to receive a threat, which induces fear, anxiety or discomfort." The offence carries a

N500,000 or to both. To intentionally administer a substance to or cause a substance to be administered to or taken by another person with the intention of stupefying or overpowering that person so as to enable any person to engage in a sexual activity with that person attracts fine or imprisonment.

Incest, indecent exposure

Any person who knowingly and willfully has carnal knowledge of another within the prohibited Degrees of Consanguinity and Affinity, with or without consent commits incest and is liable on conviction to a minimum term of 10 years imprisonment without an option of fine.

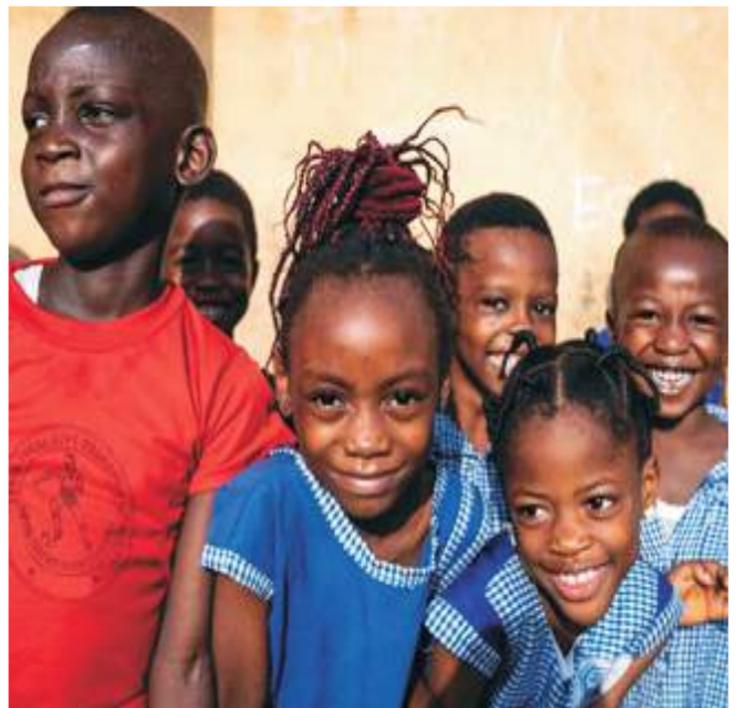
The VAPP Law states that the prohibited degree of consanguinity are daughter/son; granddaughter/son; sister/brother, mother/father; niece/nephew, aunt /uncle; grandmother/granduncle.

While any person who intentionally exposes his or her genital organs, or a substantial part thereof with the intention of causing distress to the other party or that another person seeing the exposure may be tempted or induced to commit an offence under the Bill commits the offence of indecent exposure, punishable with a term of imprisonment of not less than 1 year or fine of not less than N500,000 or to both.

On Political Violence, found in Clause 25, the law states that any person who commits political violence, which is defined as any act or attempted act of violence perpetrated in the cause of political activities, such as elections and includes acts thuggery, mugging, use of force to disrupt meetings, or the use of dangerous weapons that may cause bodily harm or injury commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 year or to a fine not less than N500,000 or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Violence by state actors is equally tagged an offence. Any state actor who commits political violence commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than 7 years or to fine not less than N1,000,000 or to both.

(To be continued next week).



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Living

Should I get married or not?

A marriage is a divinely ordained opportunity for two people to come together and maximise their strengths while minimizing their weaknesses for their better good.

Choosing a marriage partner is clearly one of the most serious decisions you will ever make since your choice will influence your success in virtually all other aspects of your life. This decision needs to be made with utmost care and caution, repeatedly seeking guidance from the Lord.

When people marry for the wrong motives they are not able to fulfill their roles in marriage, as they have a self-centered, receiving focus, rather than the other-centered, giving focus prescribed by God. Knowing that God's direction is critical if we want to make the right choice, let's look very briefly at a few reasons not to get married.

Escape from home or other unpleasant situations.

Whilst we may experience challenging situations at



home or sometimes feel lonely being single, getting into marriage as a means of escape will not provide a solution to the challenges. The choice to get married is far too important to be left to chance so don't let other circumstances or unpleasant situations determine how you make this crucial decision.

Looking for self worth or a sense of achievement.

There is a God sized hole on the inside of us all that only God can heal or fill. Our identity is only in God and looking for a marriage to give self worth will ultimately result in disappointment as our partner is not designed by God to meet all our needs, God is the only one that can fill these holes and meet these needs.

An unplanned pregnancy

ourselves to develop healthy future relationships.

Sympathy for the other person.

God has a plan for every life and getting into marriage because we think the other person will be devastated if we break up with them is not His plan. A broken relationship is always better than a broken marriage with far more distressing effects on all parties concerned.

Response to peer pressure.

Thinking 'everyone is getting married so I need to get married' is not a good idea. God has a partner for you and waiting on God for His perfect will sometimes



Rushing into marriage means it may take longer because of an unplanned pregnancy may result in more heartache. Having made a mistake, it is good to remember that God is still with us, whilst an unplanned pregnancy can bring about a lot of pressure, it is important that we seek God first for forgiveness and ask for His help and direction.

The need to depend on someone financially or emotionally.

Getting married to find someone else to depend on to meet our financial or emotional needs is not God's plan for us. Although a major benefit of a healthy marriage

On the rebound after a broken relationship.

Having unresolved issues from a previous relationship and then heading straight into another one is never a good idea. Every relationship that is broken requires healing from God and restoration for both parties or we make it difficult for



Source: Tightknots.

BUSINESS WORLD

Analysis: All about the fishing treaty Nigeria recently signed

The Federal Executive Council of Nigeria has approved the ratification of the Port State Measures (PSMA). This is the first binding and most important international agreement/treaty to specifically target Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated (IUU) fishing across the globe. ENITAN OLORUNYOMI writes

ACCORDING to the Nigerian Trawler Operators Association (NITOA), Nigeria loses more than \$70 million annually to illegal fishing. The country is not only battling with the great economic loss from illegal fishing but also, from issues regarding maritime insecurity and sea piracy. According to the Director-General of NIMASA, Bashir Jimoh, about \$783 million has been lost to piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

Beyond the stark figures, there also lies the story of numerous people whose livelihoods have been all but destroyed by the rapid dwindling of ocean resources. Illegal fishing has posed a significant threat to the operations of many small-scale fishers thus undermining the country's blue economy development.

The main objective of the Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA) is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using legal ports to land their catches. Additionally, the provisions of this agreement apply to fishing vessels seeking entry into a designated port of a state which is different from their flag state. This makes the system similar to international travel border control.

The PSMA was adopted by the UN FAO Conference in 2009 and entered into force on June 5, 2016. It was instantly signed by over 25 governments to ensure that the treaty surpasses the threshold needed to bring it into force; currently, 55 parties have agreed to this treaty.

As governments sign on to the agreement and show commitment to the fight against IUU fishing, the gaps allowing illegal fishers to slip through are expected to diminish. But can a single treaty create a mechanism strong enough to combat widespread disregard for fisheries laws and policies?

Why is it important for Nigeria to be part of this?

In the 2018 World Fisheries



Report, it was noted that over 10 million people in Nigeria rely on fisheries directly or indirectly for livelihood. That is a huge number. To this end, operators in the industry have advocated the establishment of a separate ministry for fisheries and the ocean economy.

A former director of the Federal Department of Fisheries, Foluke Areola, stated the importance of the agreement.

"This treaty is very important in helping us to identify the limitations and what we can do differently in trying to curb illegal fishing," she said.

"The department does not have enough funds to monitor vessels, so they are heavily reliant on the Navy to do all the patrolling and surveillance. But beyond the PSMA, there's also a need for us to improve on the intersectoral and interagency corporation and collaboration."

The realities of what constitutes illegal fishing have changed and the Sea Fisheries Act does not reflect that. For instance, fines that are to be paid in the cases of breaking

those laws have become insignificant amounts.

In a recent interview with Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood, a maritime expert and researcher, she mentioned the need for the Sea Fisheries Act to be improved.

"The current legal provision governing fisheries exploitation in Nigeria is the 1992 Sea Fisheries Decree. This law is outdated and does ring true for the changes that we're experiencing now," she said.

"I remember in 2016, the fisheries department had the support of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to review and improve on the existing Sea Fisheries Act but it still hasn't been improved and nothing has been done."

How will Nigeria benefit from implementing the Port State Measures Agreement?

Countries are finding that the agreement is a cost-effective tool for fighting illegal fishing. Sending patrol vessels to track and potentially arrest illegal operators on the open ocean is

expensive and dangerous. By comparison, monitoring at the port is safer and less costly.

The treaty's main objective is to support sustainable fisheries management, improve the gathering, verification and exchange of information leading to more accurate assessments of fish stocks and strengthen the monitoring of both national and international waters. Port controls become safer, less costly and demonstrate a more active approach than conventional Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) methods, reducing the time, effort, and resources required for this critical task.

"Ratifying the PSMA is a positive thing in itself for Nigeria. It allows Nigeria to be part of a larger, international, conversation that is aimed at tackling the problem. And as part of its implementation, there would be benefits like access to certain databases. So, for instance, this database could identify vessels that are potentially troublesome. And when such repeated offenders, come into the Nigerian waters, it raises alarm as to whether we want to license them or not," Ms Okafor-Yarwood said.

"It also allows Nigeria to gain advice, and for relevant agencies to get into training they need from other international parties that have more experience with these things.

"Being part of PSMA is not a magic wand, it doesn't make everything better automatically, but is a step in the right direction because it

shows that, at least for once, we are actually interested and we want to do things better" "But there are more advantages to it, the PSMA will encourage government agencies to coordinate their procedures, which will save time and money," she said.

The PSMA also creates a framework for information-sharing and collaboration. A database is made available to policy-makers, national administrations, legal practitioners, and civil society members worldwide. By making "best practices" available, the database will contribute to national capacity-building toward adoption.

The agreement facilitates technical and financial assistance to developing nations that ratify or accede to it.

What are the gaps in this new treaty?

Some experts have pointed out certain weaknesses in this agreement. An important one is the fact that China, one of the foremost offenders of illegal fishing, is yet to ratify the agreement. Other countries like Russia and Japan have also not started the process. In addition, there seems to be no penalty for failing to comply with the provisions of the agreement. There are also concerns that many small countries will still find it difficult to take action and fulfil those policies.

"The fact that China and other big distant water fishing nations are not part of it, shouldn't be our problem. Rather, the argument should be on those disadvantages posed by the PSMA that are not favourable for Nigeria. This could relate to issues that might undermine the sovereignty of Nigeria. There are so many benefits to being part of it if we can implement the provisions," Ms Okafor-Yarwood said.

Led by fishery authorities with enhanced liaison with allied authorities, the implementation of the PSMA will bring with it institutional, organisational and operational benefits that will lead to more stringent and more effective port procedures for dealing with fishing vessels to improve control of the fisheries sector.

Successful implementation will provide the necessary foundation for growth in the fisheries and maritime sectors. It is certain that the industry will become better, not only with the support of this international agreement but also with the support of other local agencies like the Fisheries Committee for West and Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), who are already encouraging Nigeria and other countries that are part of the committee to do better.

"The treaty's main objective is to support sustainable fisheries management, improve the gathering, verification and exchange of information leading to more accurate assessments of fish stocks and strengthen the monitoring of both national and international waters. Port controls become safer, less costly and demonstrate a more active approach than conventional Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) methods, reducing the time, effort, and resources required for this critical task."

BUSINESS WORLD

Finance Minister: Oil output barely enough to cover petrol imports

Low crude oil production means Nigeria is barely able to cover the cost of imported petrol from its oil and gas revenues, Finance Minister Zainab Ahmed told Reuters recently.

Ahmed added in an interview at the World Economic Forum in Davos that she hoped Nigerian oil production would average 1.6-million barrels a day this year, up from around 1.5-million barrels a day in the first quarter.

Nigeria exports crude oil and imports refined petrol. A plan to abolish its petrol subsidy was scrapped ahead of national elections next year in February 2023, putting pressure on the budget as oil prices have risen.

"We are not seeing the revenues that we had planned for," Ahmed said. "When the production is low it means we're ... barely able to cover the volumes that are required for the (petrol) that we need to import."

Nigeria raised \$1.25-billion via a Eurobond sale in March at a premium rate and had planned to issue another bond. But Ahmed told Reuters that the government had "not seen a good opportunity to go



Ahmed

in". Earlier this week, Nigeria's central bank surprised markets by raising its main lending rate by 150 basis points to 13%, after inflation rose to 16.82% in April, the highest in eight months.

Ahmed said the central bank move was necessary.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes, including a 50 basis point rise earlier this month, alongside Russia's war in Ukraine and

coronavirus lockdowns in China have prompted a move from riskier emerging markets to safe havens.

"We are certainly very, very concerned," Ahmed said of the Fed's policy tightening. "The actions that the Fed or the central bank in Europe take will affect us."

"There has to be a signal from the heads of state or a high level decision that it is important to consider the decision of the long-term development," Baron said. (NAN)

The sum of N656.6 billion has been distributed to the three tiers of government as allocation for May 2022, a communiqué from the Director of Information, Press and Public Relations at the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, Henshaw Ogubike, has confirmed.

In the notice released after the rescheduled monthly Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) meeting held on Thursday, it was gathered that the amount disbursed this month was lower than last month's N725.6 billion.

It was stated that in April 2022, Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) and excise duties increased marginally, while oil and gas royalties, import duty, Companies Income Tax (CIT) and VAT all recorded significant decreases.

The N656.6 billion total distributable revenue comprised distributable statutory revenue of N461.2 billion, distributable Value Added Tax (VAT) revenue of N166.5 billion and N8.9 billion being excess bank charges recovered as well as a N20.0 billion augmentation.

From the amount, the federal government got N257.6 billion; states were given N201.3 billion, the local government councils shared N149.3 billion, while the relevant states received N48.5 billion as 13 per cent derivation revenue.

Analysis showed that from the N461.2 billion distributable statutory revenue, the federal government received N217.4 billion, the states received

initially planned removal of subsidies on premium motor spirit a year before the 2023 elections."

Specifically, the report urged Africa to boost vaccination rates, implement prudent monetary policies, and increase investment in the

FAAC: FG, States, LGs share N656.6bn for May 2022

N110.3 billion, the local government councils got N85.0 billion, while the relevant states got N48.5 billion as 13 per cent derivation revenue.

Furthermore, from the N166.5 billion distributable VAT revenue, the federal government had N25.0 billion, states got N83.3 billion, while the local government councils received N58.3 billion.

In addition, from the recovered N8.8 billion excess bank charges, the federal government was given N4.7

billion; the state governments shared N2.4 billion, while the local government councils were given N1.8 billion.

As for the N20 billion augmentation, the federal government received N10.5 billion, the state governments got N5.3 billion, while the local government councils shared N4.1 billion. At the close of business on Thursday, May 26, 2022, according to the disclosure, the amount left in the Excess Crude Account (ECA) was \$35.377 million.

AfDB provides 42m people with water, sanitation

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) Group has provided about 42 million people with access to improved water and sanitation through its African Development Fund (ADF) initiative.

Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the AfDB Group, said this at an event to mark the ADF at 50 on Thursday in Accra, Ghana.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the ADF is the concessional financing window of the Bank Group that provides low income Regional Member Countries (RMCs) with concessional loans and grants.

The fund also provides guarantees as well as technical assistance for studies and capacity building in support of projects and programmes that spur poverty reduction and economic development.

He said the fund had also financed no fewer than 2,750 projects in the last five years on the continent.

According to him, ADF has connected 15.5 million people to electricity, supported 74 million people with improved access to agriculture, 50 million people with access to

transport.

"Life is not equal, yet all lives must be equal. Everyone has a right to a decent life.

"ADF has been expanding the lives of the people.

Some of the ADF beneficiaries said the fund has assisted them to improve their standard of living.

Ms Selena Avevor, Chairperson of the Obimani Women Association, a smallholder empowerment association in Ghana, said the fund had assisted them to empower about 50 rural women.

Avevor said the association had trained women on different skills such as soap making and baking with the assistance of the ADF.

"We had 20 women that we were training before but when the fund started supporting us, we increased the number to 50 rural women.

"ADF built a hostel for us, sunk borehole and helped us to have an office.

"We are looking that we will get more women to train, have higher markets with the support of the ADF," she said.

Ms Clara Shuaibu, also a beneficiary of the Savannah Investment Programme (SIP) funded by the ADF, said the fund provided birds and feeds for her to start a poultry business.

"I am now an employer of labour because of the ADF," she said.

Some of the ADF contributing countries commended the Bank for utilising the fund.

Mr Kentaro Ogata, the Deputy Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Japan, commended the passion of the AfDB toward addressing Africa's challenges.

"We may be able to contribute the funding but we don't have the expertise, we will work together with those with the knowledge like the AfDB".

Ms Jessica Isaacs, Senior Advisor USA, AfDB, said that "we want to partners with Africa for stable and sustainable growth.

Ms Sigrid Schenk-Dornbusch, the Head of Division, Regional Development Bank, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, said the country would stand fast with the fund to make the continent better.

NAN reports that the ADF was created in 1972 and became operational in 1974.

Some of the ADF eligible countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Madagascar, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Burundi, among others.

Nigeria's economy to grow by 3.2% in 2023 - AfDB

Afican Development Bank (AfDB) has predicted that the Nigerian economy will grow by an average of 3.2 per cent between 2022 and 2023 amid low oil production and rising insecurity.

AfDB explained this in its African Economic Outlook 2022 report released at its ongoing Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Accra, Ghana.

In the report, AfDB said growth in the West African region was driven by Nigeria, the region's largest economy.

"Average growth in the region stood at 4.3 per cent in 2021 and is projected to remain strong at 4.1 per cent in 2022," the report reads.

It says Nigeria's GDP would grow by 3.4 per cent in 2022 and 3 per cent in 2023, representing an average of 3.2 per cent in two years, despite the rising food, diesel and gas prices and persistent supply disruptions amplified by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The report further showed that the Nigerian economy would benefit from the high oil prices, recovery in the service and manufacturing sector, and government policy support for agriculture.

"Nigeria's growth was led largely by services, partly offsetting the contraction in oil output," it adds.

"Growth will decelerate, averaging 3.2% during 2022-23, due to persistently low oil production and rising insecurity. Inflation is projected to remain elevated at 16.9% in 2022 and stay above pre-pandemic levels in 2023, fueled mainly by rising food, diesel, and gas prices and persistent supply disruptions amplified by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The projected marginal current account surplus of 0.1% of GDP in 2022 could turn into a deficit of 0.2% in 2023. Improved revenue collection will help narrow the fiscal deficit to an

average of 4.5% of GDP. Public debt is targeted to reach 40% of GDP by 2024 on fresh borrowing.

"The headwinds to the outlook may be exacerbated by rising insecurity and policy uncertainty underpinned by reversal of

"Nigeria's energy generation peaked at 3,981 megawatts on Thursday, 12th May 2022, representing a 0.82% increase compared to the previous day (3,535MW). This is according to information from the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN).

Also, off-peak generation increased by 6.22% to 3,535MW in contrast to 3,328MW recorded during the previous day. Meanwhile, the total energy generated on the day under review was 89.19kMWh, 0.21% higher than 89.01kMWh generated on Wednesday.

In the same vein, GenCos supplied a total of 87.99kMWh of energy, which is 0.3% higher than the 87.7kMWh sent out the previous day. Despite the marginal uptrend Nigeria's energy generation is still significantly below the minimum 105kMWh required to record some

level of stability in power supply in the country. Meanwhile, Nigerians continue to grapple with epileptic power supply, with multiple grid disruptions recorded so far in 2022, causing widespread blackouts across the country. Highlight (12th May 2022) Peak generation - 3,981.3 MW (+0.82%) Off-peak generation - 3,535MW

(+6.22%) Energy generated - 89,198.4MWh (+0.21%) Energy sent out - 87,987.49MWh (+0.3%) The highest frequency for the day was 50.6Hz, while the lowest frequency was 48.99Hz. Also, 98.64% of the energy generated on Thursday was supplied by the Generating companies. Meanwhile, Nigeria's minister of Power, Mr. Abubakar Aliyu while discussing in an interactive



Adamu

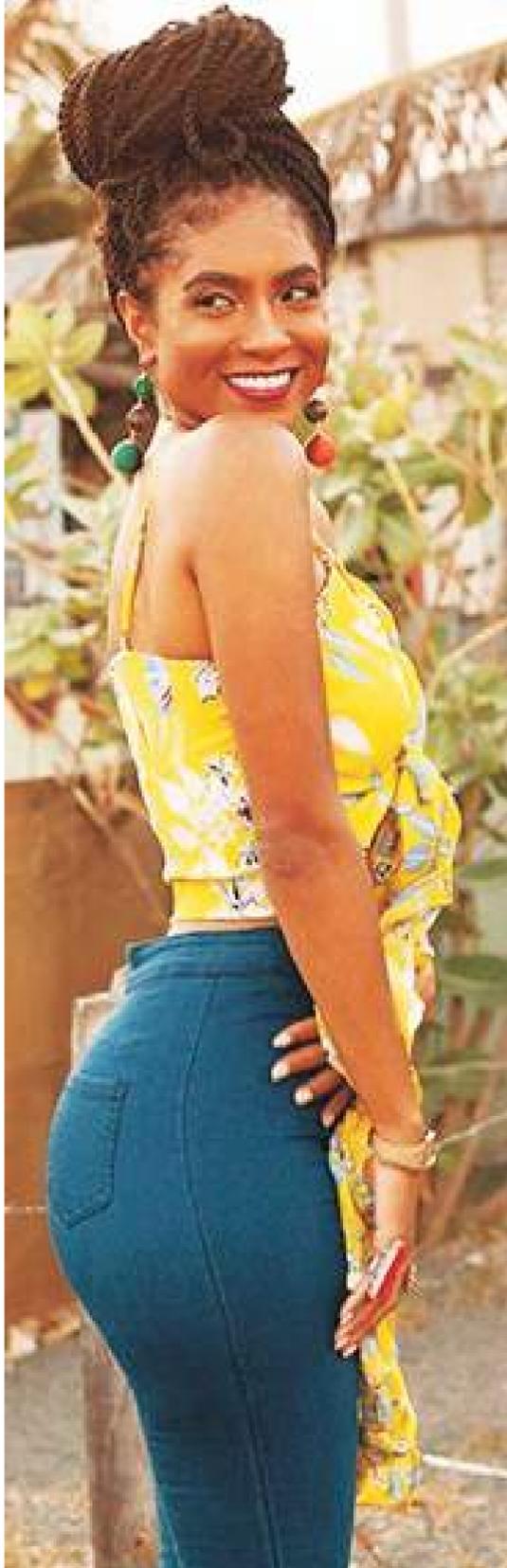


Adesina



Continued from page 16

Life's too short to worry about feeling guilt or regret – Naomi Cowan



what did it feel like?

Hmm... my earliest memory wasn't the most positive one to be honest, I remember being about 5 or 6 singing at a school concert. I was singing 'Lord I Lift Your Name on High' – and I couldn't hit the high notes in the part that says 'you came from heaven to earth to show the way'... and my brother was laughing at me. I felt really bad! Lol. However, I've seen videos of my mom performing with me in her belly, so it's all good – I touch di stage from long time.

What projects are you working on right now?

Narrowing down the songs to be added to my EP – I'm constantly recording... Always looking for more music, new sounds, new vibes. I'm also going to be travelling the Caribbean for all of September as an on-air host for a major broadcaster here in the UK. Looking forward to that.

If you were stuck on a deserted island and given the choice of 5 songs to put on your music player which artists would it be?

That is really not a fair question! so I'm going to give you 6...

- 'No One' by Alicia Keys
- 'I Only Have Eyes for You' by The Flamingos
- 'Flawless' by Beyoncé
- 'After Tonight' by Justin Nozuka
- 'Pimpers Paradise' by Bob Marley
- 'First Word in Memory' by Carlene Davis

My favorite guilty pleasure is?

I don't feel guilt! Hahaha. I honestly don't know if I have a guilty pleasure. Anytime I do something that I genuinely enjoy – I just do it and feel NO WAYS about it. Hahaha... life's too short to worry about feeling guilt or regret.

Growing up my hero was...

Alicia Keys

The book, movie or song that changed your life?

I haven't read, watched or listened to it yet.

I feel happiest for the day when I...

Spend the morning stretching, praying and drink a really great cup of coffee; not cheap instant weak kinda ting... proper coffee. I LOVE COFFEE. Let me repeat. I LOVE GOOD COFFEE.

A song I can hear a billion times and never get sick of...

Once again, not a fair question! I love music too much. There are so many songs like that in my head.

A movie I can watch a thousand times and never get sick of...

Ace Ventura Pet Detective: When Nature Calls.

(hence the line 'You never put up a fight no'). It was inspired by a yute I met overseas a few years ago, we never ended up properly dating or anything, but I felt so inspired by our connection. It was very easy for us to be around each other, we never had to do much small talk – we could just chill... and it was so refreshing. I thought about him for a few months. Lol... Very rare to come across those kinds of connections.

I then co-wrote the song with Sarah Couch, a member of the DejaVilla band, produced by Teflon Zinfence.

What is the best compliment you have gotten about the "Paradise Plum" song? That it's stuck in people's heads and they can't stop singing it.

You have a few singles out there. When can we expect your album to be released? Look out for an EP

Do you remember the first time you ever got on a stage to perform? Where was it and



celebrities who are single parents

Continued from page 16

Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony



Jennifer Lopez said in an interview that she didn't feel her best during her marriage to Marc Anthony, but after their separation, they became great friends and parents to their twins.

Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillipp



Although their relationship had its ups and downs, the former couple did everything in their power to offer their children a great childhood. That includes staying on good terms with each other too. Most recently, Reese and Ryan got together for their son's birthday.

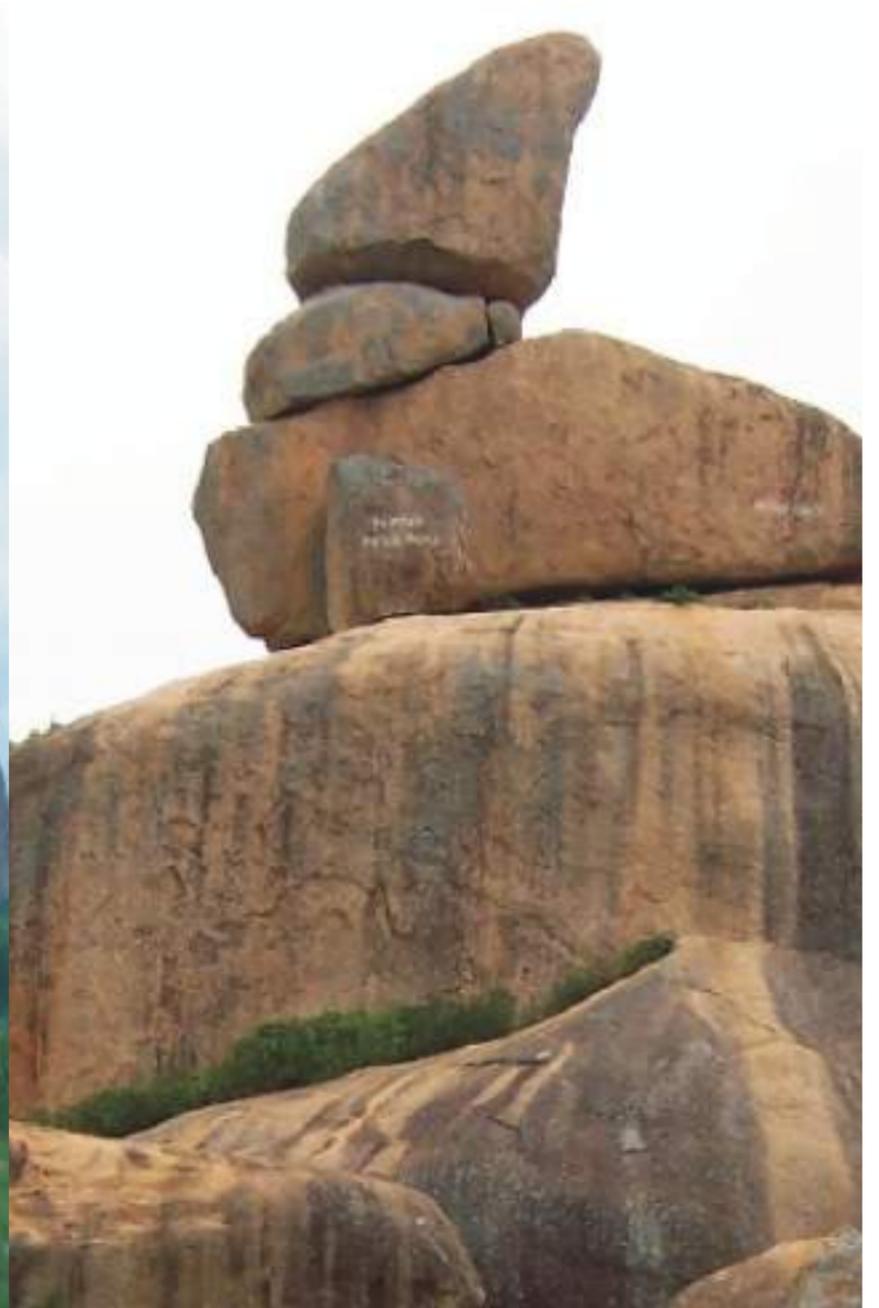
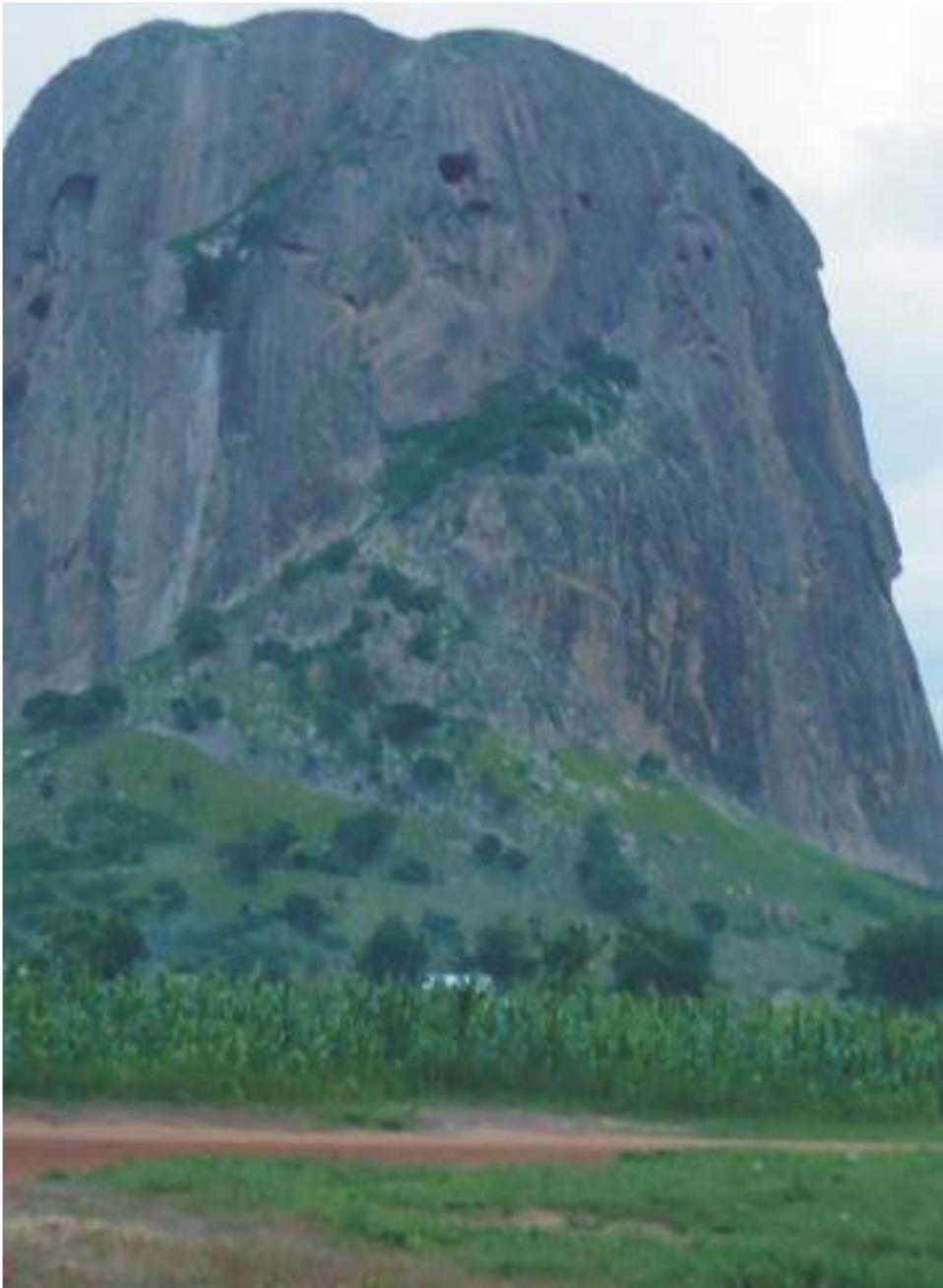
Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton



Angelina and Billy remain good friends even after their split that happened almost a decade ago. Billy Bob Thornton revealed that even if they might not see each other often, they still talk regularly.

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D ATTSAR



Tourism Entrepreneurship: Importance and types

Tourism Entrepreneurship can be defined as the business involving development and controlling a tourist company. No one can deny that tourism has grown significantly over the past few years. The curiosity among people to visit new places is increasing in most countries worldwide. Entrepreneurship has evolved greatly in the past few years, and the tourist industry isn't an exception.

Compiled By CELESTINE ATTSAR.

MANY important activities need to be performed to succeed as a tourism entrepreneur. People used to believe that it is pretty easy to generate huge profits as a travel entrepreneur, but the reality is beyond what anyone thinks. This post will talk about tourism entrepreneurship with a proper explanation.

What is the importance of entrepreneurship in tourism?

We can't deny that tourism is

a highly complex industry considered a distinct field. However, there are tremendous opportunities offered to entrepreneurs for developing businesses. They can create a great source of income by boosting their working capacity. We all know entrepreneurs think differently when compared with normal people.

The same goes for the tourism industry, where entrepreneurship can play a significant role, considering the present competition. Even the

government of many nations has offered multiple benefits to the new entrepreneurs looking to establish a new business in the tourism industry. So, we want to suggest here that entrepreneurship is critical for developing the tourist.

There are tremendous new ideas presented by entrepreneurs that can be extremely useful in the long run. For e.g., companies started a commercial expedition to Mount Everest that significantly boosted Nepal's economy. You

can find many other examples where entrepreneurs completely revolutionized the tourist industry.

What are the major types of tourism entrepreneurship?

Tourism entrepreneurship is mainly classified into four different categories. Although there are many other options, we will mention the major ones here.

1. Tour Operators

A tour operator combines various travel components like hotels, transportation, and other similar things to provide a single package to the customers.

2. Travel Agents

A travel agent can be defined as an individual who makes travel arrangements for clients, including groups, corporations, and individuals. They work individually rather than a company that is commonly the case with tour operators.

3. Transport Operators

These are the ones who offer formal transport solutions to

the tourists. It can be giving rental homes or arranging tickets for their travel.

4. Guiding

Another prominent type of tourism entrepreneurship is guiding the other individuals for travelling and other similar prospects. It is a popular work performed by ticketing agents, holiday sellers, etc.

Are there enough opportunities in the tourism sector?

If you talk about the present era, there are tremendous opportunities offered by the tourism industry for young entrepreneurs. You can easily find potential in various markets for business events, meetings, and traveling. There are many amazing things entrepreneurs can do to create a strong business. Tourism is an important activity that boosts a country's economy, considering the plethora of opportunities provided by it. However, the resources need to be acquired and managed in a proper manner.

"There are tremendous new ideas presented by entrepreneurs that can be extremely useful in the long run. For e.g., companies started a commercial expedition to Mount Everest that significantly boosted Nepal's economy. You can find many other examples where entrepreneurs completely revolutionized the tourist industry."

Change of Name

<p>UGWU</p> <p>I, formerly known as UGWU FELIX now wish to be known and addressed as UGWU CHIDIBERE FELIX. 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 MAHMUD BALA SA'ED and SAEED MAHMOUD BALA, now wish to be known and addressed as BALA MAHMOUD SA'ED. My correct date of birth 10/01/1997 not 12/02/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>IGGAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as IGGAH VICTORIA AGATHA, now wish to be known and addressed as IGGAH VICTORIA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>GOSSEPSON</p> <p>I, formerly known as AMOS GONGES now wish to be known and addressed as GOSSEPSON AHBERTDA AMOS Correct date of birth is 15/01/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHEWMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHEWMA JACINTHA DALUM, now wish to be known and addressed as CHEWMA JACINTHA DEWAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LADI</p> <p>I, formerly known as FAVOUR MWANTIYI KADAT, now wish to be known and addressed as LADI DAVOU MWANTIYI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ABUBAKAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as MURTALA GARBA, now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR MURTALA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>ABRAHAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABRAHAM PRECIOUS EDISANAABASI, now wish to be known and addressed as ABRAHAM PRECIOUS WISDOM All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DAMLA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ASABE SUNDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMLA ASABE MAHAN. Correct date of birth is 02/08/1998 not 02/08/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DACHUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as THANKGOD JOSEPH, now wish to be known and addressed as DACHUNG THANKGOD JOSEPH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>BADUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DONG CHUHWAK, now wish to be known and addressed as BADUNG DONG CHUHWAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>OVOSI</p> <p>I, formerly known as OVOSI YESMIN ISMAIL, now wish to be known and addressed as OVOSI YESMIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ROTIMI</p> <p>I, formerly known as VICTORIA MICHEAL, VICTORIA WUMSHI MICHEAL, now wish to be known and addressed as ROTIMI VICTORIA MICHEAL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SAMUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as YOHANA HAPPINESS SAMUEL, now wish to be known and addressed as SAMUEL HAPPINESS ELISHA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>KAZE</p> <p>I, formerly known as LUKA RIFKATU ARUNG now wish to be known and addressed as KAZE RIFKATU LUKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHRISTOPHER</p> <p>I, formerly known as PLANGNAN JOSEPH DILTALK, now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTOPHER PLANGNAN MARY. All former documents remain valid. First Bank PLC , all concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SENDI</p> <p>I, formerly known as SENDI DARE SILAS now wish to be known and addressed as SENDI BULUS GOCHIN. All former documents remain valid. Diamond Access Bank PLC , all concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>BECKY</p> <p>I, formerly known as SABINA DANIEL SAMPATI now wish to be known and addressed as BECKY CHOJI CHU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DABOEM,</p> <p>I, formerly known as DABOEM, BAGALAMAK, now wish to be known and addressed as DABOEM, GABRIEL BAGALMAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HOSEA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAANRIBET DANIEL HOSEA, now wish to be known and addressed as HOSEA NAANRIBET DATOKHOM All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AKAWU</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVID TINAIYANG AKAWU, now wish to be known and addressed as AKAWU TINAIYANG DAVID. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SALEH</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAGOK VERONICA, now wish to be known and addressed as SALEH VERONICA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JOSEPHINE</p> <p>I, formerly known as PIUS JOSEPHINE NWAKAMA now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPHINE PIUS ANIMAN All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>BANGS</p> <p>I, formerly known as NGOK PLANGNAN PESIM, now wish to be known and addressed as BANGS PLANGNAN PATROBAS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DAMANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAMANG PAUL PANKYES, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMANG PANKYES VICTOR 3. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOSEPH</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSEPH RUTH, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH RUTH VOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JESSICA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JESSICA CLEMENT ENE, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY ENE JESSICA. Correct date of birth is 12/04/1985 not 12/08/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANBUT</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANBUT NIMYEL, now wish to be known and addressed as NANBUT EMMANUEL NIMYEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SINGNAP</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANSOH PYEJUL SINGNAP now wish to be known and addressed as SINGNAP PYEJUL NANSOH All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as LAR NANDAM DANBOYI, now wish to be known and addressed as LAR NANDAM WILLIAMS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>SANDASON</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAFARU ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as SANDASON JAFARU ADAMU. Correct date of birth is 04/04/2000 not 04/04/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOEL PAM GWOM, now wish to be known and addressed as JOEL GWOM CHUN. Correct date of birth is 17/02/1991 not 01/01/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BINZHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as BINZHI NANKPAK BARDE, now wish to be known and addressed as JBINZHI NANKPAK SHIBONG. . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>TALATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as REBECCA VONGJEN, now wish to be known and addressed as TALATU JAMES LAMDIYA. . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MOSES</p> <p>I, formerly known as AKWASHIKI PENINAH MOSES, now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES PENINAH RAKIYA. Correct date of birth is 14/04/195 NOT 14/04/1951. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PUTTU</p> <p>I, formerly known as YILSON NANKILING HENRIATHA, now wish to be known and addressed as PUTTU NANKILING ALFRED. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DABOER</p> <p>I, formerly known as DADORE DYELE, now wish to be known and addressed as DABOER SOLOMON DYELE Correct date of birth 17/10/1997 not 19/08/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>RUFAI</p> <p>I, formerly known as RUFAI SALIHU AHMED, now wish to be known and addressed as RUFAI SALIHU IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as KABIR MUSA MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA KABIRU MUHAMMAD. 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 JEPNUAN JUSTICE PATRICK, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM JUSTICE PATRICK. . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JUDITH</p> <p>I, formerly known as FYAKLEK JUDITH SALE, now wish to be known and addressed as JUDITH DALONG. . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>USAINI</p> <p>I, formerly known as USAINI RABIU, now wish to be known and addressed as USAINI RABIU INUWA. Correct date of birth is 01/01/2000 not 01/01/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>HELEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as HELEN DANLADI, now wish to be known and addressed as HELEN WUDIKWE GOTAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DINCI</p> <p>I, formerly known as DINCI SELCHANG, now wish to be known and addressed as DINCI JONAH TYEM. Correct date of birth is 04/07/1979. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MR. SHIKSHITDA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DEMA SHIKSHITDA MATTHEW, now wish to be known and addressed as MR. SHIKSHITDA MATTHEW DEMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YAMPIN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DUTSE NANBET, now wish to be known and addressed as YAMPIN NANBET DUTSE. Correct date of birth is 17/04/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GYANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as GYANG DALYOP DESMOND, now wish to be known and addressed as GYANG DALYOP UMARU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SANI</p> <p>I, formerly known as NASIRU SANI SANI, now wish to be known and addressed as SANI NASIRU SAMSUDEEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>FELICIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as FRANCA OPARA, now wish to be known and addressed as FELICIA EMMANUEL ENE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MOSES</p> <p>I, formerly known as MOSES KITAH WAKDUNG, now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES VIVIAN WAKDUNG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as NNONA PEACE CHIOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY PEACE CHIOMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SARAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as SARAH YEPIEW PIENSWANG, now wish to be known and addressed as SARAH YEPVIEW PETER All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DONGTIEM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALENG BIBIANA, now wish to be known and addressed as DONGTIEM BIBIANA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YERIMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as YUSUF CHRISTOPHER KUPSHAK, now wish to be known and addressed as YERIMA CHRISTOPHER YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MUHAMMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUHAMMED HAFSAT TANKO now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD HAFSA TANKO. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1987 not 14/02/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>RUTH</p> <p>I, formerly known as RUTH JALLO, now wish to be known and addressed as RUTH NAKWAP JALLO All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ANGHAI</p> <p>I, formerly known as SILAS HELEN MAGDALIN, now wish to be known and addressed as ANGHAI HELEN ERNEST All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YOHANA</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBRAHIM YOHANNA, now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANA JANG IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IMRANA</p> <p>I, formerly known as IMRANA SANI now wish to be known and addressed as IMRANA ALIYU SANI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BWAKAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as BWAKAT MALLAN TAJAN now wish to be known and addressed as BWAKAT TAJAN MALAN All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

NEWS

Kogi NSCDC partners KGIRS on security ethics, professionalism

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Command, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp, (NSCDC) is partnering with the state Internal Revenue Service, (KGIRS) on security ethics and professionalism to ensure safe and peaceful environment for citizens.

Speaking to mark the end of a four days training and symposium for efficient, effective and timely service delivery, the Kogi State Commandant of NSCDC, Suleiman Ibrahim Mafara admonished officers to be acquainted with the latest security tips to combat insecurity in the Country.

This, he said became necessary as the country was confronted with problem of insecurity ranging from armed robbery, banditry, terrorism.

According to the commandant, the participants should ensure that they put into practice what they have learnt in the training stressing that the command will always synergize with relevant agencies towards the protection of lives and properties in Kogi State. 'NSCDC as a reputable security agency in Nigeria is saddled with the responsibility of registering, licencing training and re-training of Private Guards Security Personnel (PGC) and also protecting our critical infrastructure for national development.

"Having had an explicit knowledge on security ethics and responsibilities, physical drills, forensic and psychological test, it is important to put into practice what has been learnt for protection as development of our Country especially now that we are being confronted with Challenges of insecurity" he added.

Meanwhile, in a bid to strengthen the fight against armed robbery, banditry, terrorism bedeviling the nation the Kogi State Commandant, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp, (NSCDC) Suleiman Ibrahim Mafara has admonished security agencies to shun unnecessary rivalry for the interest of the Country development.

Mafara made the appeal when the new Kogi Sector Commander, Federal Roads Safety Corp, (FRSC) Stephen paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

Mafara said the appeal became necessary as the fight against insecurity cannot be won when security operatives are at loggerhead against each other.

According to him, when there is robust relationship and synergy among security agencies, it causes panic



Audu

among criminal elements who intend to cause havoc or dis-stabilize the peace of the Country.

Mafara explained that the command has continued to synergize with sister security agencies to checkmate the activities of criminals adding that, through robust relationship, many criminals have relocated from Kogi State.

"It is high time all security operatives should shun unnecessary rivalry for the interest of our Country Nigeria. We are all one and are determined towards a crime free society.

"If criminals can identify all security operative as same and one, it causes confusion among them as an injury to one will be an injury to all. Our focus as one body should be on nation building and development and not unnecessary rivalry that will negate the call our father land" he echoed.

Earlier, the Kogi State Sector Commander of FRSC, Stephen Dalong in his remarks emphasized the need for a workable data for motorists, adding that, this will help to check the inflow of people and curb insecurity in Kogi State.

NPC seeks army support for census

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE National Population Commission (NPC) has sought the support of the Nigerian Army (NA) in conducting credible census in Nigeria.

The Chairman of the Commission, Honorable Nasiru Isa Kwarra made the appeal Tuesday 24 May 2022, when he led senior staff of the Commission on a courtesy call on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya at the Army Headquarters, Abuja.

Stating the purpose of his visit, Honorable Kwarra said he was at the Army Headquarters as part of the Commission's engagement of major stakeholders in the conduct of seamless census exercise and to create awareness on the forth coming National census slated for 2023.

He noted that the Census will unearth the

demographic data needed to address the security challenges bedeviling the nation. This, he said was in line with the vision of the Commission.

Honourable kwarra stated further that the Commission aspires to meet the data needs of all end users and ensure a robust and quality population for national transformation and global competitiveness.

He lauded troops of the NA for their effort in ongoing campaign against security challenges in the country.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya in his response, noted that adequate census data is essential for planning socio economic

development of the country. He added that the NA will not hesitate in providing security for government agencies to enable them perform their national obligations.

Present at the event were Principal Staff Officers of the Army Headquarters and Commissioners from the National Population Commission.

'Humanitarian Minister did not sponsor Sadique Abubakar'

By BULUS GAMBO

MINISTER of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajija Sadiya Umar Farouq did not use public funds to sponsor the campaign of Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar during the APC gubernatorial primaries in Bauchi State.

Sahara reports had on 24th May, 2020 alleged that a certain coalition of All Progressive Congress had accused the minister of using public funds to sponsor the campaign of Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar ahead of its party's gubernatorial primaries in Bauchi State.

Reacting over the report, the joint All Progressive Forum, Bauchi State chapter in a statement signed by its chairman, Alhaji Inuwa Saleh noted that "while not holding brief or appearing to take side with any candidate, for the sake of clarity on financial issues, it must be stated that Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar (rtd) is a seasoned and accomplished retired public servant and decorated



Farouq

not the first time accusation are being traded by various aspirants directly or through media houses online and offline or through support groups as well as other channels, in addition to the news media and romour-mills scenarios that often accompany campaign electioneering.

"However, we urge all candidates irrespective of party affiliations, not to see one another as threats or rivals but as people from one family-the Bauchi State family that forms a part of the larger Nigerian family".

Alhaji Saleh urged all "contestants in Bauchi State and their team, their media partners, support groups and the general public to maintain decorum in the way and Manner of electioneering, considering that there is life after politics and this is not a do or die matters".

"The chords of life and lengthiness that bind us together in Bauchi State is much stronger than the figments of attempted division," the statement added

The forum explained that, it is to be noted that this was

Bello approves appointment of 10 new Permanent Secretaries

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

state to enhance their performance and dedication to duty. According to the statement, those appointed as approved by the governor are Obadaki Zainab David - Adavi; Yakubu Dele Musa - Ankpa1; Andi Modupe Stella Maris - Ijumu; Audu

Alami - Idah, and Idoko Enejoh Celestine - Igalala-Mela Odolu.

Others are Moraiyewa Adeniyi Mathew - Kabba/Bunu; Isah Hussaini Sule - Kogi; Adegbola Isaiah Toluwa - Ogori/Magongo; Ajodo Benjamin Ike - Ibaji, and Razak Falilat - Yagba East.

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi state has approved the appointment of ten new Permanent Secretaries in the state civil service. A statement signed by the Head of Civil Service, Kogi State, Mrs. Hannah Odiyo said that the newly appointed officers would replace those who recently retired from the civil service.

The statement explained that the appointments were based on merit hence, must be seen as a call to service. The HoS enjoined the new appointees to live above board and continue to remain loyal to the administration in the course of their duties. Odiyo congratulated the new permanent secretaries and assured them of the administration's commitment to the welfare of workers in the state.

She appreciated the governor for his approval of the appointment and other laudable welfare packages for civil servants in the



Bello

Ameachi @ 57: You are a promoter of peace, justice

By PALANG KASMI

-Lalong

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has celebrated former Nigeria's Minister For Transport, Chibuikwe Rotimi Amaechi on the occasion of his 57th

birthday.

Governor Lalong while congratulating the former Minister in a statement described him as a peace maker and

commended him for devoting his life to the service of the nation over the years.

Lalong said based on his sterling qualities, Amaechi who is currently seeking to be President of Nigeria was qualified and has shown capacity, confidence and commitment in all assignments he has handled including as former Speaker, Governor and Minister of the country.

"I acknowledge your passion towards promoting peace, justice and fairness as well as supporting and protecting the interests of the ordinary people in the country".

"On the Occasion of your 57th birthday, I wish you many more years of God's blessings and divine protection, and pray to God to grant you your heart desires".

Governor Lalong equally prayed for the APC Presidential aspirant to get opportunities to render more service to Nigeria and humanity.



Lalong

NEWS

NSCDC calls for action against ammunition, arms trafficking

AHMED Audi, Commandant-General, (CG) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, (NSCDC) has called for more decisive action against smugglers of illegal arms and ammunition into the country.

Audi said this while receiving members of the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons on in Abuja.

He pledged support for the retrieval of illicit arms in circulation across the country and also attributed the nation's increased insecurity to the proliferation of illegal arms in the hands of unauthorised persons.

"There is a need for all security agencies to come together to fashion out new strategies to address this menace.

"We have to stop the smuggling of weapons and clean up the system by mopping up the ones already in circulation," he said.

The CG said that the Corps was ready to key into the programme of the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons for a secured Nigeria.

The Centre's National Coordinator, Maj.- Gen. Muhammed Dikko, described NSCDC as a frontline agency in internal security.



Audu

According to him, the proliferation of illicit arms is a huge challenge to the nation's collective security which must be tackled head on.

He commended the Corps' performance in the country and expressed satisfaction at the corps' recovery and handover of arms to the centre.

He also promised to continue its robust partnership with NSCDC and other security agencies to retrieve and stop the flow of weapons into the country. She said that since inception, many communities across the state were

provided with rice processing centres with processors, drying slab, solar powered boreholes, construction of market stalls and dry season rice demonstration plots among other achievements.

Philanthropist urges government to prioritise children's welfare

A philanthropist and President of Enemona Humanitarian Foundation, Ambassador Gabriel Onoja has called on government at all levels to prioritise

An unidentified person has been killed by gunmen in the process of Kidnap of a board member of the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission, Isah Salami, in Kogi State

He was reportedly kidnapped in the early hours of his way to the mosque in Ogaminana, Adavi Local Government Area of the state.

The kidnapping was confirmed by the Kogi State Police Command spokesman, SP William Aya, who also said disclosed that one person was killed in the process.

Reliable source said the kidnapers came with a vehicle and parked along the victim's residence and zoomed off with him around 5:00am.

One Ilyas Okaraga, who claimed to have witnessed the abduction disclosed to our reporter that another person was also shot by the gunmen.

"In an attempt to save him from the gunmen, a young man was also shot but was rushed to the hospital for treatment."

Our source also disclosed

Gunmen kill one, kidnap HPPADC board member

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

that Salami commissioned a water project in Adavi Local Government on Wednesday before he was kidnapped on Thursday morning.

Also, on Wednesday night, gunmen shot three occupants of a car along the Federal College of Education road in

Otite.

One of the occupants reportedly escaped by the whiskers, while two others were killed by the gunmen.

SP William Aya, however, said the state Commissioner of Police had drafted security men for rescue operation of Salami.



Alkali

Ombugadu emerges PDP governorship flag bearer in Nasarawa

A former Member of the House of Representatives for Akwanga, Nasarawa-Eggon and Wamba Federal Constituency, Hon. David Ombugadu has emerged as Nasarawa State's Governorship flag-bearer of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for 2023 general elections.

Ombugadu who is making it for the second time, succeeded in securing the mandate of the delegates of the party during its primary election held in Nasarawa headquarters of

From Mohammed Abdullahi, Keffi

Nasarawa Local Government Area after scoring a total votes of 247 to beat his co-contestant Major-General Nuhu Angbazo (RTD) who polled 203 votes.

Announcing the results, the returning officer for the election, Malam Musa Bature stated that Hon Ombugadu for scoring the highest number of valid votes cast during the election, is therefore returned elected and become the flag bearer of the party.

Responding, while speaking to newsmen immediately after the declaration of the results, Hon Ombugadu expressed his gratitude to God, the party's delegates, party officials and all those that have supported him in one way or the other to make his victory a realizable one.

The PDP flag bearer specifically expressed gratitude to his co-contestant, Gen. Nuhu Angbazo (RTD) for his rare demonstration of maturity and true spirit of sportsmanship by accepting the outcome of the election in good faith and congratulated him.

He however solicited for his continued supported and co-operation with that of all the party stakeholders and teeming supporters to enable him win and put the state on the path of peace, unity, prosperity and meaningful development.

In his acceptance of the outcome of the election, the co-contestant, major-General Nuhu Angbazo stated that he has accepted the verdict of the people in good faith knowing fully well that in every contest there must be a victor and a vanquish.

He then declared his readiness to join hands with him towards ensuring the victory of the party during the main election come

2023. Meanwhile, the third contender, Mr Labaran Maku has announced his withdrawal from the contest an hour after the commencement of the exercise.

Announcing his withdrawal while speaking with newsmen, Maku stated that he took the action after making consultations with members of his family, friends, political associates and many others.

When asked further for the reason of his action, the former minister and Deputy Governor stated that the action is known to him and would make it public in due course.

felicitated with Nigerian children on the occasion of the 2022 Children's Day celebration, described them as potential future leaders and the only hope for the nation to thrive.

Amb. Onoja in a statement through the Executive Director of the foundation, Williams Illah described the Nigerian children as exceptionally gifted, brilliant and resilient children who are destined for greatness.

Despite the various challenges faced by children in Nigeria ranging from poor parentage, lack of educational and medical amenities, the foundation extols the struggle for survival by the average Nigerian child.

Williams who said the foundation is concerned about the welfare of orphans and children from vulnerable homes in Nigeria, called on the Nigerian government to prioritize the welfare of children by

providing security, medical, educational and social security for them.

According to Amb. Onoja, providing the basic necessities of the Nigerian child in a secured environment is the surest route to a happy and fulfilling future for children.

The philanthropist therefore, called on the government at all levels to provide adequate protection for children against all forms of abuse as another means to fulfil their future.

On the issue of enactment of the Child Rights Act aimed at giving children a sense of belonging, Enemona Foundation appealed to the federal government to see that the Act is domesticated by all states and the FCT

"Let us all remain ever conscious of our duty to bring up our children with the right orientation and to bequeath to them a peaceful and prosperous society."

The statement charged children to be good ambassadors of the state and their parents urging them to shun evil vices and be of good behavior so that that they can have a brighter future

While assuring them that he shares their vision for a very bright future, the foundation urged the children to improve on their academic performance by preparing very well ahead of all examinations.

Parents, urged to dutifully play their own roles in providing the immediate needs for their children, adding that the future peace of the country is largely dependent on it.



Ayu



Bello

SUNDAY FEATURE

Making whistle-blowing policy work

CORRUPTION is a worldwide occurrence that cuts across societies, races, gender and social class; it has been identified as the major impediment to good governance, AFONNE EMMANUEL writes.

CURBING the spread of corruption has remained the major challenge of successive administrations in the country, thereby making anti-corruption fight a key item in individual and party campaign manifestos in Nigeria.

As such, diverse legal frameworks and institutions were established in Nigeria to fight corruption such as Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) by former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Nonetheless the powers given to ICPC and EFCC by the law, corruption persists in various sectors, giving room for the formation of more anti-graft policies.

Further to the existing anti-graft policies, President Muhammadu Buhari's administration introduced whistle-blowing policy which was announced in December 2016.

The overall goal is to roll out an all inclusive citizen-centric anti-corruption war using whistle-blowing policy to x-ray corruption and other wrongdoings with a compensation framework.

However, this policy like other policies has continued to suffer some setbacks.

A document, entitled: "Survey on five years of whistle-blowing policy in Nigeria" published by the African Centre for Media and Information Literacy with support from MacArthur Foundation is apt in determining the impact of the operationalisation of the whistle-blowing policy in addressing corrupt practices and wrongdoing.

The document notes "while the whistle-blowing policy has recorded some achievements in the last five years, its impact in curbing corruption and other corrupt practices in Nigeria has remained minimal.

"Brewed by legislative protection, limited funding, insufficient data source on progress made so far, lack of political will, limited knowledge of specific provisions in the policy among many state actors", have limited the potency of the policy.

Nevertheless, in spite of these challenges, the importance of the whistle-blowing cannot be



Bawa

overemphasised because of its impact on economic recovery, poverty reduction and insecurity bedeviling the country.

The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, once said that the federal government recovered more than N700 billion from its Whistle Blower Policy.

Ahmed said that the government was able to recover the huge amount of money from the activities of whistleblowers which came forward with actionable claims of corruption. "There were recoveries and the cleaning of the Integrated Personnel Payroll Information System (IPPIIS); stoppage of non-compliance with the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and violations of the procurement Act 2007," she said.

Ahmed said that at inception, there was widespread enthusiasm as Nigerians desired to fight corruption as they volunteered numerous actionable information or tips to anti-graft agencies for further investigations.

She, however, said that after sometime, interest in the implementation of the policy nosedived and the government was working to revive it while some Nigerians argue that the N700 billion recovered through the policy could fund the budget of two ministries and go a long way to reduce poverty.

In addition, the Chairman of EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, said that the introduction of the whistle-blower policy led to the

recovery of 43 million dollars by the federal government. Bawa said that "corruption remains one of the most pervasive and daunting challenges facing humanity as it deprives national governments of resources needed for sustainable development.

"Corruption facilitates Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from developing economies to developed countries thus weakening states' ability to deliver developmental expectations targeted at women and youths.

"Nigeria, like many other countries, has suffered from the damaging effects of corruption as the country has lost billions of dollars to foreign tax havens, stolen and expatriated by corrupt leaders and their foreign accomplices, including multinational companies".

But Mr Ezenwa Nwagwu, the Convener, Say No Campaign, notes that government's effort is not enough to get the desired

result in the fight against corruption in the country, adding that due to the human cost of corruption, it is in the interest of Nigerians to ensure that the fight against corruption succeeds.

"Whistle-blowing ordinarily is intended to prevent or expose corrupt activities of groups or individuals; the concomitant effect of successful whistle-blowing will save public fund or resources and ensure public office is not abused for private gain.

"The fund saved or prevented from being stolen can be deployed to provide social amenities which can help all things being equal in addressing economic development.

"Part of civic education and political mobilisation should include budget literacy, citizens ought to engage national and sub national budgets, government plans to spend money for us and detail this outlay in a proposal", he observes.

In his view, Dr Chido Onumah, Coordinator, African Centre for Media and Information Literacy, observes that whistle-blowing is a positive addition to the anti-corruption fight that if utilised properly could curb poverty and other issues of development.

He says the group works to create awareness about the policy because a lot of people do not know about the policy and government does not really pay much attention in terms of creating awareness around it.

"We believe that if the fight against corruption will succeed ultimately, it is a fight Nigerians need to identify with.

"Even though we have a government in place, citizens should also play their role, take

responsibility if they see something going wrong, they should take advantage of existing channels to report.

"They need to work collectively to raise their voices when those voices need to be raised to challenge the process and ensure that the right thing is done, this country belongs to all of us.

"Citizens should continue to report, continue to advocate for good governance, accountability and so on because that is the only way we can build a stable successful and prosperous nation," he advises.

Analysts believe that whistle-blowing systems can be more successful if a combination of reporting channels is provided directly to specific trusted persons either through telephone hotline or through an online channel.

They also advise that the authorities should make a point of communicating with whistle-blowers throughout the process of investigation to maintain trust because a failure to be responsive may give rise to a perception that the wrongdoing is being covered up.

In the light of the huge government fund discovered and recovered through the policy, experts believe that the whistle-blowing had been effective in combating corruption in the Nigerian public sector but suggest that more is needed to be done.

They called on the federal government to collaborate with the National Assembly to ensure that the proposed whistle-blowing and whistle-blower protection bill is passed and signed into law. (NANFeatures)

"Analysts believe that whistle-blowing systems can be more successful if a combination of reporting channels is provided directly to specific trusted persons either through telephone hotline or through an online channel. They also advise that the authorities should make a point of communicating with whistle-blowers throughout the process of investigation to maintain trust because a failure to be responsive may give rise to a perception that the wrongdoing is being covered up. In the light of the huge government fund discovered and recovered through the policy, experts believe that the whistle-blowing had been effective in combating corruption in the Nigerian public sector but suggest that more is needed to be done."

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Nigeria as haven of corruption

Continued from Page 10

while rendering their services.

Rising insecurity, ethnic cleansing and unemployment are still blamed on corruption. Moreover, systemic failure in healthcare delivery during this pandemic and leadership failure has been found to be engendered by corrupt practice. The CPI is widely known to be impartial, scientifically objective and recognized as the most accepted parameter for measuring corruption.

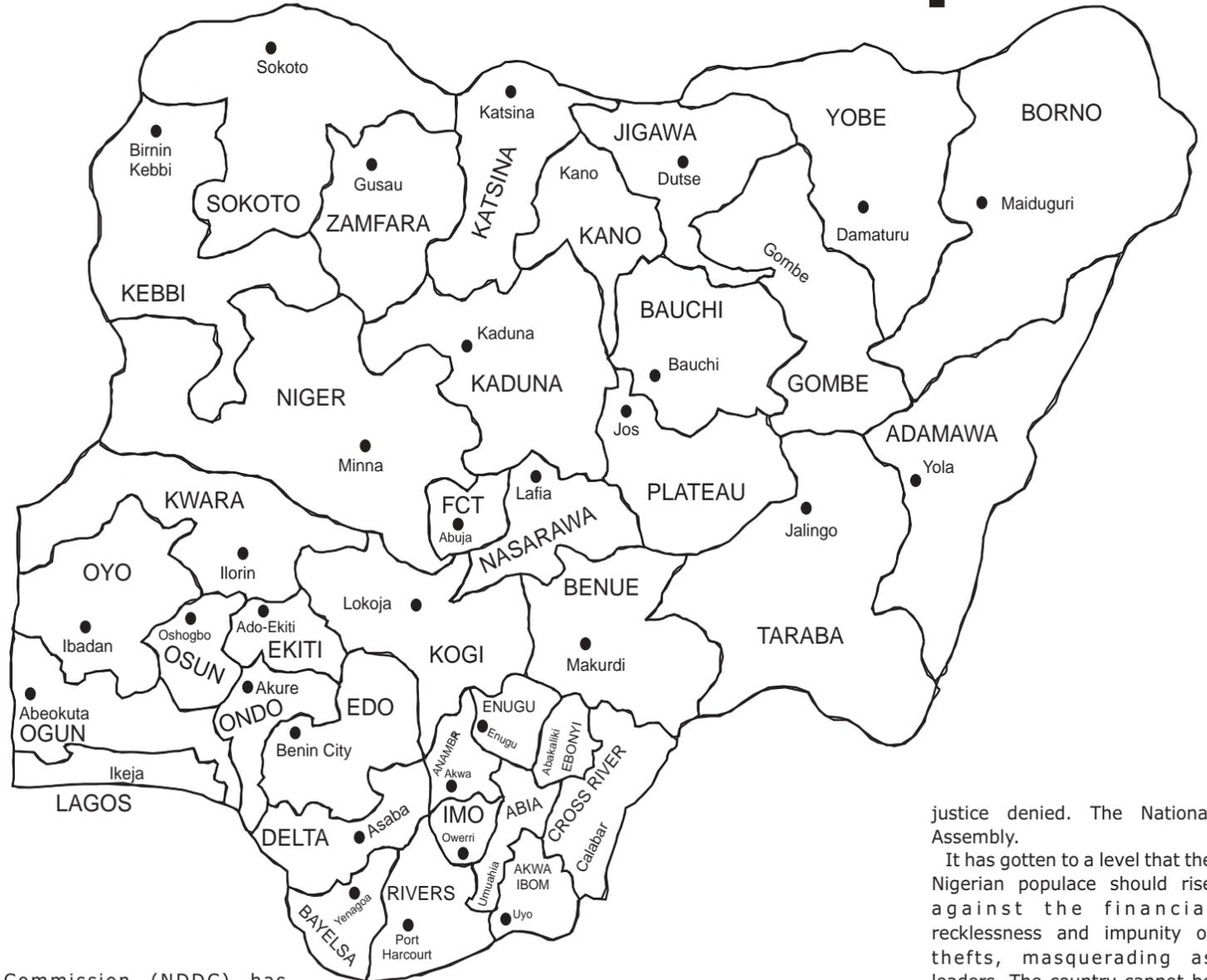
Clearly, the report shows corruption is still major challenge in Nigeria. Corruption is hindering the country's development, economic prosperity and it is responsible for deepening poverty in Nigeria. Corruption is destroying the country; insecurity persists because of corruption. Nepotism, a phenomenon that has gained greater traction in this Buhari era, is corruption. It is noteworthy that Buhari doesn't see nepotism as corruption too. This is a grave error of the country's value system.

The practice of alienating other ethnic groups from key leadership positions in the police, the military and the civil service amounts to a failure to observe federal character in the recruitment of personnel in the public service of the federation. Failure to appropriately remit revenue gathered by ministries, departments and agencies to the federation account is also corruption. Failure to punish corrupt officials or subject them to judicial prosecution is also corruption; just as duplication and padding of budgets by public servants are acts of corruption.

Apparently too, the anti-corruption campaign has been politicized such that it is seen as selective, against only those considered to be in opposition. People indicted for corruption, who joined the ruling party seemingly had their prosecution stalled. Moreover, some suspected corruption cases are covered up by slow and inefficient justice machinery. For instance, the prosecution of Buhari's first Secretary to the Government of the Federation has been going on for more than three years now. The case of corruption against Jonathan's National Security Adviser is still pending in court six years after.

Many other cases are being investigated for eternity. Government's failure to punish culprits is an act of corruption.

How to stop corruption should be a key question for Buhari's successor, given the present administration's low score on the issue. When governors see state money in their care as their money, it becomes difficult to check corruption. That is why the Niger Delta Development



Commission (NDDC) has become a haven for corruption. The same goes for the NNPC" behind the clamour for and against the removal of petroleum subsidy, is corruption. It is corruption that has kept the refineries with the government despite their lack of functionality. The Federal Government has no business keeping refineries. It would seem the refineries are only being used to siphon the government's funds into private pockets.

It is a sad commentary about a country called the giant of Africa. Corruption appears in many forms. It has been identified as bribery, extortion, illegal use of the public property for private use. Over and under-invoicing, payment to ghost workers and pensioners; payment for goods not supplied or services not rendered. Underpayments of exports and imports have been categorized as corruption. Other forms of corruption are purchase of goods at inflated prices, fraud and embezzlement; misappropriation of funds and assets; court decisions awarding damages in excess of injury suffered.

In Nigeria today, corruption is retarding long-term growth, as well as foreign and domestic investment. It contributes to capital flight, promotes runaway inflation and the depreciation of

the national currency. Since government has made corruption endemic, only a visionary leader can stem it. President Muhammadu Buhari should strive to improve his government's record of corruption if he wants to be seen as visionary. Corruption makes Nigeria vulnerable to secession

and disintegration. The earlier government tames it the more stable will the country be.

All anti-graft agencies should investigate allegations of corruption leveled against politicians, public office holders and civil servants thoroughly and conscientiously, so as to leave no loophole for escape during prosecution. Justice delayed is

justice denied. The National Assembly.

It has gotten to a level that the Nigerian populace should rise against the financial recklessness and impunity of thefts, masquerading as leaders. The country cannot be continuously be mocked amongst the comity of nations as a haven of corruption. Yet, the anti-graft agencies, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Crime Practices Commission (ICPC) seems to be in slumber. Government on its part should strive to strengthen these agencies with a view to nipping in the bud this rascality.

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METRO-FOCUS

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

Random creation of local markets

The word market means different things to many people. But market in a simple term means a place where goods and services are bought and sold, usually outdoor activities and mostly crowded.

The choice of sitting the Jos Terminal Market in the heart of the city was to serve as the centre point where traders and buyers from different ethnic nationalities and locations come together to transact business.

It was an ultra-modern market, known to be the best and largest indoor market in West Africa. It became the economic hub for the sale of all sorts of commodities including cosmetics, clothes, grains etc.

The market was the pride of the state and the nation, not until the unfortunate fire incident that burned down the market in the year 2002.

However, many traders were displaced as a result of the inferno to various local markets within Jos North and environs.

This includes Katako Market, JMDB Market, Satellite Market, Rukuba Road Market, Laranto Market, Gada Biu Market, Abuja Market, Abattoir Market, Chorbe Market, Kugiya Market, Dadin Kowa Market, State Low Cost Market, Hwolshe Market, Angwan Rukuba Market, Fillin Ball Market, Farin Gada Market, Mama Tagun Market, Gangare Market, Yan Doya Market, Terminus Roundabout Market, Tina Junction Market, Opposite Mr Bigg's, Market, Kwararafa Market, Bukuru Market, Building materials Vegetables Market, Sabon Barki Market, Terminus Market along Ahmadu Bello way, etc.

METRO FOCUS observed that the rate at which local market are springing up within the metropolis is becoming worrisome. Markets are now littered within the metropolis, making the city centre congested without free flow of movement for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Our correspondent went round the city to sample the opinions of citizens and traders to the effect of random creation of market that have made the metropolis congested. It was gathered that



some traders/hawkers said that the reason why they prefer hawking within the city centre because, it is where the major business activities take place.

While some are of the opinion that the state capital has no bigger market that would accommodate these traders that are scattered all over the Local Government Area. Despite efforts by successive governments to rebuild the burned down Jos Terminal Market which used to accommodate most of the traders, It is yet to see the light of the day.

Mr.Sulieman Bako, a business man said that over the years, the population of Plateau State has increased and the local markets within the state capital cannot accommodate the increasing population of traders/hawkers, which is why the city centre is over crowded with too many sellers and buyers transacting business.

It was also revealed that most traders and hawkers that are scattered within the metropolis are not residents of Jos. They are mostly from the neighbouring



states and they do come and transact their business and later return to their place of abode.

Miss Rose Adekunle said that she prefers to buy her goods from the roadside traders because theirs is cheap and it saves her time from going into the market to make purchases. In this regard, some citizens are of the opinion that the government needs to organise the city centre by providing enabling environment for traders to sell their goods.

Although, the size of the market is determined by the number of buyers and sellers but not in an unauthorized place within the metropolis that is causing traffic jam

Recently, the Plateau State Government has consented to reconstruct the burned down Jos Main Market to the tune of



N9.4bn, 20 years after the market was gutted by a mysterious inferno. Goods of traders worth billions of naira were destroyed within the twinkle of an eye and since then, the market was left in ruins.

Kudos to the government for this giant step to rebuild the market. But citizens are pleading for speedy action to complete the project within the shortest time possible. This would enable traders to have an



SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG VISITS NEW TETFUND BOSS

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently paid a courtesy call on the new Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Abuja



Arch Echono, TETFund boss (right) presenting souvenir to Governor Lalong



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (left) signing the visitors register while the Executive Secretary, TETFund watches



A cross section of officials that accompanied the Governor



Governor Lalong, TETFund boss and others listening to comments from one of the management staff of the TETFund

NCPC BOSS ON HAND TO WELCOME ADAMAWA PILGRIMS

Nigeria Christian Pilgrims Commission, (NCPC) Executive Secretary, Rev. Yakubu Pam recently in Rima to welcome pilgrims from Nigeria, Adamawa State on Holy Pilgrimage



NCPC boss (2nd right) in a photograph with officials on arrival



Another holy site visited by the Adamawa State Christian Pilgrims



St. John's Church in Vatican, the first church built by the Roman Emperor who reigned between 306 - 337 AD visited by the pilgrims



Pilgrims from Adamawa State in a photograph with the NCPC boss and officials

NEWS

NGO, FRSC sensitise road users for safety

From
**AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja**

AN NGO, Ayo Adun Foundation, (AAF) and Millennium Christian Ministry in collaboration with the Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC), on Tuesday sensitised road users on the need to obey traffic rules and regulations to ensure safety and reduce crashes on highways

Speaking at the event tagged: "Road Users Sensitization Campaign" in Lokoja, the Executive Director of AFF, Mrs. Mercy Adun, said the sensitization campaign was organized in honor of her husband, Pastor Ayo Adun, who was a victim of road crash.

She explained that her husband passed-on on December 26, 2021, as a result of a fatal accident he had on May 23, 2021, when his vehicle ran into a stationed trailer at night with no caution signs

She noted that the husband sustained brain injury from the crash which they battled for seven months before he eventually passed-on December 26, 2021.

"As the founder of Millennium Christian Ministry, my husband touched many lives, his driving force was affecting and impacting lots of lives during his lifetime

"We are carrying on with his vision of impacting and affecting lives positively by shining the light of God in the dark areas of society," she said

In his lecture, entitled: "Road Users Sensitization on Safety", FRSC Sector Commander, Kogi State, CC Stephen Dawubung, commended the foundation for the initiative, saying, and "safety is a shared responsibility"

Represented by Route Commander, Ayodeji Oluwadunsin, the sector commander reiterated the FRSC's mandate to ensuring sustained public enlightenment and stakeholders' engagement to ensure safety on roads

He commended the foundation for dimming it fit to organize such laudable program for the road users, as contributing their quota of corporate social responsibility to the society

He emphasized that driving required total concentration, avoid distraction, saying until we know this and do it, it will be difficult to ensure safety on highways

According to him, there are three major causes of road accidents which include Human, Environmental and Mechanical factors, but there is no crash on highways that does have human input

He noted that causes of road crashes include: over confidence, over speeding, distraction, overloading, lane indiscipline, route violation, bad tyres and driving under the influence of alcohol, among others



Oyeyemi

He, therefore advised road users to ensure absolute compliance to all traffic rules and regulations to ensure safety on roads

He further urged motorists to avoid night journey by all means for their own safety, stressing that travel at night should not be promoted

In his goodwill message, Mr. Nathaniel Abaniwo, Coordinator of Kogi NGO's Network (KONGONET), commended AAF for the initiative, and urged them to approach the objective with all level of seriousness and dedication

He thanked AAF for giving him the opportunity to be part of the event, while assuring the foundation of the total support of KONGONET in the state

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of road safety items such as caution signs, reflectors for cars, tricycles and trucks, to FRSC

for onward distribution to road users.

Ayo Adun Foundation is a none profit organization created in memory of late Pastor Ayo Adun, a visionary and the Senior Pastor of Millennium Christian ministry Lokoja.

Some of the core aims of the foundation is to shine the light of God in the dark areas of society using love and social welfare as a major tool, to change and affect lives positively regardless of race, gender or religion and to showcase the love of God to the society through empowerment and skill acquisition

At the Ayo Adun foundation our driving force is love and this is in line with the teachings and the life of Pastor Ayo Adun, he was a selfless man filled with so much love for God and for humanity and this foundation is dedicated to keeping his legacy alive.

THE Rector of Kogi State Polytechnic Dr. Salisu Ogbo Usman has again been presented with an award of excellence by the Polytechnic's School of Applied Sciences for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of Education and service to humanity

The Dean, School of Applied Sciences, Mr. Sampson Sunday Ikusika who led members of staff of the School to the Rector's office on Thursday, to present the award said, the gesture was due to the recognition of Dr. Usman's meritorious and selfless service to the advancement of the School

Dr. Makolo Daniel who is the Head, Department of Science Laboratory Technology, also presented a special gift to the Rector on behalf of the Department for his immense contributions towards the department's successful Accreditation exercise

He added that the Polytechnic has witnessed conspicuous developmental

Rector bags award of excellence

From **AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja**

that he was impressed by his commitment

The Deputy Rector, Dr. Kehinde Felix Lamidi and a Chief Lecturer in the School of Applied Sciences, Mr. Innah Peter Ebiloma, who spoke in turns, urged members of staff to be selfless and contribute their beats accordingly while discharging their duties

They added that the developmental strides in the institution cannot be concealed and prayed for more wisdom and strength for the Rector and his management team to do more

The highlights of the event was the presentation of souvenir by the Rector to the School of Applied Sciences

All Principal Officers of the Polytechnic and the senior members of staff of the School of Applied Sciences were in attendance.

Sickle cell: Expert calls for early screening

PROF. Obiageli Nnodu, the Director, University of Abuja Centre of Excellence for Sickle Cell Research and Training, has called for early screening of new born babies against Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

She made the call on Thursday in Abuja. She added that, early screening would help to reduce morbidity and mortality among SCD patients.

She said "when babies with sickle cell disease are identified early and given prophylaxis, it will go a long way in checking infections.

"The parents of such babies will then be educated on what to do, in

addition to good nutrition and be hydrated well, so that they live healthy lives."

Nnodu announced an upcoming Sickle Pan Africa Research Consortium NigEria Network (SPARC-NET) meeting to review what had been done in the past four years.

She added that the gathering would also review the implementation of a science research project on hydroxyurea utilisation on new born screening.

The director also said that the meeting would focus on the study of malaria prophylaxis and drugs used in the treatment of patients.

She said "we know that

new born babies screening is very necessary. When babies with disease are identified early, they will be given prophylaxis for infection and that will go a long way to reduce morbidity."

She explained that the intervention was being used in high income countries to check morbidity and mortality "and we intend to see how such evidence can apply in the country.

"We have the tools and strategies to ensure that babies born with the diseases are discovered early and be saved.

Facebook posts: Gombe court grants Bala Sani bail

WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

JUSTICE Abdulhamid Yakubu of Gombe State High Court 3, has granted one Bala Sani bail over Facebook posts against the Gombe state government.

Bala Sani was arrested by the Police in Abuja on March 17th and taken to Billiri Correctional facility (Prison) in Billiri Local Government Area of Gombe State before, he was charged to court on the 19th of the same month.

He was later arraigned in court on the 19th of the same month on charges of posting injurious falsehood and inciting public disturbance over an event that happened in October last year. Sani was later relocated to Gombe Prison after he was charged to court for smooth trial and had been there before he was granted bail today,

24/04/2022.

Though Bala was granted bail at the Magistrate Court with stringent conditions which he was unable to meet, his defense counsel, Haruna Lukas, filed a suit reapplying for the bail and a review of the bail conditions before the state High Court so that his client can enjoy his freedom while the trial lasts.

While granting the application, Justice Abdulhamid asked Sani to provide two sureties; one of which must be a blood relation while the second must be someone with good standing in the society and must come from his Akko Local Government Area of the state.

Bala Sani's lead counsel, Luka Haruma, who spoke through Stephen Onimisi, after the sitting, said the court ruling is another

testament to the fact that the rights of human should be respected.

He told reporters that, "The constitution provides for the fundamental rights and liberty of every citizen and where these rights are being hijacked or trampled upon, it is the responsibility of the court to ensure that these rights are enjoyed by every citizen".

According to him, "Today, the bail conditions have been reviewed and he has been granted liberal terms: And we hope to fulfill those conditions and help him to regain his freedom."

He said every citizen has the right to freedom of expression adding that Bala Sani was simply expressing his rights via a post on the Facebook on a Gombe State Government project in October last

year.

He also explained that the charges against Bala Sani were similar to the charges against Senator Danjuma Goje's social media aide, Adamu Yayari, which was also tried at a Magistrate Court in Gombe recently.

He described the charges as politically related cases. He stated that, Bala Sani's case for instance, may be described as trump up charges. But since the matter is still before a competent court of law, it is left for the court to decide on the matter".



Yahaya

NEWS

Lalong supports improvement of girls education

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has stressed his commitment towards the smooth execution of the Adolescent Girl Initiative for Learning Empowerment (AGILE) in his state.

He stressed his commitment to the project Friday, May 27, 2022 at Government House Rayfield Jos, to a World Bank Team who paid him a visit.

AGILE is a World Bank Funded project that targets adolescent girls with a mission to empower them educationally and economically to achieve their future, The NIGERIA STANDARD reports.

Lalong said he has a passion for the education of the girl child and works on addressing challenges of less privileged groups recalling how he was the second to sign the Child Rights Act (CRA) into Law over 10 years ago while he was the speaker of the State House of Assembly, stressing further that he had also recently signed the Violence Against Persons Prohibition VAPP Laws in his state.

Excited that the WB Project Team is hosting its meeting in Jos, the headquarters of his state, Lalong said he has always encouraged and spearheaded the cause of women, girls and less privileged groups especially in Northern Nigeria".

"If you educate a woman, you are empowering the nation, that is why you cannot restrict my passion for education of the girl child".

"Some of us did not come from privileged homes, we came from humble backgrounds and it is through interventions like this that made us become governors", Lalong said.

He appreciated the WB for their intervention in his state and the strong commitment to work by the stakeholders in his state.

He however called on key stakeholders executing the project in his state to put more efforts on the project so that other States will emulate.

He also assured that he will continue to do more on issues of girls, women and less Privilege especially those from rural areas for the nations development.

Speaking at the forum, Aisha Mohammed Garba, Team leader of the World Bank Team, and Leader of AGILE project said the project is a girls empowerment project that focuses on empowering adolescent girls who are to transit from primary to secondary school but due to some constraints, their transition and completion rate is very low in Nigeria.

She said the Project is in 7 States of the North West and North East while Plateau State is the only state in the North Central benefitting from the project.

She said they are on a

supervision mission and working visit to Plateau to assess the structures and ongoing projects saying the state Government's commitment is the reason why Plateau is the only North Central State benefitting.

"We had fruitful discussions reviewing all the projects spread across the country by our team and we also looked at the challenges affecting the project", Garba said.

She said since they started the full implementation the project in the state about three months ago, the activities have been going well.

"Over the last two to three months, since the approvals, we have started alot of programs in Plateau in the area of construction and school grants", said Garba.

A representative of the Federal Government (FG), and Programme Coordinator AGILE, Mrs. Amina Buba Haruna, said they have studied and seen how efficient Plateau is concerning the project which has resulted to a lot of process.

She said the FG is willing to work with the state and assured that they are interested in the project especially on how adolescent girls are enrolled, go to school to get education, and how the poorest of the poor are given conditional cash transfer to allow their daughters to finish schools.

5 cybercrime suspects in Bauchi Police net

From ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Police Command has arrested five cybercrime suspects popularly known as Yahoo Yahoo undergoing training in Bauchi State. The Police Public Relations Officer of the Command, SP Mohammed Ahmed Wakil stated that the Command acted on verified intelligence which led to the arrest of the suspects in the Bauchi metropolis.

According to Wakil, "The operatives of the State Intelligence Bureau (SIB), Bauchi Command acted on a verified intelligence on 20th May 2022, burst into an apartment located at Kirfi Road, GRA, Bauchi, where a training centre was established for youths who want to venture into internet crime (yahoo-yahoo) by one Emmanuel Saleh alias Wizblaq, 22 yrs old of Rafin-Zurfi, Bauchi."

The Police Spokesman said that investigation has confirmed that the principal suspect, Emmanuel Saleh and members of the syndicate targeted foreign women under a proxy server, hacked by spoofing the victim's email account/website which makes it possible to carry out variations in the legitimate email of the victims to fool the victim and gain access to the accounts, calendar and data.

Wakil said during the investigation, the suspects confessed to the crime.

He gave the names of the suspects arrested in the exotic apartment as Emmanuel Saleh alias Wizblaq (the gandleader),



IG Alkali

Matthias Akronyi alias Mad Kid, 20 yrs 'm' of Block 24, 82 Division's Army Barracks, Enugu, Patience Nuhu, 21yrs (female) of Rafin-Zurfi, Bauchi, Bulus Haruna, 18 yrs old 'm' of Rafin-Zurfi, Bauchi and Kingsley Simon, 19 yrs old 'm' of Rafin-Zurfi, Bauchi.

Wakil said that that the proceeds of crime items recovered from the residential apartment turned training centre as exhibits include four laptops, one television set, four sound systems, brand new power generator, seven plastic chairs, one office chair, musical keyboard and fridge.

The Commissioner of Police directed that the suspects be charged to court as soon as the investigation is concluded.

He advised the citizens of Bauchi State to take note of the precautions to

mitigate against cybercrime to include, "being careful of the information shared online (e.g pet names, date of birth, etc). Don't click on anything in an unsolicited email/SMS asking to update or verify your account information, carefully examine the email address, URL, and spelling used in any correspondence, set up two factors (or multi-factor) authentication on any account that allows it and be careful what you download. Never open an email attachment from someone you don't know and to verify payment and purchase requests in person, if possible; or by calling the person to make sure it is legitimate.

Change of Name

GYANG
I, formerly known as **GYANG JULIANA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GYANG JULIANA BULUS** All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

OBAHOR
I, formerly known as **OBAHOR FAMOUS OMOJEWI, OBAHOR FAMOUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OBAHOR FAMOUS OMOJEWI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

JOY
I, formerly known as **FAITH EZE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JOY PROMISE NANKO** All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

MAMUDA
I, formerly known as **MAMUDA ABASS HAKILU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MAMUDA HAKILU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

SHETU
I, formerly known as **MWANRET YOHANA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHETU MWANRET YOHANA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

PHILEMON
I, formerly known as **BELEN PHILEMON RADEN, PHILEMON RADEN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PHILEMON LE'AN RADEN** All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

DALYOP
I, formerly known as **TIMOTHY NORO MWANTIYI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DALYOP NORO MWANTIYI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

VENCHANG
I, formerly known as **FEVOR VENCHANG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EMMANUEL NANSIK VENCHANG**. Correct date of birth is 13/11/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

PWAJOK
I, formerly known as **CHRISTOPHER PAM DUNG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PWAJOK PAM MATHEW**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

LAWAL
I, formerly known as **LAWAN BINTA, BINTA LAWAL ADAM, ADAM FADIMATU LAWAL and LAWAL FADIMATU ADAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAL ADAMU FADIMATU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

Incumbent governor sweeps primaries

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

STATE delegates of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Nasarawa State have given the nod to Governor Abdullahi Sule of the State to re-contest his position come 2023 governorship election.

The Governor secured a total number of 696 votes to beat his only female contestant Dr Fatima Abdullahi the Ex-wife of Senator Abdullahi Adamu scored three votes.

The returning officer for the election stated that the governor having scored the highest number of valid votes cost he is therefore returned elected.

Responding after the

announcement of the result, Governor Sule thanked the delegates, officials and major stakeholder of the party for the confidence respond on him and pledged to re-dedicate himself towards the overall development of the state.

He also thanked his contestant for her rare display of maturity and decorum in accepting the outcome of the election in good faith and pledged to ensure inclusiveness in the discharge of his responsibilities

Sule further assured his determinants to pursue meaningful developmental strides that would take the state to the next level of peace, unity and prosperity for the betterment of all and

In her remarks, Dr Fatima Abdullahi Congratulated the Governor for the victory and assured him of her support to ensure victory during the main elections.

She stated that as a true demrant and lover of peace and development she has accepted the outcome of the election in good faith in the spirit of sportsmanship.

Ourman reports that the election which took place at the City Hall Conference in Lafia the state's capital was attended by delegates from all the 13 local government areas of the state and the exercise was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner.

SUNDAY FEATURE

The truth about religious intolerance in Nigeria

The recent incident in Sokoto which has attracted serious backlash and disaffection from within and outside the country is extremely unfortunate. The spillover effects which has been generating ever since need proper and careful handling by all and sundry in order not to escalate into unpleasant situations with irreparable consequences. Raymond Oise-Oghaede writes.

HERE is no other word that could better be ascribed to the heinous act than "intolerance"; and, the misconceptions and misinterpretations that a lot of people have been disseminating around are not helping matters. It is in view of the foregoing that this review is necessitated as a way to pacifying the already tensed atmosphere and proffering suggestions to preventing re-occurrence of such in our societies. Therefore, the aim of this write up will not be to apportion blames in order not to aggravate the situation and prejudice the case in court; but, it will not also be silent or fail to state it in categorical terms that the lynching of the victim for whatever reason is barbaric, callous and unlawful; and, such should not be condoned in any sane society, to say the least.

Our country is operating a democratic system of government with the "rule of law" as one of its cardinal principles; therefore, it is expected that the citizenry shall be guided by the law. There is no place in any subsisting law of this country where it is provided that anyone has the right or authority to take laws into his hands. More so, Section 33 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) states it clearly that "every person has the right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria". Be that as it may, what happened in this circumstance could be said to be an aberration from the law of the land. This is totally unacceptable; and, such should be "firmly condemned" in all its ramifications. The authorities must rise up to the occasion towards ensuring that the needful is done to serve as deterrence to others. However, it need be quickly mentioned that those that have been arrested and charged for the death of the victim are to be presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction as provided in Section 36 (5) of the same Constitution under reference. In this situation, the burden of proof shall be on the prosecution; and, they are expected to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt.

Now that the incident has happened and there is nothing we can do to bring back the dead to life; our best option would be to wait for the outcome of the court proceedings hoping that justice would be served at the end of the day. At this stage, it is very important to delve extensively into the issue of "religious intolerance" being the major revolving factor of this incident. "Religion", according to the Oxford Languages Dictionary, is simply defined as "the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods". It could also be put differently, as a particular system of faith and worship. In the Nigerian settings, the three major systems of faith and worship are Christianity, Islam and the African tradition or others. Majority of the people "do not joke" with their religion; and, as such, it will be safe to say that Nigerians, to a large extent, are "very religious". Therefore, it is not surprising that Section 38 (1) of the Nigerian Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. However, such freedom is to the extent of allowing every citizen to choose, decide, manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance. As a result of this provision, no one can compel you to practice any religion against your wish; and, no one can deprive you from practicing the belief or religion of your choice.

The above provision notwithstanding, it is very important to quickly mention that, the freedom does not "permit" anyone to "abuse" or "disparage" other people's religious beliefs or inclination; because, in the face of the law, no one religion is taken as being superior to the other(s); and, that is why the country is termed as a SECULAR STATE. It is in recognition of this basic fact that the people are expected to co-exist peacefully and

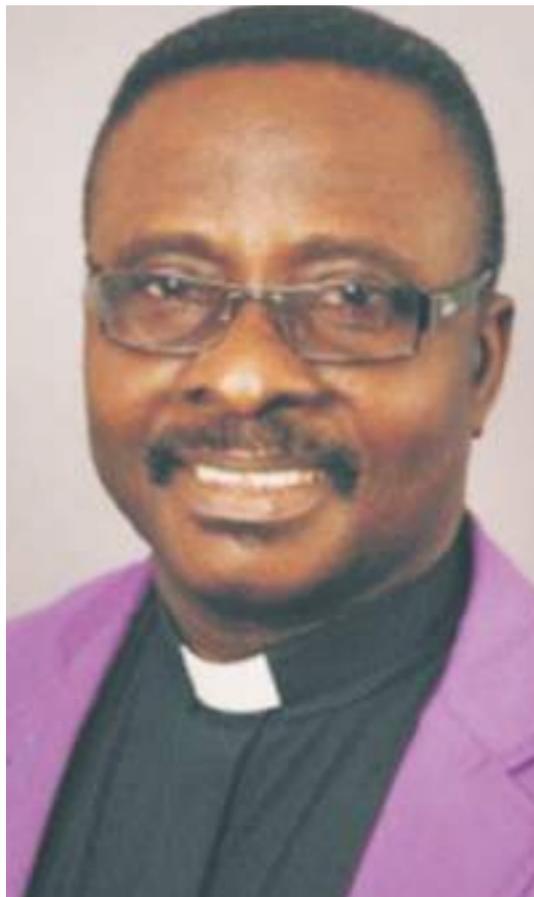


Sultan, Abubakar

harmoniously in every nook and cranny of the country regardless of whichever religion they practice. Consequently, there is expectations of high level of tolerance amongst the people in order to make the coexistence to remain meaningful, cordial and mutually beneficial. It is only in circumstances where this high level of TOLERANCE breaks down and slide into a state of INTOLERANCE that such ugly incidents like what happened in Sokoto rear their ugly heads.

From the foregoing, it is obvious that the minimum requirement for living together happily and coordinately, is TOLERANCE. If we tolerate one another, then there will be MUTUAL RESPECT for our different styles and modes of worshipping God (whilst also noting to accommodating and respecting the positions of those that does not even subscribe to the existence of God). The most important thing here is that every man has got the right to his beliefs and unbelief. As such, you are free to propagate your beliefs to high heavens (provided that in doing so, the rights and sensibilities of others are not encroached); and, in the same vein, you can also hold onto your unbelief (provided such is also done without trampling on the beliefs and sensibilities of others). You are free to solicit and encourage other people to embrace your religion; but, in doing so, there shouldn't be any form of compulsion or intimidation in your mode of trying to convert them. Furthermore, as a traditionalist, a Christian or a Muslim today, you can freely convert to any religion tomorrow; because, the choice is yours.

Looking at it holistically, Nigerians could be said to be highly tolerable in terms of religious differences. There is hardly any community that you go across the length and breadth of the country that you would not find people of different beliefs living and doing businesses together. As you see different denomination of churches on almost every streets; so also you see mosques of different sizes along the same stretches. As, you hear melodious songs and praises coming from loud speakers of churches; so also you hear the Muslims calling for prayers five (or in some cases six) times daily in the same manner without anyone complaining against one another. The Traditionalists and others are not left out as they also go about their worships and businesses without condemnations from the



CAN President, Ayokunle

Muslims or the Christians. So, to a very large extent, it is safe to say that religious tolerance is prevalent in the country.

In the dim and distant past, some missionaries and religious bodies such as the Methodists, the CMS, the Roman Catholics, the Anglicans, the Ansar-Ud-Deen, the Ahmadiyyahs, the Zumratul Islamiyyahs, the Nawair-Ud-Deen and others, through their educational institutions played a pivotal role in instilling religious tolerance amongst their pupils/students and the generality of their members. Some other societies and organizations such as the Eckankar, the Rosicrucian Order, the Freemasonry, the ROF to mention but a few, also contributed their quota to sustaining high level of tolerance amongst the different religion and beliefs. My experience during secondary school days at Ansar-Ud-Deen Grammar School, Randle Avenue, Suru-Lere, Lagos (a Muslim school) in the late 70s and early 80s is still fresh in my memory. The school could be likened to a training ground where religious and ethnic tolerance were not relegated in the cause of our academic pursuit. Despite the fact that the student population was made up of people of different religion and ethnic backgrounds; we co-existed peacefully, harmoniously and happily like children from the same parents (though, we were not also totally immuned from the natural traits of youthful exuberance). Day in day out, we were never tired or bored of praying according to the Islamic doctrine during the morning devotions. Though, the Christians also have dedicated days for "Fellowships"; there was never a time where we experienced religious friction throughout my stay in that school. The atmosphere was always devoid of any form of discriminations; and, it was only during Jummah prayers on Fridays and the dedicated days for our Bible fellowships that you are able to distinguish the Muslims from the Christians amongst us. It is therefore, not surprising to me that the solid foundation of religious tolerance that was laid for us since then has been very crucial in my unblemished and unbiased relationship with people of other faiths and beliefs till date.

The situation was not different during my sojourn in Jos, Plateau state where the Muslims and the Christians lived together happily and peacefully in the hostels and the surrounding

environments. I was always thrilled and extremely proud of the state and her people whenever I walked through Adebayo Street in the Terminus area of the city to behold a church and a mosque sharing the same fence. These two places of worships (as I was rightly informed) had co-existed for several decades without any form of conflicts or disagreements. The excellent care and wonderful treatments that the then Deputy Governor of the state, Alhaji Halilu Bala Usman (a core Muslim) and other staff of the office accorded us (my humble self and two other Christian Corps Members) throughout our service (NYSC) year will remain indelible in my heart.

So, it becomes unbearably worrisome and saddening whenever incidents like this happen, and some people are always quick to jump into conclusion that a particular set of people and their religion are scheming to eradicate or wage war against believers of other faiths or religions. We have come a long way together and it will be a big shame if mutual suspicion is the order of the day amongst us at this time and age. In a country with over 200 million people, it is natural to be experiencing conflicts of interests once in a while; but, that does not mean that we should now forget the positive aspects of our togetherness and set the country on fire for the acts committed by a few. If you take a closer look at the situation, you will observe that the tendencies to committing such heinous act(s) in the guise of protecting one's religious beliefs and inclinations are mostly dependent on the environment and the level of tolerance of the people involved. In an environment where the attributes of "fanaticism" and "extremism" are prevalence, the tendencies for such incident to occur will be very high than in other areas where those attributes are very low or non-existent. Interestingly, such people are not restricted to a particular religion or ethnic group; but, they cut across all stratifications.. Thus, there are instances where some Christians and Muslims see and treat their fellow Christians and Muslims as "sinners" and "infidels" respectively. So, the issue of intolerance is not always a case of Muslims against Christians and others, or Christians against Muslims and others; but, instances abounds where they are Muslims against fellow Muslims and, Christians against fellow Christians.

What the above means is that the freedom of expression is to the extent that it does not cause a threat or infringement to other people's rights. It means that, no one is permitted to express himself in a manner that will constitute an abuse to the rights (including religious right) of others. So, we should always be mindful of our utterances on issues pertaining to religion because we never can say when such will provoke those that does not have the spirit of tolerance (across all the religious beliefs) to taking irrational action(s).

From the foregoing, there is no gainsaying the fact that religious intolerance is a plague that we should all join hands together to eradicate from our societies to forestalling such heinous incident that happened in Sokoto. This is very important because, even if justice is eventually served against the perpetrators for taking laws into their hands; the life or lives that have been lost will be irreparable.

It will also be in the interest of peaceful co-existence if we should all start restraining ourselves from doing anything that could be seen or taken as denigrating other people's religion; and, which are capable of degenerating into unfortunate situations.

The governments at all level should put machineries in place towards ensuring that all identified factors that could lead to religious intolerance are tackled comprehensively. Any such message(s) of incitements or abuse by anyone against any religion should be viewed seriously and be met with appropriate punishments; and, anyone or group of people that take laws into their hands as a result of intolerance should also be made to face the full wrath of the law.

Our men of God (Pastors, Imams and others) should make it a point of duty to always use available opportunities to preach religious tolerance to their congregations/followers; so that the few amongst us that are still capable of overreacting to abuses will gradually imbibe the spirit of not taking laws into their hands.

Those of us that are "soldiers" and "defenders" of our respective religion should know that the laws of the country does not permit anyone to deprive another of his life. We should not hide under any claim that the PUNISHMENT for BLASPHEMING or any such religious abuse is DEATH. There is no such provision in the Constitution or any known statutory law of our country. If anyone kills under the guise of fulfilling the penalty prescribed by the doctrines of any religion whatsoever; that person would be running foul of the provision of Section 33 (1) of the Constitution as earlier stated above; and, such person would be made to face the consequences.

All major religious organizations and associations should also ensure that they regularly interface with one another regardless of their religious affiliations to work out ways of eradicating "religious intolerance" and promoting peaceful and harmonious co-existence amongst their followers. A situation, where they wait for unfortunate incidents like this to happen before trading blames and expressing disaffections will not help matters.

In conclusion, my advice to all and sundry is that, in any circumstances or side of the divide we find ourselves; we should always try as much as possible to ensure that we do not do anything to abuse or demean other people's religious beliefs; and, if peradventure we feel that ours has been abused; the best thing to do is to report to the appropriate authorities and allow the law to take its course.

We must all come together, join hands together and, fight "Religious Intolerance" together; because, we are all in it together.

Thanks.
Raymond Oise-Oghaede is a Political Public Policy Analyst. He writes for Suirulere, Lagos and can be reached at raymondoise@yahoo.com.

Mourinho vows to continue at Roma after winning League

JOSE Mourinho pledged his future to Roma after leading the Serie A side to the inaugural Europa Conference League title, saying that he feels like he's "100 per cent Romanista".

Goal said that, the Special One said he is committed to the club after leading the Serie A side to its first major European title.

Mourinho and Roma won the first-ever Conference League trophy on Wednesday, topping Feyenoord 1-0 in the finale thanks to a goal from Nicola Zaniolo.

The Portuguese manager has been linked with other jobs in recent weeks, including former club Inter, but he insists he'll stay at Roma as he looks forward to celebrating his club's triumph.

"We made history today, there are many things in my head right now," he told *Sky Sports*.

"I have great respect for all the clubs I worked with, but today I am 100 per cent Romanista, because these fans are incredible.

"I will stay at AS Roma, no doubt, even if some offers will come. I want to stay here."

With the win, Mourinho became the first manager to win all three of Europe's major club trophies, having previously won the Champions League and Europa League.

Mourinho has contested five total European finals and, with Wednesday's win, he's



Mourinho

now won all five of them to maintain his perfect record.

The Portuguese manager took over Roma this season,

leading them to sixth in Serie A while helping the club capture its first trophy since winning the Coppa Italia in 2007-08.

Benzema: I'm not angry at Mbappe for choosing PSG

KARIM Benzema says he wanted Kylian Mbappe to join Real Madrid but is not angry that his France teammate signed a new contract at Paris Saint-Germain.

Goal said that, the 34-year-old striker wished his compatriot the best for the future after he opted to continue his career at Paris Saint-

Germain.

Mbappe had long been expected to leave the French capital for Madrid as his deal expired this summer.

But the 23-year-old opted to commit to PSG for another three years, sparking outrage among some figures in La Liga. Benzema says he has no ill feelings towards Mbappe for turning down

Jose Peseiro says he is ready to help Nigeria achieve Africa Cup of Nations success, with the Portuguese stating he takes "great pride" in becoming Super Eagles coach.

Goal said that, the 62-year-old is the first Portuguese to handle the West African side and he is keen on achieving success with the country.

The former Real Madrid assistant coach was confirmed as head coach of the 2013 African champions by the Nigeria Football Federation following the departure of Augustine Eguavoen.

Peseiro will make his bow when the West Africans square up against Mexico and Ecuador in friendlies during the tour of the United States of America.

Reveling in his appointment on social media, the 62-year-old, who previously worked at Panathinaikos, Sporting CP, Al Ahly, and Braga, said he

Peseiro reveals 'pride' in coaching Super Eagles



Peseiro

understands the responsibility that comes with handling Nigeria, and he has set his focus on winning the laurel.

With three Africa Cup of Nations to their name, Peseiro is looking forward to helping the country achieve a fourth before the end of his tenure.

"Pride! It is with great pride and joy that I am the coach of one of the greatest football nations in the world," the

Portuguese tactician wrote on Twitter.

"Commanding the Super Eagles starts with knowing how to respect history, value it and be inspired by its roots. Over 200 million Nigerians, from all states and ethnicities, want the same thing: success.

"We will work with great ambition so that in the end we can finally call Nigeria the 'four-time African champions.'"

Vieira 'feared for players' at Goodison

The Crystal Palace boss called for more safety in the 'workplace' following a fan altercation at Everton.

Peseiro was announced as Gernot Rohr's permanent replacement in December 2021. Nevertheless, the country's football ruling body reversed that decision after the 2021 Afcon due to Eguavoen's performance.

A change was imminent as the former Nigeria captain failed to qualify the country for the 2022 Fifa World Cup Qatar having lost on the away goal rule to Ghana.

The European will be assisted by Ajax great Finidi George (first assistant), Salisu Yusuf (second assistant), Usman Abdallah (third assistant), and Ike Shorunmu (goalkeeper trainer).

Tottenham given transfer boost after club confirm £150m injection

Antonio Conte is set to get a major backing in the transfer market after Tottenham's majority shareholders ENIC Sports Inc agreed to pump £150 million (\$185m) into the club.

Goal said that, the investment from the club's majority shareholders can be used on potential squad additions.

The news comes just two days after Spurs secured a fourth-place finish in the Premier League to qualify for next season's Champions League. Conte has previously indicated his desire to have funds to spend this summer and this announcement suggests he is going to get his wish.

In a statement Tottenham said the £150m would be raised via "the issue of convertible A Shares and accompanying warrants."

It added the investment "represents permanent capital, with no ongoing interest cost to the club" and would provide them with "greater financial flexibility and the ability to further invest on and off the pitch."

The north London side completed the construction of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium 2019 and have also invested considerably in the club's training ground in recent years.

"The delivery of a world-class home was always a key building block in driving

diversified revenues to enable us to invest in the teams and support our ambitions to be consistently competing at the highest levels of European football," said Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy.

"Additional capital from ENIC will now enable further investment in the club at an important time."

Jonathan Turner, Tottenham's independent non-executive director, added: "We are pleased to welcome this investment which demonstrates the unequivocal support and commitment of our majority shareholder, ENIC. It is a timely injection of funds to ensure we can continue to grow the club we all love and underlines the Board's continued ambitions for success."

Conte compares Spurs' top-four finish to trophy joy Tottenham beat Norwich 5-1 to secure a Premier League top-four finish for the first time in three years.

The news is likely to be a huge boost for Conte, who was appointed Spurs boss in November with the club eighth in the Premier League. He appeared to question his future after a defeat at Burnley in February but a run of eight wins from their final 11 games saw them pip rivals Arsenal to fourth place.

PSG not against selling Neymar if right transfer bid comes

Paris Saint-Germain are not against selling Neymar this summer if the right transfer bid comes in for the Brazilian forward, **GOAL** has learned.

Kylian Mbappe's decision to snub Real Madrid and sign an extension at Parc des Princes could affect the future of his team-mate.

Neymar signed for PSG from Barcelona in a world-record €222 million (£190m/\$237m) deal back in 2017, and has since scored 100 goals for the club while helping them win four Ligue 1 titles.

The talented forward signed a new contract at Parc des Princes last year that ties him to the French champions until 2025, but he is being strongly linked with a summer exit after a turbulent 2021-22 campaign.

GOAL can confirm that PSG will be open to offers that match their valuation of Neymar when the transfer market reopens.

There are individuals within the club that feel the 30-year-old has been in gradual decline ever since his initial arrival in Paris and, as well as

his consistent struggles with injury, his attitude has also been questioned.

For Neymar's part, he is quite content to remain at PSG and has no intention of leaving, but incoming sporting director Luis Campos and his team are concerned that he will cause issues and will leave the door open to his potential departure.

Kylian Mbappe's decision to turn down a move to Real Madrid and extend his stay at PSG by an extra three years may also affect Neymar's future at the club.

The two men have grown more distant in recent years and Mbappe wouldn't be sad to see the back of his team-mate, with his opinion having been taken on board by Parc des Princes officials.

Neymar is nonplussed about the World Cup winner's increasing status at PSG, though, and believes he can rediscover his best form next season now that he appears to have put his fitness woes behind him.

A return to Barca has been mooted as the most likely possibility for Neymar should he end up departing PSG,

despite the fact that Camp Nou president Joan Laporta has admitted they would only be able to re-sign him on a free transfer.

GOAL understands that Neymar's name came up in the winter transfer window as PSG and Barca held talks over a potential swap deal for Ousmane Dembele, but the latter is now on the verge of leaving Catalunya as a free agent with his contract expiring next month.

PSG have the best player in the universe! - Fans react to Mbappe extension

PSG fans react to Kylian Mbappe's contract extension with the Ligue 1 champions.

The only club that could afford to meet Neymar's asking price and match his current wages is Premier League outfit Newcastle, who announced the completion of a Saudi-backed takeover in October.

The experienced striker would not be keen to give up Champions League football to join the Magpies in northern England, however, and his entourage have not been told that he is on any official transfer list at PSG as



Conte

SUNDAY SPORTS

Chelsea takeover: Boehly-led consortium's £4.25bn bid gets UK approval



Boehly

The sale of Chelsea to a consortium led by American billionaire Todd Boehly has been approved by the UK government and the Premier League as Roman Abramovich's 19 years running the west London club moves closer to its end.

Goal revealed that, Roman Abramovich's 19-year reign as owner of the west London club is all set to come to an end as Todd Boehly's consortium received the green light.

The total investment will cost £4.25 billion (\$5.2bn), with £2.5bn (\$3.2bn) ending up being the sale price of the club, while there is an agreement in place that £1.75bn (2.1\$bn) will be invested over 10 years.

The purchase agreement was signed a fortnight ago and has been waived through by the Premier League Owners' and Directors' test, while the government has now facilitated the financial transaction.

"The Premier League Board has today approved the proposed takeover of Chelsea Football Club by the Todd Boehly / Clearlake Consortium," the league said in a statement.

"The purchase remains subject to the Government issuing the required sale licence and the satisfactory completion of the final stages of the transaction.

"The Board has applied the Premier League's Owners' and Directors' Test (OADT) to all prospective Directors, and undertaken the necessary due diligence.

"The members of the Consortium purchasing the club are affiliates of the Clearlake Capital Group, L.P., Todd Boehly, Hansjorg Wyss and Mark Walter.

"Chelsea FC will now work with the relevant Governments to secure the necessary licences to complete the takeover."

UK sports and culture minister Nadine Dorrie has confirmed that the government issued the special licence Chelsea require to complete the sale on Tuesday night.

"Last night the Government issued a licence that permits the sale of Chelsea FC. Given the sanctions we placed on those linked to Putin and the bloody invasion of Ukraine, the long-term future of the club can only be secured under a new owner," Dorrie said in a statement on social media.

"We are satisfied the proceeds of the sale will not benefit Roman Abramovich or other sanctioned individuals.

"I want to thank everyone, especially officials who've worked tirelessly to keep the club playing and enable this

sale, protecting fans and the wider football community."

Boehly is the co-owner of Major League Baseball's (MLB) Los Angeles Dodgers and a minority investor in the National Basketball Association (NBA) team LA Lakers.

He tried to buy Chelsea in 2019 for £2.2bn (\$2.7bn) only to see his offer rejected. He has publicly stated his interest in buying a Premier League team and will become the face of this bid.

The Blues will no longer be a loss-making operation with Roman Abramovich pumping in £1.5bn (\$1.9bn) of his personal wealth to keep the

club's lavish spending going.

That's not to say the new owners won't invest, having done so in the past with their other sports teams, but will look to increase revenues to ensure the books are balanced.

It will be more akin to a Liverpool-style model with data driving many decisions at the club.

They have also agreed to invest in Stamford Bridge, the academy, the Women's Team and Kingsmeadow (women's team stadium) and continued funding for the Chelsea Foundation.

Boehly is thought to have a detailed plan for the first team stadium to bring it to the level of the top European football stadia.

Tuchel will ask for central defenders initially and Boehly's group intends to renew contracts for key players including Mason Mount and Reece James.

The proceeds of the sale will be deposited in a frozen UK bank account with Abramovich communicating his intention to donate 100% of it to charity.

The UK Government had to provide approval for the funds in the account to be transferred due to his status as a sanctioned individual.

It comes after allegations from the Government that he holds a close association with Russian

Salah: I will be at Anfield next season 'for sure'

Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah says he will be at Anfield next season "for sure" but would not be drawn over whether he will sign a new contract.

BBC SPORT said that, Salah's deal ends in June 2023, leading to speculation he could be sold if he did not sign a new one as he would leave on a free in a year's time.

When asked about his future before Saturday's Champions League final, he said: "I don't want to talk about that.

"I just want to see Hendo [Jordan Henderson] with the trophy."

The Egypt striker, 29, added: "I don't focus on the contract at the moment. I don't want to be selfish.

"I am staying next season for sure."

Salah's team-mate Sadio Mane said he would announce his decision on his own future after the final against Real Madrid in Paris.

The Senegal international, who has scored 120 goals in 268 games for the Reds, will also enter the last 12 months of his contract from June.

He told Sky Sports News: "This question [about my future] I will answer after Champions League. If I'm staying or not, I'm going to answer after [the] Champions League."

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp has dismissed suggestions the outcome of Saturday's game will be a factor in whether some players decide to extend their contracts or not.

"No, not at all," he said. "What, if we win it they want to go? We are in talks with all

the players, it is just not the moment to talk about the results of these talks. None of them are sitting there not knowing what we are planning.

"There is just not the time, we play every three days. The players have this idea, we have this idea, sometimes they match immediately, sometimes not and then we work together.

"We have known each other for ages."

Salah joined from Roma in 2017 and has scored 156 goals in 253 games for Liverpool.

He has helped the club win the Premier League in 2019-20, the 2019 Champions League, the FA

Cup and League Cup this season plus the Fifa Club World Cup and Uefa Super Cup during his time at Anfield.

In March Klopp said it was up to Salah whether he signed a new contract.

The former Chelsea forward has previously said he wants to stay but his future is in Liverpool's hands and he is not asking for "crazy stuff".

On Sunday Liverpool were beaten to the league title by a point by Manchester City, ending their hopes of a quadruple that is

unprecedented in England. Saturday's match against Real Madrid in Paris will be a repeat of the 2018 Champions League final which the Spanish side won 3-1, with Salah going off injured in the first half after a controversial incident with Sergio Ramos.

"I'm very motivated, motivated through the roof, after what happened last time [2018 final] and Sunday - everyone is motivated for this," Salah added.

"We fight for this and everyone is excited."

Relegated to the Championship for the first time since 2016, Burnley should be among the favourites to make an instant return.

Social eyes - Manchester City win dramatic Premier League title

See the best of social media's reaction after Manchester City won the Premier League title in dramatic fashion

However, recent accounts confirmed the club will have to make a "significant" payment on a loan because of relegation.

Defender James Tarkowski is set to leave on a free transfer while there is likely to be interest in Maxwell Cornet and Nick Pope in the summer.

Former Manchester City defender Vincent Kompany has left Anderlecht and GOAL can confirm that he is a leading contender to take over at Burnley.

Goal said that, the former defender is among the candidates to take over at the Clarets despite their relegation to the Championship.

The Belgian club announced his departure by mutual consent on Wednesday after two seasons with the club at which he started his playing career.

Kompany, 36, is understood to have had talks with Burnley despite the club being relegated from the Premier League on the final day of the season.

The Clarets have been looking for a permanent manager since Sean Dyche left in April, although caretaker manager Mike Jackson almost kept them in the Premier League.

Kompany made the north west of England his home during 11 years at City and his wife Carla is from Manchester.

However, there are understood to be other candidates on the shortlist for the job, while reports suggest that Bundesliga club Borussia

Next Burnley manager: Kompany in talks after leaving Anderlecht



Kompany

Monchengladbach would be interested in taking Kompany as their coach.

The former Belgium captain took over as player-coach at Anderlecht after leaving City in the summer of 2019 and took them to third in the league and runners-up in the Belgian Cup final this season.

But in a statement the club said: "The club and the coach have analysed the past season and discussed the plans for the future. The two parties have decided to

part ways in mutual consent. This decision was taken with a lot of mutual respect and gratitude for everything that has been achieved together."

Kompany added: "Today only one feeling prevails: I am proud that I was able to start this new chapter at the club of my heart. I have now been a player and a coach of RSC Anderlecht, but above all I remain a loyal fan."

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UEFA President backs financial fair play rules of PSG Mbatpe deal

UEFA will not be told "what to do" after criticism over Kylian Mbappe's contract extension at Paris St-Germain, says its president Aleksander Ceferin.

French striker Mbappe signed a lucrative new deal at PSG having been strongly linked with Real Madrid.

After the 23-year-old decided to stay, La Liga called the French club's contract offer "scandalous".

Ceferin told BBC Sport that Uefa has "financial fair play rules which are quite strict".

"Whoever will respect our rules is welcome to play in our competitions; who will not respect the rules will not," Ceferin said.

"Look not Real Madrid or anyone else will tell Uefa what to do. They are outraged from one point of view and, as much as I know, their offer was similar to [PSG's] offer."

Uefa's financial fair play rules are designed to prevent club expenditure exceeding income by more than a set amount over each three-year assessment period.

Javier Tebas, president of Spain's La Liga, has described PSG's contract offer to Mbappe as an "insult to football" and tweeted figures pointing to the club's

financial losses.

PSG are owned by Qatar Sports Investments, a subsidiary of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the state-run sovereign-wealth fund in Qatar.

Ceferin, president of European football's governing body since 2016, says he is "tired" of complaints about the sport's willingness to

allow state-run clubs.

"I've said that many times and I will say it again, tell me one argument why they shouldn't be the owners of a club," Ceferin said.

"If you say that clubs belong to the fans, don't you think that the other English clubs have owners - they have owners from the United

States, some from the Middle East, they have owners from England. So it's exactly the same situation and I'm really tired of these accusations without any concrete grounds.

"I want to know who broke the rules and if you break the rules then you will be punished."



SUNDAY SPORTS



Mexico v Nigeria : Match preview, Super Eagles squad list

IN a friendly match scheduled for May 28th, 2022, the Super Eagles, who were knocked out of the FIFA World Cup 2022 qualification round by the Black Stars of Ghana, will play Concacaf powerhouse Mexico.

The Super Eagles will be led by their new manager Jose Peseiro. Ahead of the friendly match between the two football-oriented nations, this article provides all the information you need.

Peseiro will be leading the Super Eagles out for his first official game and he will no doubt be hoping for a win to kick-start his Nigeria career.

Nigeria and Mexico have only met five times in their history with all being in friendly matches.

The Super Eagles have never beaten Mexico with the South Americans winning two games and drawing the other three.

Nigeria squad list

Goalkeepers (3) : Francis Uzoho (AC Omonia, Cyprus); Adewale Adeyinka (Akwa United); Ojo Olorunleke (Enyimba FC)

Defenders (7) : Olaoluwa Aina (Torino FC, Italy); William Ekong (Watford FC, England); Chidozie Awaziem (Alanyaspor FC, Turkey); Oluwasemilogo Ajayi (West Bromwich Albion, England); Calvin Bassey (Glasgow Rangers, Scotland); Ibrahim Buhari (Plateau United); Sani Faisal (Katsina United)

Midfielders (5): Joseph Ayodele-Aribo (Glasgow Rangers, Scotland); Alex Iwobi (Everton FC, England); Chiamaka Madu (Rivers United); Innocent Bonke (FC Lorient, France); Babatunde Bello (Akwa United).

Forwards (5) : Moses Simon (FC Nantes, France); Cyriel Dessers (Feyenoord FC, The Netherlands); Victor Mbaoma (Enyimba FC); Ishaq Rafiu (Rivers United); Terem Moffi (FC Lorient, France).

With Peseiro favouring a 5-4-1 formation it is most likely that Nigeria start the game cautiously and aim for stability first before building from there.

Former Barcelona manager Gerard Martino heavily favours a

4-3-3 formation and will most likely aim to gain superiority on the ball over the Super Eagles.

With players like Raul Gimenez and Hector Herrera at his disposal, Martino will most likely want his team to get at Nigeria's 18-yard-box.

Fans can expect a tactical battle between two experienced managers with both of them switching their formations and tactical blueprints from time to time.

The match will kickoff at 1900 hours Texas time (0100 hours in Nigeria Sunday) at the AT&T Stadium situated at the AT&T Way

100 athletes will represent Nigeria at Birmingham Commonwealth Games

WITH 60 days to the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK, the federal government has announced that 100 athletes will represent Nigeria at the Games.

Permanent secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Ismaila Abubakar disclosed this at the stakeholders meeting on the Commonwealth Games (CWG) held at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

He said Nigeria will field the 100 athletes in judo, athletics, boxing, weightlifting, table tennis, wrestling, para-table tennis, para-athletics and para-powerlifting.

Speaking at the stakeholders meeting, the minister of youth and sports development, Mr Sunday Dare, directed all relevant authorities to ensure that the necessary tests are carried out on all the athletes before the takeoff of contingents to the quadrennial event slated to hold July 28 to August 8, 2022 in UK.

He said Nigeria will not hesitate to drop any athlete who attempts to tarnish the image of the country again.

"We will prefer to come back from the games without medals rather than being embarrassed a second time, there must be no exceptions," he insisted.

Dare, who said that the countdown to the game has already started, added that

the Ministry is already working with the Nigerian Olympic Committee (NOC) to ensure that contingents' accommodation, camping, testing, ticketing and kits are adequately taken care of.

In his remark, president of the Nigerian Olympic Committee (NOC), Engr. Habu Gumel, said the accreditation is ongoing, adding that 14 media houses and 701 journalists applied to cover the games.

On his part, Team Nigeria's Chef de Mission and director,

THE Super Eagles may face Ghana again as yet another Jollof derby takes shape, although, it's not yet cast in stone

Regional draws for the CHAN qualifiers emerged today with the Nigerian team drawn to face either Ghana or Benin Republic.

CHAN, meant for Super Eagles players based in Nigeria has seen Nigeria and other West African teams drawn in different zones.

The seeding system was a product of performances in the last three CHAN Championships, with Ghana and Benin deemed the poorest in the last three editions and have to start from the second round.

Both sides will trade tackles and the winner will meet Nigeria.

A total of 46 teams were

Another "Jollof Derby" as Nigeria may face Ghana again



considered for the continent-wide draws with just 15 places up for grabs. There will be 18 teams at the tournament, an increase of two teams from the previous editions, while three teams are already in the tournament.

There will be five groups

according to CAF, with three of them having four teams each, while two groups will have three teams.

Hosts Algeria, defending champions Morocco and Libya are all guaranteed places at the tournament with the remaining 15 slots to be battled for by others.

Rangers to demand record transfer fee from Bassey

SCOTTISH Premiership giants Rangers will demand a record transfer fee for a Nigerian defender from clubs interested in the signature of Calvin Bassey this summer.

The Daily Mail UK is reporting that the Light Blues have placed a price tag of £25 million (approximately N13.1 billion in Nigerian currency) on Bassey amid interest from Premier League clubs.



If the versatile left-back is sold for that fee, he would

become the most expensive Nigerian defender in history, surpassing ex-Inter Milan star Taribo West, who was once the most expensive defender in the world at 10.2million pounds.

Rangers signed the Nigerian for peanuts as he was out of contract at Leicester City, who were entitled to only £230,000 compensation.

Steven Gerrard's Aston Villa and David Moyes' West Ham United are among the clubs interested in the

services of the Nigeria international.

2021-2022 was the best season of Bassey's career so far, playing a key role for Rangers in the Premier League and Scottish Cup after forcing his way into the first team.

Rangers' most expensive sale is the £11.5m plus add-ons they received for young Scotland right-back Nathan Patterson, meaning Bassey is also in line to become the club's most expensive outbound transfer in history.

Super Eagles star delighted with NPFL players

THE Super Eagles have regrouped for the first time since the unfortunate failure to nick a 2022 World Cup ticket to Qatar. Super Eagles assistant captain, William Troost-Ekong has described the presence of home-based players in the national team camp in the United States as a great

development.

Ekong speaking to NFF TV said it's an opportunity for them to prove themselves good enough for the team.

"It was amazing to meet the new coach and the new coaching crew. Training was good and it's also great to see there's a lot of home-based players here

as well who have the chance to show themselves. Everyone is in good spirit, we are waiting for one or two more late arrivals and prepare for the game against Mexico."

Ekong scored the Super Eagles' equaliser from the spot against Ghana but it

wasn't enough for the team to book a place to the Qatar World Cup.

The Watford defender said it's been tough for them as it is for other Nigerians.

"It's a tough few months for us all. It's a big heartache. We have to keep it moving. When you fall down, you have to stand up again and this team has done it before, we'll do it again. We will start with these friendly games and a chance to play at the AFCON qualifiers in the next two weeks. That'll be a great chance for us to refresh and reset ourselves and focus on the next AFCON."

Ekong thanked the fans and encouraged them to stay behind the team despite the heartbreak of missing out on the World Cup.



Ban all parties killing Nigerian basketball

By NIYI BUSARI

BASKETBALL Stakeholders (CBS) has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to with immediate effect ban all the contending parties killing Nigerian basketball to enable the growth of the game in the country.

This is contained in an open letter signed by CBS Muhammad Sulaiman (Aka Pro Marquette) sent to President Muhammadu Buhari. He said that the last five years have equally witnessed an unending Basketball leadership crises with 3 different groups currently in contention urging President to ban all those people bringing crisis in the federation.

The letter reads; "our attention has been drawn to the recent publication on open letter to President Muhammadu Buhari on the Nigeria Basketball Federation crisis. Firstly, we sincerely thank Mr. President for his bold decision to reclude Nigeria from International Basketball Competitions for two years. Though unpleasant, it is necessary. We also will like to respectfully highlight some facts on the lingering crisis in the Nigeria Basketball Federation, for Mr. President to note:

"Twenty two years of tussle and disagreements in the Basketball Family has all been about leadership and ego and not about developing the game. Our investigations revealed that Chief Jim Nwobodo intervened in 1997 after the 1st democratic election in Sports Federations; Omerua and Ikazabo did in 1999 and Rtd. Col. Musa Mohammed in

2004. All of them threatened drastic measures of dissolution and establishment of Interim Committee for the Sport. They never achieved except now.

"The last five years have equally witnessed an unending Basketball leadership crises with 3 different groups currently in contention.

"This circle of disruptive NBBF elections began in 2017 with 2 factions and presidents (Umar and Kida), and the climax in 2022 following the emergence of a 3rd faction with Igoche Mark as President.

"The court suspension of the National Basketball League for 3 years plus, was because of this leadership disagreements. Youthful local talents have been wasting away for years because of the dysfunctional league.

"National team Players, both Male and Female are entirely drawn from overseas including their Coaches who are all foreigners. At a time there were 10 foreign Coaches attached to our Male team. Harvesting only Nigerian professional Players overseas is not Basketball development. It must go hand in hand with grassroots and home based Players."

The letter added that: "The unresolved boardroom crisis currently has degenerated into the polarization of National team Players (both Male and Female), and who have expressed their unwillingness to compete for Nigeria under this ugly scenario

"Multiple meetings aimed at resolving the crises have yielded no positive results.

"The Ministry and the Federal Government have

been severally misrepresented many times to FIBA and the public by elements from the Kida faction who have used the well-known blackmail tool of Interference to tie Government, and make FIBA call Government a third party. By this, Nigeria's sovereignty is being challenged and trampled upon by the NBBF gladiators who now want Government to lift the ban.

"Equally well known is that FIBA completely ignored Government's invitation to visit Nigeria to look into the Basketball crises. The Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) was equally snubbed.

"Also known, is that the Ministry with the knowledge of FIBA went ahead to set up the Basketball Reconciliation Committee with membership drawn from all disputing parties. The Ministry concurred to the salient recommendations of the Committee. Notwithstanding, the crisis continued.

"Our findings also have shown that there is no NBBF money lodged in the CBN and that the only money in the NBBF account with the CBN is the "Adopt-an-Athlete" funds to the tune of US\$230k, to support the 24 Basketball Players that represented the Country at the Olympics. This money has severally been confirmed, was raised by the Ministry and it was domiciled in the NBBF Domiciliary account until disbursement,



and that the female Players who have submitted their bank account details have since been paid US\$9,500 each last year, and pending is

the male Players who are yet to submit their account details for payment.

"It is also confirmed that there is documentary

evidence that this money was never diverted, as the balance to date remains in the NBBF account with CBN until disbursement.

Fury throws brickbats at Anthony Joshua

FORMER heavyweight world champion Joshua was filmed telling a group of students to "watch their mouths" after they taunted him about avoiding a fight with Fury.

In the footage, Joshua also threatened to crack the students' jaws, he was filmed saying: "Remember you're running your mouth because when I start cracking your glass jaws, none of you will

like it." "Watch your mouths because you don't know who you're talking to sometimes."

The incident took place near Loughborough University, the base for Joshua's preparations ahead of his rematch against Oleksandr Usyk, the fight is at the moment scheduled for July 23.

Since the video of the

altercation between Joshua and the students went online, Fury has now reacted and took to social media to give his thoughts.

He simply tweeted: "I have this effect on the best of them." along with a picture of the Joshua incident making headline news.

Joshua and Fury were meant to fight it out in the ring after a deal looked set to be agreed last summer, but a last

minute twist prevented the fight going ahead. Fury was ordered to fight Deontay Wilder for a third time instead.

Since then, Joshua had lost to Usyk and Fury had despatched the challenge from Dillian Whyte in a packed out Wembley last month to retain his heavyweight titles.

Related video: After his victory over Whyte, Fury stated that he will not return to the ring by announcing his retirement.

Joshua however, continued his attempts to lure Fury back into the ring. In a recent Q&A with the Oxford Union, he referenced a 'gentleman's agreement' between the two fighters.

He said: "If Fury would honour the boxers agreement and come out of retirement because ultimately what is at my core it is about the money."

"If Fury will come out and honour the gentleman's agreement there is a lot of money to be made."

It remains to be seen whether the long standing rivalry between Fury and Joshua will end in the ring, but for that to happen, Joshua would have to regain the belts he lost to Usyk first before trying to tempt Fury



Tyson Fury beat Dillian Whyte at Wembley

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

B	U	H	J	I	N	I	K	E	Y	F	B	C
K	I	T	G	O	K	H	G	P	H	Q	I	I
B	A	R	S	H	I	M	W	D	E	H	R	D
L	L	F	F	R	Y	B	X	R	A	M	D	S
G	I	E	N	D	E	C	B	O	L	T	I	A
J	U	S	D	S	C	R	V	G	O	U	E	E
O	A	S	P	U	R	S	Z	B	C	Y	W	R
S	P	L	Z	O	X	W	E	A	H	T	L	E
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U	V	I	E	R	R	A	M	N	Y	Q	V	F
A	O	M	E	A	J	K	D	X	X	S	V	N
U	L	P	T	Q	J	M	T	I	N	B	R	O
Z	S	X	U	R	P	E	O	I	V	W	A	B

- Mutaz Essu.....(7) Qatar high jumper
- Deji.....(4) former Nigerian sprinter
- Patrice.....(6)Crystal Palace Manager
- David.....(5) West Ham Manager
- Usein.....(4) Fomer Jamaican sprinter
- Didier.....(6)Former Chelsea striker
- George.....(4)The only world best footballer from Africa
- Anthony.....(6)Nigerian/British boxer
- Golf Peg (3)
- Rashidi.....(6) Nigeria's first world cup scorer
-Jo (8) Former Super Eagle handler
- Two under Par in golf (6)
- San Antonion basketball team (5)

By IBRAHIM T. LOT