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Sunday Standard



TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 739

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022

N250

e-mail: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

JAMB commences with no hiccups



Derailed youths causing mayhem in Plateau communities?

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Peace is one aspect of life that the people of Plateau State have always cherished and enjoyed over the years and by their hospitable nature have coexisted with other nationalities in the spirit of harmony and concord as different communities share common aspirations and the desire to build bridges of friendship and other social interactions for progress and development. Unfortunately, the narrative is fast changing with the alarming surge in criminality across and the state. KENNETH DARENG examines the current trend.



Dadu'ut



Yahaya



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Insecurity and rising cost of food

FOR many Nigerians life and living is becoming extremely difficult. Many go through hardships to acquire the crucially needed basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. The situation is such that Nigerians are groaning under rising cost of food items, as well as other essential goods, thus making life difficult for them to afford.

THE signs of imminent food shortage and rising cost of food prices in Nigeria is obvious. Today, the value of what consumers buy with the meagre resources at their disposal is alarming. That is why the global Network Against Food crises had earlier expressed the same grim picture of the food security situation in Nigeria that needs to be addressed to avert looming hunger and starvation in the country.

The worsening insecurity in Nigeria especially in virtually all the states of the federation is hindering people from going to farm as destructions of farmland is on the increase. Concerns on deficient food production is mounting higher, particularly in Zamfara State where bandits are bribed before farmers would be allowed to go to farms. The situation at the moment is such that Nigerians are groaning under rising prices of foodstuff, thereby making it difficult for many people to afford it. This rise in prices may push many Nigerians into poverty.

WE are dismayed and view with disdain the current cost of food prices in the country, particularly as regards food production, that middlemen follow farmers to the farms to purchase and buy everything on the farm and that there is near absence of foodstuff for consumption.

WHY the increase in the prices of foodstuff? Aside insecurity, which has been lingering, greed, avarice and the desire to make fast money and hiding under the too many problems of Nigeria by some key players is at the core of the insensibilities. We believe that increase in foodstuff prices as it obtains on a daily basis is artificial given the fact that there is no scarcity of food in the country. And year in year out, the creator of heaven and earth has been faithful with the rains to water crops for good harvest. Yet the cost of food stuff has remained beyond the reach of the common person. But the greater task to ensure availability of food all round in the country is vested squarely on the federal government whose duty is to guarantee a peaceful environment, conducive enough to accelerate the growth in agricultural output.

IT is quite unfortunate that the security situation across the country aggravated by activities of Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, abduction, and raping of women on the farms have all dealt a massive blow on food production which is at the root of the rising food prices and scarcity as a whole.

THEREFORE, the continuous increase in the prices of food is a consequent of the killings and destruction of dwellings, as well as Fulani herdsmen who allow their herds to graze freely on farms which force farmers to abandon their farms and are rendered refugees, seeking safety and protection in camps. There is, therefore, the need to equip the hunters association in the states and allow state governments to create state police outfits who would be answerable to them to take charge of the security of their domain as a precursor to achieving seamless agricultural harvest season.

WE appeal to government to subsidize the prices of chemicals and fertilizers used by farmers so that the cost of cultivating farmlands are within the reach of all and sundry which might affect the prices of food positively at the end of production.

It is also observed that food price inflation is caused by frequent hikes in the prices of petroleum products which year in year out are on the rise, coupled with poor performance of the agricultural sector. Also, apart from inflation occasioned by the country's troubled economy, cost of transportation and ravaging insecurity in the country have forced farmers to abandon their farms.

That apart, activities of some overzealous and or corrupt Nigeria Customs Service officers is blamed for rising cost of food items because many traders often have their goods seized by officials of customs and would have to pay huge sums of money to get them released. This in turn also contributes to increase in prices of foodstuffs.

JAMB commences with no hiccups

By PETER TITLE

The Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) examination for tertiary institutions which began on Friday all over the country has witnessed a hitch free exercise in Plateau State.

Investigations by the **SUNDAY STANDARD**, revealed that the examination which starts by 7:00am in all centres in Jos and environs was devoid of any hitch as all necessary modalities were put in place to ensure the overall success of the examination.

Our correspondent who went round most of the centres as early as 6:00am reports that at the Federal College of Forestry, Bauchi Road Jos, the officials saddled with the responsibility of coordinating the exercise were seen advising, checking and ushering in candidates into the halls.

At the college, our correspondent reports that those that started the aptitude test by 7:00am rounded it by 9:00am thereby paving way for the next candidates to have theirs without much ado.

At the famous Absha Computer Institute, Old Airport, our man reports that it was equally orderly as candidates were seen going on with their aptitude test without any molestation from any quarter.

The institute coordinator who prefers anonymity told our correspondent that they have been in the business of coordinating JAMB activities for a long time and that they have been receiving commendations from the Board for a job well done.

He explained that they cannot afford to disappoint the candidates as well as JAMB saying that they have come a long way and assured of his centres hitch free performance throughout the exercise.

At the ECWA International



College of Technology (EICT), Jos, our correspondent reports that the exercise was hitch free as the examination was going according to plan.

A candidate Rifkatu Joseph who spoke to our man said she had just finished her examination and commended ECWA for a well-planned exercise.

According to the respondent, if other centres would learn from ECWA, the usual hiccups that used to be associated with the exams would be a thing of the past.

At the St-Loius College JAMB Centre, Jos, the examination was cordial and smooth while the management of the school were seen coordinating it to ensure the success of the examination.

Candidates who came from far and near commended both the JAMB and the school management for working round the clock to ensure the overall success of the examination.

Chibueze Chinyere, a candidate who came from far away Gombe said she was overwhelmed with the exercise and urged them to sustain it.

According to her, Jos is her home and always have confidence in whatever is taking place in the state as they have never left any one in doubt of

their capabilities of doing things the right way.

News reaching our News Desk according to our reporter revealed that from Boys Secondary school(BSS),Gindiri, Nakam Memorial Secondary School (NMSS), Panyam, Mangu Local Government Area, Federal College of Education (FCE), Pankshin, St-Gregory College, Langtang as well as the Plateau State University, Bokokos, the exercise has been like the former, which it totally hitch free.

Our correspondent who was at the Plateau State JAMB office to know the secret behind the success, the Coordinator who would not want her name printed said they have over the years been building on their exercises thereby culminating to the overall success.

She therefore commended JAMB staff for putting in their best to ensure this year's examination was a success as well as the confidence reposed on the board by the general public.

She commended the media, particularly **SUNDAY STANDARD** for enlightening the public about JAMB activities and urged them to continue in this direction.

Fly-over: Plateau govt. resolves workers impasse, work resumes

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau State Government has on Saturday announced resumption of work at the British American Flyover.

The development was disclosed in a statement released by the state Commissioner for works, Hon. Pam Bot-Mang, assuring that work is now ongoing day at and night at the flyover construction site.

SUNDAY STANDARD reports that there was a slight disruption of work at the construction site of British-American Flyover to Lamingo Roundabout Junction on the 5th of May 2022 making the Ministry of Works to swing into action to interface between the construction company, Craneburg Nigeria Ltd and the aggrieved workers.

The statement read: "During the intervention, both sides presented their issues and pledged to work together to resolve all grey areas and ensure that work continues on

the all-important project".

"The Ministry notes with delight that its intervention yielded positive results and work has since resumed fully at the sight with vigour the following day 6th May 2022 with all staff back to work".

"I also commend the high level of maturity exhibited by the workers who have resisted incitement and overtures by underground political interests to fuel imaginary crises and disrupt the laudable project".

"The construction work has now continued day and night with casting and abutment on the flyover bridge which is a major component of this project".

"Fresh concrete tests have also been run along with a set of compressive strength cylinders including slump, air content, unit weight and temperature and data from these tests is helpful in assessing mix production and consistency in performance, and ensure all

stands are kept".

"While metal works for the other sections of the bridge is ongoing while Beams on the first bridge and formwork continue on the second abutment. Parapets are also being casted and ready for assembling".

"The Ministry of Works wishes to express its appreciation to the workers and Management of the construction Craneburg Nigeria Ltd. for quickly adopting the path of dialogue to avert further disruption of the work in order not to jeopardise the targeted delivery dateline", said the statement.

The Commissioner also urged Plateau citizens to continue to exercise patience and cooperate with the Government despite some inconveniences occasioned by diversions and movement of Service Infrastructure from the area, since construction work commenced on the site.



"Nigerians and I dare say, even members of the political parties are themselves flabbergasted. It is possible to find out: Would anyone who has legitimately earned his money indulge in spending it on just a single item he or she is not sure of winning an election. It is a known fact, every politician is sure of his next meal, no matter the prevailing circumstances; that being the case, they are willing to spent fortunes to reap in the next stage."

THE atmosphere in the headquarters of the political parties is charged for several reasons. Every serious political office seeker may need to break a bank in order to be able to buy a nomination and expression of interest forms, in order to contest for various positions. We have not witnessed this outrageous hiking of fees for positions to represent the people.

For many, it may sound normal; however, there are others who think that the parties are unnecessary being hard and inconsiderate. Consider this scenario: How much does a governor get for his services as chief executive of a state? And what about a minister of the federal republic, does he receive up to the amount his party is asking for the form? It is less than a hundred million naira. And here we are having some of them falling over each other in the struggle to buy the nomination form.

This of course is not to forget that INEC is serious (?) about the fact that it has campaign spending ceilings on politicians? It has been observed, and rightly so, that the electoral umpire appears to be looking 'the other way as parties kill free and fair elections through the introduction of cutthroat fees for nomination forms. This public auction of our political offices must be stopped!'

That is what I feel also. There are indications that the political parties want to drive away pretenders to the various thrones in the states and at the federal level. Or that at best, they want to make money for the parties for the men and women who are at the helm of affairs to use.

I am aware that even rival political parties are standing and watching what is happening in the different platforms. The parties are themselves wondering the outrageous amounts the other party has fixed, and for that, they are having sleepless nights on account of the fees their member would pay to pick the nomination forms.

At it is there are on the presidential list about APC -15, PDP -15, ADC -3, SDP -3, PRP -2, APGA -1, Accord Party -1 and NNPP -1. The gladiators include for now: All Progressives Congress aspirants: Yahaya Adoza Bello, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, Chief Rotimi Amaechi, Dr Chris Ngige, Ibrahim Abubakar Lajada, Ihechukwu Dallas-Chima, Senator Orji Uzor Kalu, Engr Dave Umahi, Rev Moses Ayom, Senator Rochas Okorocha, Gbenga Olawepo-Hashim, Dr. Ibrahim Bello Dauda, Pastor Tunde Bakare, Mr. Dele Momodu and Mr. Tein Jack-Rich.

In the Peoples Democratic Party, the aspirants include: Senator Bukola Saraki, Senator Anyim Pius Anyim, Mr. Peter Obi, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Dr Nwachuakwu Anakwenze, Mr. Sam Ohuabunwa, Mrs. Olivia Diana Teriela, Mr. Ayo Fayose, Muhammed Hayatu-Deen, Senator Bala Mohammed, Alhaji Aminu Tambuwal, Mr. Udom Emmanuel, Mr. Nyesom Wike and Chief Charlie Ugwu.

From the Africa Democratic Congress come the following aspirants: Prof Kingsley Moghalu, Mr. Chukwuka Monye and Dr. Mani Ibrahim. While the Social Democratic Party aspirants are: Mr. Adewole Adebajo, Cesnabmihilo Dorothy Nuhu-Aken'Ova and Mrs. Khadijah Okunnu-Lamidi. More are being added on a daily basis. There is more

Break a bank, buy nomination form



Adamu

money to be made from the exercise before it ends.

The Peoples Redemption Party aspirants are Mrs. Patience Key and Chief Kola Abiola, APGA has Mrs. Angela Johnson; while Accord Party has Professor Christopher Imunolen as New Nigeria Peoples Party may feature Engr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso.

What a long list, you might want to say; however, the parties are smiling to the banks on account of the cost of nomination forms. There are sufficient thoughts going in the minds of Nigerians, and considering them, they have every reason to feel bad about it. They feel that so much has been looted by them to the point that all politicians are interested in holding unto power.

Well, that is the passion of any political office seeker; however, it is the way the political parties are going about that some Nigerians are really worried about. Our politics is skewed to favour only those who have the resources and are ready to show for it. The parties seem not to have a space for women and the 'poor' who are ready to serve yet do not have resources to compete.

Nigerians and I dare say, even members of the political parties are themselves flabbergasted. It is possible to find out: Would anyone who has legitimately earned his money indulge in spending it on just a single item he or she is not sure of winning an election. It is a known fact, every politician is sure of his next meal, no matter the prevailing circumstances; that being the case, they are willing to spent fortunes to reap in the next stage.

They tell us as a matter of fact: Politics has always been for the rich, and so we are made to believe them.

Two of the parties have exorbitantly fixed their fees without blinking. We have in history those who didn't have anything materially, yet, they contested and won elections. We are repeatedly told of that to the point that only the rich make themselves relevant. That is a fallacy, which should be corrected.

Point must be stressed; politics is not for rogues, who want the people to be poor. Even though they may find their way into politics, they know that they live of borrowed times. In Nigeria today, the political thief is said to be on the same pedestal as bandits, who kill to survive. Politicians steal from the public till and impoverish the society; making development completely skewed to suit them. No wonder, our society is replete with indices of underdevelopment brought about by those who swore to make things better in our communities.

The days of Mallam Aminu Kano, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka of blessed memory may have mobilized the masses through NEPU and UMBC. It was the *talakawas* that made selfless contributions to keep the party afloat. We do not have such political forces to propel many to grassroots politics. Most politicians are after their pockets; but of the old class, 'they were neither rich nor flamboyant', yet they achieved so much.

Today, it can be said with certainty that very few poor politicians can win any election in Nigeria, except if a moneybag decides to join the fray in order to help the person. But as it has been said severally, 'the political space has' since 'been commercialized and' it 'appears that is the acceptable norm. Unless we achieve a miracle of leadership



Ayu

transition in 2023 to a visionary, competent leader that is not part of Nigeria's corruption-industrial complex, we are', doomed to remain where we have reached.

From what we have seen in the last three weeks when the parties opened the flood gate for the sales of their forms, the political machines went to work gauging what the heart beat of the players before they came up with exorbitant price tags in the different parties. One Daniel Lenka was quoted to have commented on a platform thus: The politicians are promoting class distinction and the use of power, money and position to usurp the number one offices of the nation and to maintain it strictly to themselves.

The fees are extremely high, only a few of them can afford to pay. To think that the parties are not even ready for a change of heart about the development means that they are in the same league. Can Nigerian politicians move to other parties and be voted for on account of the high cost of paying for high cost of fees?

Today, there are other parties that do not have reason to charge high fees for their nomination forms. Is there no room for politicians to join those parties and develop them into credible platforms to fight for political recognition? Some have asked concerning the interest they have in governing Nigeria: 'What do you expect? They are bidding to continue with the bad governance. Unfortunately politics in Nigeria is business rather than rendering service and representation'.

Do Nigerians have cause to reject the parties which have placed high fees for the cost of buying their nomination forms? They have but

may not want to, so long as they are attracted to the 'big two'. Indeed, it is, for many 'totally incomprehensible. Why this humongous fee for a mere form? A person who buys a form for so much will definitely dip his hands into the public till to recoup his expenses. Nothing has changed. The fight against corruption is mere meretricious rhetoric'.

Come to think of it: 'The total annual salary of the President of Nigeria is N14, 058,820. In 4 years it would be N56, 235,280. How can anyone apply for the job with N100 million just to earn N56, 235,280 if his intention is not to milk' us dry when such a person must have won the election. That way, it is possible that we can't, as a people fight corruption.

The parties have a responsibility not to make it appear as if it is an enterprise for them to make money at all cost. How they do it, can be a way forward for those gearing to rule us in the years to come. To sell the idea that leadership is about money defeats the essence of the struggle for which we are all engaged in.

I am aware that there are a number of things that the parties need to do with money; yet the point has been made: Leadership is about service and those who want to get into it must be prepared to lead by example.

The high cost of the nomination form is not by any means the way to go. The way to go is to encourage even those without money but who may be genuinely capable to lead must be prodded to get on board and supported; so long as they know they can offer credible service to the nation.



Irresponsibility of parents robs us of sanity

OF recent, the social media have been awash with scenes of children dancing with their partners in very vulgar manners. From the setting and music at the background, it is obvious those scenes played out during children's birthday in the daytime.

The most popular dance step is the one the girls bend over with their backs to their partners, shaking their God given asses as if their lives depended on it, placing their hands on their knees for support. The boys, on the other hand, position themselves very well to be able to be ramming into the ass of the girl, his partner over and over, holding on to her waist to get it well.

As the girls twist their waist and shake their asses, they do it in a provocative manner that can easily arouse a normal grown man. Only God knows what happens in the case of these boys and girls. And how would they douse the tension?

A lady lamented how the parents of the boys and girls dancing in a vulgar way, in a party cheered them on. Obviously, it was not strange to them. It was as natural as breathing. In fact, anyone who dared to complain was dismissed as 'holier than thou' that should be in the church not at a children's birthday. Are you kidding me?

Parents have embraced anything trendy, modern or in vogue without question. We watch music videos of Nigeria's musicians which are full of dirty dancing and don't raise eyebrows when our kids start imitating the dance steps. We think our kids are cool and lively and move with the times.

Do you wonder why so many atrocities are committed without remorse? The kids above had the audacity to dance in a vulgar manner before their parents who cheered them up, is sexual immorality going to look strange to them? Of course not.

Is it any wonder that a ten year old (Chrisland female student) could display her expertise in a sexual manner that set tongues of right thinking Nigerians wagging. We pretend not to know how the moral decadence came about when we parents are the architects. Until we are ready to call a spade a spade, the moral decadence would continue to get worse.

This brings to mind a literary day one attended along with my students during my day's as an English and Literature teacher. At the start of the programme, they gave us (the adults among them) the exalted position of judges of debate that was the first

item on the agenda. But immediately shuffled the items on the agenda. They knew that immediately after the debate most schools accompanied by teachers would go. We were forced to endure some offensive games like "pick and act".

One watched first with amusement as one of my students picked one which instructed her to pick one of the opposite sex and dance on the stage with him. She picked a very confident guy, one of my students too, who danced to his heart content while she shyly moved her body from one side to the other avoiding her partner's eyes which were openly laughing at her.

After enjoying the harmless one, I was looking forward to the next 'pick and act' game when a girl read out what she picked. My pastor colleague shouted out loud "No!" to the instructions. But the students were already excited and encouraging her to do the needful.

This young beautiful girl was asked to pick one of the opposite sex and remove 5 things he was wearing right there on stage. She called a friend from her school. And shyly, she started amidst cheers. First, she removed his glasses, then his tie, then his shoes, then his socks. At this point, she didn't know what to go for. Students cheering was deafening at this point. She wanted to give up but she was warned that someone would remove 5 things from her body.

At this point, we the adults wanted to leave because it was evident the students didn't give a hoot that we were part of the audience. They turned deaf ears to our pleas for that game to stop as it was moving towards dangerous grounds.

The students won over as our small voices amounted to only one per cent. Purposefully but somewhat shyly, the young girl who would not be more than 14 years, went for his belt. As she began the process of unbuckling it, the cheers were deafening and the excitement palpable. We could not bear it, so we stepped out.

To most of the students, that was the climax of the literary day. Everything paled in comparison to that. It took the shine off the Debate and any educational thing that was done that day.

These are the crop of students we have now. They see no fun in education if nothing fun is added to it. We need to re-orient their thinking pattern, starting from the home front, church or mosque and then school or it's a lost generation. God help us!

NEWS

Lalong declares for Senate

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has declared his interest to contest for the Southern Senatorial seat under the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Nigeria's upcoming 2023 elections.

His declaration was witnessed Saturday May 7, 2022 by state party Chairman Rufus Bature, zonal party leaders from the Northern, Central and Southern Zones, party faithfuls, political appointees, and supporters at the Shendam Mini Stadium, Plateau State.

There was presentation of expression and nomination of interest forms to the Governor aside many goodwill messages by party stalwarts and stakeholders for his endorsement at the forum.

In his speech, Governor Lalong expressed his intention to vie for the post to get a chance to continue serving his zone and the entire state in Nigeria's Senate.

He said "My decision to heed the call of the people is based on the confidence they have reposed in me".

Lalong said that by the grace of God he will continue his work and do much for his zone and the state with the bulk of experience he gathered in the many elected and political offices he has held, and thanked members of the APC and the legacy group for honouring him with the purchase of the Senate form.

In his remarks, Chairman, Plateau Legacy Group, and member representing Pankshin, Kanke Kanam Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Gagdi commended Lalong for working as Governor and leaving a good legacy behind through initiating laudable



Lalong

developmental projects in the state.

He said the Plateau Legacy group and organisers of the event is made up of friends of the Governor who believe in his capacity to lead saying "You have worked hard to sustain peace in the state. We have seen what Plateau was in the past and we know what it is now. You have also distributed projects and we have seen your legacy projects across all the 17 local governments of the state". Gagdi appreciated members of the group for sacrificing and putting their resources to purchase the senatorial form to support the political ambition of the Governor.

In his goodwill message, State APC Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature said having worked with Governor Lalong since their days at the Plateau House of Assembly and with his present achievements as Governor of Plateau, he is convinced that if given the chance, Lalong will give the people a good

representation in the Senate.

While calling on party members to adhere to the laid down rules and guidelines of the party, and the stipulated laws for political participation, the APC Chairman used the forum to call on members of the party to put their house in order, tolerate each other and report all grievances to the party office to make successful waves in 2023.

Speaker, Plateau House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda supported by his Deputy and some party members expressed their support for the Governor's political ambition.

Goodwill messages by APC Elders Forum, Southern Zone APC Chairman, representatives of APC Northern and Central Senatorial Districts, representatives of APC Women and Youths of Southern Senatorial District all reiterated their unalloyed support for the Governors senatorial ambition.

Provost appeals for financial, administrative autonomy

FROM MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

THE Provost of the Nasarawa State College of Health Science and Technology, Alhaji Sulaiman Abdullahi Mohammed has appealed for the granting financial and administrative autonomy to the college by the state government as a matter of necessity and importance.

This, according to him has become highly imperative with a view to enable the fast growing institution the abilities to address most of its pressing challenges especially in the areas of academics, Infrastructure, provision of learning materials or equipment, student and staff welfare among others.

Speaking with Sunday Standard in an exclusive interview during the week in Keffi, the Provost contended that with the passage and assenting of the law that upgraded the institution to its present status of college, the granting of full flesh financial autonomy has become highly imperative and desirable.

"With the upgrade of the

institution to the status of a college it deserves to be granted a full flash financial autonomy in respect of its present status to enable it live up to its pressing obligations and move forward to the next level" he pleaded.

Muhammed lamented that with the present situation whereby the college is in a serious paucity of funds to meet-up with the numerous challenges confronting it, their only solution is the granting of financial autonomy which they have been appealing for from the state government.

"Infact the poor financial status of the College is making it almost impossible for it to address most of the challenges confronting it especially the unforeseen circumstances among others," he lamented.

He stated that it was based on that the management of the college under his leadership has presented their case to the state governor Engineer Abdullahi Sule and expressed the

optimism that with his listening ears and understanding he would respond to their request positively to enable them address their challenges.

The Provost however expressed the delight that despite the present challenges, the college was able to live up to its expectations and even move ahead to break new grounds on its academic, infrastructure, staff and students welfare to an appreciable level.

On its academic achievements the Provost expressed delight that the college was able to achieve a significant success whereby its graduands score above 80% in their final examinations. He added adding that most of its academic programmes either the old ones and the newly introduced ones have been accredited by their various regulating bodies.

Muhammed further expressed happiness that the college is witnessing peaceful and orderly academic and administrative programmes and therefore pledged to sustain the cordiality in order to move the institution forward.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Youth leader warns PDP against destruction of billboards

From
ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA,
Bauchi

A youth leader and strong advocate of All Progressives Congress (APC) in Bauchi State, Comrade Ukkasha Hamza Rahama, has condemned the destruction of APC aspirants' billboards in the state and described it as barbaric and uncivilized.

Comrade Rahama has also called on the state Commissioner of Police and the Director of the State Security Services (DSS) to investigate, arrest and prosecute those destroying billboards of APC aspirants along with those sponsoring the breach of peace so as to serve as a deterrent to others.

Rahama made the call while speaking with journalists in Bauchi, drawing a particular reference to the recent destruction of campaign billboards of an APC gubernatorial aspirant, Nura Manu Soro by some unknown persons, describing the development as "unfair, uncivilized, criminal and unfortunate".

The youth leader said, "the destruction of the aspirant's campaign billboards was coming at the time that the said Nura Manu Soro had every constitutional right to contest whatever political seat he may deem fit, based on the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria".

Adding, "I see the need to draw the attention of His Excellency the Executive Governor of Bauchi State Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed (Kauran Bauchi) on the urgent need to address the increasing attacks on the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state, especially as we are



Adamu

approaching the general elections of which the process of electing leaders through party process has commenced earnestly.

"The governor, as a beneficiary of opposition, must protect Bauchi's long ancestral heritage where power and money do not win elections for aspirants."

He said the harassment on the opposition APC in the state by PDP who has only the governor is condemnable, saying that, "it should not continue to happen as the recurrence of such will pitch the parties and the politicians against each other and consequently deny the state any meaningful development.

"We are using this medium to call on the Commissioner of Police and the Director of the State Security Services in the state and security agencies to ensure that these political thugs and the sponsors off this ugly and unfortunate situation are arrested and prosecuted according to the laws of the land to serve as a deterrent to

others who may have similar motives."

Rahama called on all APC members in the state to remain calm, peaceful, law abiding and continue mobilizing people into the party in order to regain what will initially belong to them come 2023 in name of Allah.

Gov Mohammed assures of hitch free elections

From **Abbas Shehu**
Gungura, Bauchi

G OVERNOR, Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, of Bauchi has reassured on the commitment of his administration to ensuring free, fair and hitch-free general elections in the state in 2023.

He, however, warned politicians to adhere to the country's laws and order and avoid any breach of peace in the state.

The Governor gave the warning when he received the Emir of Bauchi, Dr Rilwanu Suleiman Adamu, during the traditional Homage, Hawan

AS the race towards the 2023 general elections continues to gather momentum, a former chairman of the Nigeria Union of Local Government employees (NULGE) in Nasarawa State, Comrade Abdullahi Abubakar (Alaye) has thrown his hat to the ring seeking to contest for the Nasarawa state House of Assembly to represent Keffi East Constituency.

Abubakar Alaye who is contesting under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) stated that he decided to make himself available for the contest based on the clarion calls from the people of his constituency as well as his desire to serve his constituency with a purposeful and peoples oriented representation that would in turn yield the desired fruits of democracy.

Speaking in one of his campaign rallies in one of the electoral wards in Keffi, Alaye assured that as a person with requisite experiences and commitment towards serving the people, he would if elected ensure that he gave a popular representation that

Daushe, which is usually held a day after Eid-El Fitr.

He assured that the state government under his watch will ensure a level playing ground for the opposition as laid down by the constitution and the Electoral Act, saying there would be no politics of bitterness and rancour in the state.

Senator Bala appreciated and commended traditional institutions in the state for their support, cooperation and understanding which has assisted his administration since 2019 to date and that enabled him succeeded in rebuilding the state to what it is today that every citizen is

Former NULGE chair aspires to be lawmaker

From
MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,
Keffi

would attract the attention of the state government and other relevant public and private institution to bring about meaningful developmental projects and programmes that would impact positively on the lives of his constituency.

The Nasarawa State House of Assembly hopeful further assured that his representation is going to be people based in such a way that the majority decision of his people is going to be the focal point.

"I want to assure here that my representation if elected is going to be people-based whereby the collective decision of my constituents would always be my guiding light in taking any action or inaction because to me loyalty and obedience are the major cardinal focus and actions of any good representative," he assured.

Abubakar Alaye who has already purchased his

expression of interest form, explained that the action is a clear demonstration of his commitments towards giving back his best to his people.

Commenting about his acceptance by the people of his constituency so far, Alaye expressed his satisfaction that most of the political gladiators from his constituency are solidly behind his aspiration especially that they were highly instrumental to his making himself available for such contest.

The Former NULGE Chairman who is highly optimistic of emerging with flying colours to become the flag bearer of the party in his constituency and then win during the final election however appealed to all the delegates to ensure that they give him their votes.

While soliciting for more support and co-operation from the people of his constituency, Abubakar Alaye assured that their efforts would never go in vain as he is up and doing to make their gesture a reciprocal one.



Mohammed

proud to associate with. Speaking earlier, the Emir of

Bauchi (Dr) Rilwanu Sulaiman Adamu, expressed gratitude and commended Governor Mohammed for the Honor and respect always accorded to traditional institutions, submitting that the actions of His Excellency was not a surprise to them considering him as their own prince.

The State chairman of Traditional Council said traditional rulers in the state are not unaware of the governor's efforts in promoting the traditional institutions but also to ensure peace and peaceful coexistence of Nigerians resident in Bauchi State.

He assured that the governor would continue to receive the support of traditional rulers in the state.

"You are doing everything possible to promote the traditional institutions to a position of pride in the country. We will continue to support you in that direction."

"We recognise your efforts at ensuring peace and peaceful co-existence among Nigerians resident in the state. We are also aware of all you are doing to ensure the security of lives and property. We will continue to support your efforts," the

2023: Vote wisely, shun political prostitutes -Wike

A HEAD of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) primaries billed to hold 28,29 of this month in Abuja, River State Governor, Nyesom Wike has advised delegates for the presidential primary election to vote wisely and ensure that they shun political prostitutes.

Governor Wike gave the advice recently in Lokoja when he met Kogi PDP delegates while seeking for

From **AMEDU JOSEPH,**
Lokoja

their votes to fly the flag of the party in the 2023 Presidential election.

The Presidential aspirant who cast aspersions at those that have turned their back against the PDP after benefitting much from the party said he won't defect to another party if he failed his bid to pick the party presidential ticket.

"I hate ingrates in my life. We have some people who are busy jumping from one party to another just because they want to win election. As for me, if you don't vote for me in our party primary, I will still remain a member of the PDP. I

have benefited from this party, and so I have no excuse to give, for defecting to another party", he said.

According to him, Nigerians need a fearless and courageous Man like him that can speak the truth to the

power that be without fear or favour.

While lamenting the poor state of Kogi State, Governor Wike expressed confidence that the opposition PDP will take over the State, come 2023.

2023: Youth groups inaugurate campaign council for Ohere

From
AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

SOME youths in Kogi Central under the umbrella of Ohere Youth and Students Campaign Network (OYSCN), have inaugurated its central committee and Local Government Coordinators, at Okene, Kogi State.

The Youths' group which is comprised 17 different interest groups within the APC met in Okene to discuss on how to unite and deliver Engr Abubakar Ohere, the Kogi State Commissioner for works, as the next Senator to represent the good people of Kogi Central Senatorial District in the 2023 general elections.

The local government Coordinators were drawn from the five (5) Local Government Areas of Kogi Central, and their excos selected from eleven wards from each of the local government areas.

The group resolved to work in harmony and canvass for votes for Engr. Ohere's emergence as the APC senatorial candidate for Kogi Central in the forthcoming party primaries for the National Assembly election.

Comrade Omeiza Audu and Comrade Mohammed

Eneji were inaugurated as The Director General and the General Secretary respectively, among others. Local government coordinators were also inaugurated.

In his inaugural speech, the DG, Comrade Omeiza Audu (Troy), charged all members to work together in unison towards ensuring that the Aspirant, Engr Ohere is propelled by the group to attain his enviable height.

He urged them to make sure they work hard to see to his emergence as the APC flagbearer for Kogi Central, and as member of the next Senate of the Federal



Wike

POLITICS

Reps reconvenes to pass Bills

From JIDAUNA YANUNG
Abuja

THE House of Representatives will on Wednesday reconvene to pass three critical bills which include: Proceeds of Crime Bill, Money laundering Prohibition (Amendment) Bill 2011 and Terrorism Prevention Act.

A member of the National Assembly Hon Solomon Maren who disclosed this in a telephone interview with

SUNDAY STANDARD explained that the House was reconvening to facilitate the passage of the three bills which are of urgent public importance and equally enable Nigeria to meet some international datelines and obligations.

It would be recalled that the House postponed its plenary last week because of the repair work going on in the chambers.

However, the senate sat last week and passed the anti terrorism bill and attended to other pressing



Gbajabiamila

issues

Meanwhile, the minority caucus in the House of representatives on Sunday asked the federal government to initiate incentives to enhance workers productivity.

The lawyers' in a statement by the minority leader, Hon. Ndudi Elumelu lamented that Nigerian workers marked the 2022 workers day on Sunday in pain, agony and despair because of poor working conditions while praising

them for their patriotism, sacrifice and dedication to the development of the country.

The caucus also urged the federal government and all stakeholders to urgently resolve the issues surrounding the lingering industrial action by lecturers in public universities, among others.

PDP challenges Fed High Court over election schedule
THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has approach the court of

THE Director General of hope ' 23 Yahaya Bello Campaign council, Hafsat Abiola Costello, says no candidate is better positioned for the 2023 president than the Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello.

Mrs. Abiola Costello stated this recently while briefing journalists in Abuja.

She rolled out reasons why Bello remains Nigeria's best bet in the forth coming 2023 presidential election.

Costello who is also the daughter of the late acclaimed winner of the June 12, 1993 presidential election, chief MKO Abiola explained that 30 years after June 12, Bello was in the presidential race to restore the truncated hope of Nigerians especially that of the youth, women and the vulnerable.

She noted that the young Nigerians have a greater role to play in the scheme of things in the country.

"Who led the fight against June 12, against the annulment? Was it not the

'GYB best candidates for 2023 presidency'

From JIDAUNA YANUNG
Abuja

students, the young people? Many of the young Nigerians are revolting in ways that we do not endorse because they have had enough of being marginalized in their own country".

"If the country will not use them for good, they will use themselves for bad". She stated.

According to her, Bello had signaled the youth that "Nigeria is for them, that they are the ones that should be in charge and young people and women in Nigeria are ready to lead".



Bello

Chairman pledges co-operation to APC National Chairman

THE Executive Chairman of Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Mohammed Sani Ottos has given assurance of the full support and co-operation of the people of the area to Senator Abdullahi Adamu, the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress APC just as he emerges.

Speaking with newsmen after leading the delegation of prominent stakeholders from the area to felicitate with the National Chairman, ottos expressed their delight with his emergence to such an exalted position of

From
MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,
Keffi

the party.

The chairman who described him as a good political leader with a long standing political experiences, assured him of their continued support and prayers to enable him succeed in the task ahead.

"We in Nasarawa Local Government Area are very proud to associate with the success of Senator Adamu as he emerge, successful and we are assuring him of our full support, prayers and co-operation especially given the task of retaining the

powers beyond 2023 is just around the corner," he stated.

Ottos then advised Senator Adamu not to relent in bringing his wealth of experiences to bear in the administration of the party so as justify the full support and confidence reposed in him that saw him successful through a consensus arrangement.

"You should bring forth your wealth of experiences to enable the party remain in power beyond 2023 which is why you are given such a golden opportunity and we in our own ways would join hands together to make the project a successful and fruitful one" he assured.

He then commended President Muhammadu Buhari for the confidence and support he gave to Senator Adamu saying that such honour is not only for him but for the state and the North Central zone as a whole.

Our man reports that the chairman was accompanied to the congratulatory visit by members of his executive and legislative arm led by Hon. Adamu and other members of his team.

From JIDAUNA YANUNG
Abuja

Appeal, Abuja Division, to challenge the order of a Federal High Court which asked it to come and show case why the planned presidential Primary election schedule for May 28 should not be stopped.

The party is also challenging the jurisdiction of the court to summon it over an issue that the party described as its internal affairs.

The opposition party in a notice of preliminary objection filed on Friday by its counsel, Mahmud Magaji

(SAN) submitted that the subject matter of the case which borders on whether to zone its presidential ticket to any part of the country is not an issue that the court has the mandate to decide.

Justice Donatus Okonrowo of the Federal High Court Abuja had last Thursday, ordered the opposition PDP to appear before it on May 5th to show case why the request of one of its presidential aspirants to stop the scheduled primary election for the selection of the party's

standard bearer in the 2023 presidential election should not be granted.

The aspirant, a former Deputy speaker of Abia state House of Assembly, Hon. Cosmas Ndukwe had brought an application for an order of injunction restraining the PDP from proceeding with its scheduled primary election pending the hearing and determination of his suit challenging the position of the party on the issue of zoning the party's presidential ticket.

DVD leader salutes Governor Lalong @59



Dimka

THE leader of the DVD Movement and leading governorship aspirant in Plateau State, Nde David Victor Dimka fsi has

his 59th birthday celebration.

In a release issued in Jos, the governorship aspirant described the Governor as a "leader whose tenure has brought in stability and peaceful coexistence between the people of the State".

While saluting the governor's leadership qualities he prayed that the incoming leadership in the State will consolidate on the gains already achieved by the current administration under his watch.

"I commend your untiring efforts in ensuring that peace is sustained despite occasional incidences that have continued to destabilize the State ", he added.



Adamu

SUNDAY POLITICS

2023: Has constitution amendment disqualified Jonathan?

Ex-President Goodluck Jonathan's cryptic response in Abuja on April 22 about his rumoured interest in the presidential election has ignited a debate among Nigerians, particularly legal experts, about his eligibility to contest, given Section 137(3) of the Fourth Alteration to the Constitution, amongst other provisions. ERIC IKHILAE writes.

BEFORE April 22, 2022. The idea of ex-President Goodluck Jonathan being drafted to contest the next presidential election as a candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was considered speculation, often amplified by the occasional appearances of his posters in strategic locations across the country.

But, on April 22, Jonathan spoke publicly on the issue when a group of individuals, claiming to be his supporters, visited him in Abuja. Although the ex-president sounded ambivalent, he was not categorical in denying the possibility of him contesting the next presidential election.

He was quoted as telling his visitors: "I cannot declare because some processes are still ongoing. Yes, you are calling on me to come and declare for the next election. I cannot tell you I'm declaring. The political process is ongoing; just watch out. The key role you must play is that Nigeria must get somebody that will carry young people along."

The April 22 incident has since ignited a huge debate about Jonathan's eligibility or otherwise for the next presidential election in the face of some provisions in the 4th Alteration to the Constitution and existing judicial authorities.

While many argue that the provision in Section 137(3) to the Constitution, among other provisions, have disabled Jonathan from further seeking to be president, others hold contrary views, insisting that he was not encumbered by any known law or judicial authorities.

Jonathan's story

Jonathan, who assumed office on May 29, 2007 as a Vice President, with the late Umar Yar'Adua as the President, was named Acting President on February 9, 2010, following the doctrine of necessity initiative by the Senate of Nigeria, owing to President Yar'Adua's prolonged medical trip to Saudi Arabia in November 2009.

Following President Umaru Yar'Adua's death on May 5, 2010, Acting President Jonathan took the oath of office as the substantive President on May 6, 2010.

Upon winning the next presidential election, Jonathan again took the oath of office on May 29, 2011 as the President but lost the 2015 presidential election, which he contested on the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) to the candidate of the APC, now President Muhammadu Buhari.

With Buhari rounding off his second term, amidst heightening political jostling among politicians in preparation for next year's presidential election, the rumoured drafting of Jonathan by some interests within the APC has become an issue of interest to many.

This is because, not only is he known as a PDP member, it is not yet in public that Jonathan has defected to the APC. The plot becomes more intriguing when viewed against the fact that the Buhari-government has not ceased to blame Jonathan for the nation's woes, accusing him of being the cause of all the nation's troubles.

The fact that Jonathan chose to be ambivalent during the April 22 encounter with his so-called supporters, who urged him to declare, has further sustained the rumour, which now informed the debate about his eligibility in the face

of the provision of Section 137(3).

The 4th Alteration

In view of the nation's experience between 2011 and 2015, the National Assembly took it upon itself to effect some amendments to the Constitution, which resulted in the 4th Alteration to the Constitution. One of the issues addressed by the 4th Alteration was the question raised prior to the 2015 presidential election whether Jonathan could take the oath of office as a president for the third time in the face of the provision of Section 137 (1) (b) of the Constitution.

Section 137(1) (b) provides that: "a person shall not be qualified for election to the office of President if he has been elected to such office at any two previous elections."

The question was litigated up to the Court of Appeal in a case, first filed at the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in 2012 by a member of the PDP, Cyriacus Njoku, with Jonathan, the PDP and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as defendants.

Njoku contended among others that, having taken the oath of office twice as a president (2010 and 2011) Jonathan was barred by sections 135(2) and 137(1) (b) of the Constitution from contesting in 2015 for the post of president.

In a judgment on March 1, 2013, Justice Mudashiru Oniyangi held in favour of Jonathan, a decision Njoku appealed at the Court of Appeal in Abuja in 2013.

He raised two issues for determination in the appeal. They were:

*Whether Section 135 (2) of the Constitution which specifies a period of four years in office for the President is only available or applicable to a person elected on the basis of an actual election or includes one in which a person assumes the position of President by operation of law as in the case of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan.

Whether Section 137 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, which provides that a person shall not be qualified for election to the office of President if he has been elected to such office at any two previous elections applies to the 1st Defendant who first took an Oath of Office as substantive President on May 6, 2010 and took a second Oath of Office as President on May 29, 2011.

In its judgment on March 3, 2015 a five-member panel of the Court of Appeal was unanimous in holding that the oath that Jonathan took in 2010 was merely to complete the unexpired tenure of the late President Yar'Adua.

It further held that by virtue of Section 135 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution, Jonathan only took his first oath as a president in May, 2011, adding that disqualification is through election, not oath taking.

In the lead judgment, Justice Abubakar Yahaya said: "In this appeal, it is not controverted by the appellant that the first oath taken by the first defendant (Jonathan) was the oath he took as the Vice President and not as President... But he took the oath in May 2010 to complete the unexpired tenure of the late Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

"Section 137(1) (b) disqualifies a person from contesting for president if he had been elected twice. Disqualification is through election and not oath taking.



Jonathan

Election is a process of choosing a person to occupy a position by voting.

"When election is given its literal meaning, it connotes when a voting is employed to choose a person for political office. This did not take place when Jonathan stepped into the shoes of his Principal who went to the great beyond.

"To say these things were done is to import words not used by the constitution. Section 146(1) of the constitution cannot be deemed an election for a VP to step into the office of a President. Election involves conducting primaries by party, nomination, election and announcement of results. All these processes were not done.

"If a Vice President succeeds a President that dies, that cannot be challenged. It is a mode of stepping into the vacant office provided for by the constitution. When a President dies, the Vice President automatically becomes President as provided for by Section 130 (1) (2) of the 1999 Constitution... It was not election that produced the first respondent (Jonathan) in May 2010, the oath he took then was not an oath of elected President as provided for by Section 180 of the Constitution.

"The process of election was followed in 2011. The oath of office taken in 2011 was the first oath taken by the first respondent as an elected President having fulfilled all the process of election... Again, the succession of a Vice-President to the office of a President, who died, in accordance with Section 146 (1) of the 1999 Constitution, cannot be "deemed an election", especially for the purpose of taking away a right that has been vested.

"As stated earlier, an election under the 1999 Constitution involves primaries, nominations, voting and declaration of results. That is the mode prescribed in electing a President, and once it is so prescribed, it must be followed, and

no other method can be employed.

"All these processes can be challenged in a Court of law and if successful, the election would be annulled. But if a Vice-President succeeds a President who died, that cannot be challenged because it is a Constitutional provision, and the succession cannot be annulled.

"It is a mode of assumption to the office of the demised President, an 'appointment' by the constitution, as it were, as no letter of appointment is necessary from anybody. The Vice-President automatically becomes the President, by virtue of his being the Vice-President."

It was in an effort to prevent the possibility of having someone occupy the seat of the president more than the constitutionally stipulated eight years, as Jonathan almost did but for his defeat in 2015 that the National Assembly added sub-section 3 to section 137 of the constitution.

Section 137 (3) provides: "A person who was sworn-in as president to complete the term for which another person was elected shall not be elected to such office for more than a single term."

The enactment known as the Fourth Alteration (No 16) Act 2017 was assented to in June 2018 by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The debate

Jonathan's decision to keep his rumoured interest in contesting the next presidential election alive by electing to sound ambivalent on April 22 forced many, particularly law experts to begin to debate his eligibility or otherwise for the election in view of the provision of Section 137 (3) of the constitution.

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana ignited the debate with his argument, last week, that Jonathan could no longer seek election to the seat of the nation's president having been barred by constitutional provisions and judicial decisions by the Supreme Court.

Falana said: "Dr. Jonathan is disqualified from contesting the 2023 presidential election. The reason is that, if he wins the election, he will spend an additional term of four years. It means that he would spend a cumulative period of nine years as President of Nigeria in utter breach of Section 137 of the constitution which provides for a maximum two terms of eight years.

He further argued that in view of the provision of Section 137 (3) of the constitution, Jonathan could not seek a re-election to the office of the president having completed the tenure of the late President Yar'Adua and sworn in again for a full four-year term in 2011 upon winning the presidential election in his own name.

Although many lawyers, including Mike Ozekhome (SAN), Reuben Atabo (SAN), Abubakar Sani and Daniel Makolo have argued that amendment to the constitution which came into effect in 2018 could not be retrospectively applied to the Jonathan case that occurred in 2015, Falana thinks otherwise, citing judicial authorities to support his position.

Falana argued: "Assuming without conceding that the amendment is not retrospective, it is submitted that under the current constitution, a president or governor cannot spend more than two terms of eight years. In other words, the constitution will not allow anyone to be in office for more than a cumulative period of eight years.

"In *Marwa v. Nyako* (2012) 6 NWLR (Pt.1296) 199 at 387 the Supreme Court stated that Section 180 (1) and (2) (a) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has prescribed a single term of 4 years and if a second term, another period of four years and not a day longer.

"In the case of Governor Ladoja v INEC (2008)40 WRN 1 the Supreme Court rejected the prayer of Governor Ladoja for 11 months' extension to cover the period he was kept out of office through illegal impeachment," he added.

Other lawyers, including Professor Yemi Akinseye-George (SAN), Sebastine Hon (SAN), Musibau Adetunbi (SAN) and Tunde Falola are in agreement with the position held by Falana on the issue.

Akinseye-George equally argued that Jonathan is no longer eligible for election to that office, noting that the principle against retroactive application of laws does not apply to the constitution.

He added: "Although this amendment to the constitution was signed after he left office, it is applicable to him and any other person caught by the provision. Therefore, let those urging Jonathan to run stop fooling themselves. The plot is dead on arrival. If Jonathan is presented as a candidate, his candidacy will be nullified by virtue of Section 137 (3) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended."

Hon, who shared the same view, noted that the 4th Alteration Act of 2017 amended both sections 137 and 182, by adding subsection (3) to each of those provisions, to bar a president and a governor who stepped in to complete the tenure of a former holder of that office from being inaugurated into that same office more than once thereafter.

To be continued



Plateau State Internal Revenue Service

FELICITATES WITH THE RESCUE CAPTAIN

The Governing Board, Management and Staff of the Plateau State Internal Revenue Service (PSIRS) heartily felicitates with His Excellency, **RT. HON. (DR) SIMON BAKO LALONG KSGG**, Executive Governor of Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governors Forum as he clocks 59.

Your Excellency, this occasion provides us yet another opportunity to celebrate your record of achievements as you continue to Rescue Plateau State from the many challenges that stood on the path of its socio-economic progress.

Since coming into office, you have strengthened the capacity of the PSIRS and other agencies of Government to harness the revenue potentials of the State in order to enable Government provide quality, timely and efficient services to the citizens.

Your prudent application of resources and penchant for transparency, accountability and fairness has further created confidence in our people to embrace the reforms in tax administration by paying their taxes.

With your visionary leadership, the three-pillar policy thrust of the Rescue Administration anchored on Peace, Security and good Governance; Physical Infrastructural Development; and Sustainable Economic Rebirth will surely take Plateau State to greater heights.

As you celebrate 59 years, we pray that God gives you more knowledge and wisdom to take Plateau State to enviable heights.

Happy Birthday Your Excellency

Dashe Arlat Dasogot Fcti, Fcna
Executive Chairman, PSIRS



Dashe Arlat Dasogot Fcti, Fcna
Executive Chairman, PSIRS

At
59
th



Gov. Simon Bako Lalong
Executive Governor, Plateau State

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

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

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

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

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

On National Assembly constitution amendments



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Derailed youths causing mayhem in Plateau communities?

Peace is one aspect of life that the people of plateau state have always cherished and enjoyed over the years and by their hospitable nature have coexisted with other nationalities in the spirit of harmony and concord as different communities share common aspirations and the desire to build bridges of friendship and other social interactions for progress and development. Unfortunately, the narrative is fast changing with the alarming surge in criminality across the State . KENNETH DARENG examines the current trend.

THE peaceful attributes of Plateau State adds to the ambience of its clement weather and scenic beauty as home of peace and Tourism. Its greatest asset lays in a population of its youth who are seen as potential leaders that can enhance productivity in various spheres of human endeavours. Unfortunately, the narrative began to change within the past ten years where communities mainly within the Jos Metropolis and other surrounding environs such as; Jos south and Bassa Local Government areas have witnessed a steady surge in criminal activities.

In Jos north for instance, youths in communities such Angwan Rukuba, Apata Jenta Adamu, Gada Biyu and Angwan Rogo became popular for the wrong reasons. Most of them were associated with drug abuse, cultism, rape, robbery and thugry. These criminal elements alongside their counterparts in Jos south, Bassa had cause to engage each other at one point or the other particularly during the incessant Jos ethno- crisis and the rise in cultism where some of this youth acted in a militia kind of manner killing,

maiming themselves including looting and attacking innocent people.

The EndSARS saga had shown how vicious some of these youth can be with the indication that human life does not have much value given the fact that they can act with precision and gusto with the potency to attack or kill at any moment similar occasion beckons as long as they can escape justice or as long as their action is not despised by their immediate society anything goes.

These criminals appear have been shielded for too long by their parents or people in those communities from the full wrath of the law and with the rise in youth restiveness across the state, these youth have grown so hardened with a mind set to perpetuate more evil which has now become a full cancer attacking communities in the state.

The constant indictment of the youth in various atrocities that had disrupted the peace and tranquility of the state on many occasions ranging from the Jos crisis of 2001, 2008, and the recent killing of General Alkali, the Rukuba road mayhem, the Yelwan Zanzam killings apart from

other ethnic clashes and reprisals which has claimed many lives with several properties destroyed and many rendered homeless has always exposed the dark side of the plateau people and placed the youth on the spot light of both local and International attention.

The latest development in Namu Community in Qua'an Pan Local Government Area of Plateau state has again brought to the fore the escalation of criminality to the hinterland of the state which by all indication has also assumed an alarming proportion where a serving Senator, Prof. Nora Daduut, who represents Plateau Central Senatorial Zone was in the town to commission an ICT/e Library Hub when her convoy which included a Team of Journalists was attacked by a colony of rampaging youth who were alleged to be protesting the arrest of an alleged notorious gun runner in the locality by law enforcement agents.

According to reports, the youth had blocked all access roads and went about destroying business premises and other valuables. It was at that point that the Senator's

official car was attacked. Although she and other members of her entourage escaped death by whisks, her vehicle was badly damaged while the Hummer Bus conveying the pressmen alongside the Senator's pilot car were all set ablaze. And as if that was not enough, the same youths embarked on a looting spree of individual property in the locality.

In a swift reaction after the incident, the Nigeria Union of Journalist [NUJ], Plateau state chapter issued a statement signed by its Chairman, Mr Paul Jatau condemning the attack noting that; "The Nigeria Union of Journalists [NUJ] Plateau state Council condemns the unwarranted and unprovoked attacks on its members who were in Namu to offer service to humanity. It wonders why Journalists are targeted while carrying out their legitimate duties.

"We indeed call on government to come down hard on the perpetrators as Namu has become a hot bed of violence and criminality and the state cannot afford to continue on that path" Jatau opined.

Similarly, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD Newspaper**

editorial of Wednesday, May 4, 2022, roundly brought to bare the trend of youth restiveness in the state which the publication vehemently condemned noting that; "For the records this sad and condemnable development which happened in Namu has been one out of many incidences where some hoodlums have formed the habit of shielding criminally minded individuals. In most cases, some of these youths, fed with fallacious and baseless information hold societies hostage by embarking on destructive sprees which sometimes ends in the destruction of lives and properties and valuables in the state.

"Evidently, most of these youths are often brainwashed seemingly by their sponsors and their cohorts into believing that they can take the laws into their hands even as they continue to terrorize innocent citizens to the detriment of the nation. But again, some of them as vulnerable as they are, do not comprehend the resultant effects of embarking on any of such mob actions and its devastating consequences on the country.

Continued on Page 31

Happy 59th Birthday Anniversary

Goodwill Message

To His Excellency
Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong
From

Plateau State University, Bokokos

On behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Senate, Staff and students of Plateau State University Bokokos, I extend our felicitations to you on the occasion of your 59th birthday anniversary.

We pray along with you and all people of goodwill that God will lengthen your days and crown them with the choicest blessings and good health to enable you carry through your people oriented legacy projects and other laudable programmes to their logical conclusion.

Your Excellency Sir, we wish to place on record your collaborative efforts and diplomatic shuttles to many Federal establishments among which are Tertiary Education Trust Fund and the Federal Ministry of Education which has yielded dividends characterised by the huge interventions the state attracted particularly the high impact intervention which facilitated the construction of the State of the art new Senate/Administrative Building and other ancillary projects that complement the state and local governments efforts in taking the University to the level that it is today.

Sir, Plateau State University Bokokos will remain indebted to you for your concerted efforts in ensuring its continuous sustenance, improvement and growth.

As you mark this memorable day, may God fill your heart with joy and your mouth with laughter and praises for his immeasurable blessings.

Long Live Plateau State University
Long live Governor Simon Bako Lalong,
Long Live, Plateau State.

Professor Yohana Daniel Izam, FNIOB,
Vice Chancellor,
Plateau State University, Bokokos



Governor Simon Bako Lalong

Prof. Yohana Daniel Izam, FNIOB,
Vice Chancellor,

NEWS

'Unite to kick APC out in 2023'

MEMBERS of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Bauchi South Senatorial District has been called upon to unite and kick APC out of power come 2023 general election.

The Executive Chairman Bogoro LGA Hon Iliya Habila made the call when he received the senatorial aspirant under the platform of the PDP Alh Mahiru Maiwada Wundi in Bogoro yesterday.

Hon Iliya Habila said the reality is APC has failed to provide the kind of leadership the constituents required, hence the need for all the people to kick APC out of power must be seen as a collective responsibility.

He promised to mobilize delegates from Bogoro to vote Alh. Wundi for his sterling quality pointing out that the aspirant has proven to be a good leader when he was a commissioner of Youth and Sport, environment and culture during the administration of Mal. Isa Yuguda.

In his speech Alh. Mahiru Maiwada Wundi said he was in Bogoro to familiarise himself with the delegates and stakeholders of the PDP in the area towards the forthcoming primary election.

I am here to inform you that I want to contest the post of a senator to represent Bauchi South senatorial District which Bogoro is a part. I want to also tell you that I am ready to work with you in this contest. I plead with you to give me the opportunity to represent our people in the senate. You are aware of how things are going now. The present situation is unacceptable.

Alh. Wundi promised to provide jobs opportunities for the youth and ensure equitable distribution of basic social amenities to all people without partiality base on religion or ethnic background.



Dadu'ut sympathises with NUJ over attack

Senator representing Plateau Southern District in the National Assembly, Hon. Nora Dadu'ut has condoled with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State Council.

She disclosed this during a press briefing at the NUJ, Secretariat in Jos, through a high delegation team on Monday.

Hon. Dadu'ut said that it is necessary to visit the union and empathize with the journalists for what has happened during the commissioning of an ICT hub/E-library in Qua'an Pan Local Government Council that led to the burning down of the NUJ Hummer bus last month.

Buhari: Find terrorists, eliminate them

President Muhammadu Buhari has charged security agencies to identify the terrorists' hideouts and eliminate them.

This is as the Senate President, Ahmed Lawan, said his purported Presidential ambition on the platform of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) was in the realm of speculation.

President Buhari, while interacting with journalists after observing the Eid prayers at the Mambila Barracks Parade Ground, Abuja, in commemoration of the Eid-el-Fitr, said it was necessary to make the country safer especially now that the rains have started coming.

He noted that farmers must be assured of their safety as they return to the farms in order to secure the country's food production.

Buhari tweets for the first time since June, 2021

President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday tweeted for the first time since the country reversed the ban it imposed on Twitter in June last year.

The Nigerian government had imposed a ban on the social media platform after it deleted the tweets of Buhari.

The tweets which made reference to the Nigerian Civil War, threatened to deal with those behind insecurity in the "language they understand."

But the Federal Government said that the ban was not linked to the deleted tweets.

Muslims celebrate Eid-el-Fitr

Muslims in Nigeria on Monday joined their counterparts around the world to mark the Eid-el-Fitr, signaling the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

This year's celebration coincides with the commemoration of the annual International Workers' Day.

Muslims were advised to imbibe and practice the virtues of kindness, love, tolerance and good neighbourliness as exemplified by the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Lalong celebrates 59th birthday

Governor Simon Bako Lalong on Thursday marked his 59th birthday in a low key celebration.

He cancelled all elaborate celebrations to honour two young professional golfers he mentored over the years.

They lost their lives in an unfortunate accident while returning back from a golf kitty at the Rhino Golf Course in Jos, shortly after the Sallah celebration.

He prayed for the repose of their souls and God to comfort their families.

FIFA: Fines Nigeria N64m

World football governing body, FIFA, on Monday imposed N64 million fine on Nigeria for crowd disturbances that followed the Super Eagles' inability to beat Ghana and qualify for the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

The Super Eagles on March 29, 2022, managed to hold the Black Stars to a 1-1 draw at the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja, thus losing the bid to make the Qatar 2022 list to the Ghanaians.

Fans went on rampage to vent their anger and frustration over their team's poor performance by destroying everything in sight.

8 killed, 2 injured in a fresh attack

Eight people have been reportedly killed and two others injured in Cinke and Zarama villages of Kwall district, Irigwe chiefdom, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State as armed men attacked the communities on Thursday night.

Residents of Cinke and Zarama villages of Kwall District woke up following the unprovoked attacks launched by Fulani militia on Thursday, May 5, 2022, resulting in the killing of eight persons and injuring of two persons.

Compiled by Hosea Nyamlong.

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 (IPPS); 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, Abdulkasim 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 FEATURE

Is Workers's Day in Nigeria worth the hype?

THIS year's celebration isn't a departure from the norm and the focus of discussion in the various states, where May Day was observed, was on governance, politics and the economy, as usual.

Celebrating a day like the International Labour Day, also known as Worker's Day, in a country like Nigeria has become an inconsequential routine that has no real bearing on the development of the nation.

Gathering workers from all walks of life under the hot sun with several performances of dancing, choreography, music performances and, of course, a series of lectures on governance, politics, the economy and so on has become a yearly ritual performance every first day in May. To date, this ritual never occasions a renaissance in the Nigerian labour market structure. Instead, it worsens.

This year's celebration isn't a departure from the norm and the focus of discussion in the various states, where May Day was observed, was on governance, politics and the economy, as usual. This time, however, especially as the election year draws nearer, there was more stress over the role of workers in the electioneering process and how workers' votes could make a difference in the emergence of a choice candidate for president.

What could be considered a worthwhile Worker's Day celebration when the labour market situation and indeed, the overall economic environment in the country is in turmoil? At the end of each rally, every worker returns home to his or her reality: low-paying jobs, backlogs of unpaid salaries and pensions and the recurring strike actions that follow at various levels, poor and toxic work environment, rising food and energy costs, receding real income levels, insecurity, unemployment



and the ensuing overdependence effect on the working class, and so on. With all these problems, which become worse as each year passes by, there seems to be no need for a celebration but rather a reflection on the state of the nation and a desire to enforce a change by all means.

More pathetic is the narrative thrown carelessly into the air by some leaders in the country which suggests the supposed passive role Nigerian workers play in politics by not coming out en masse to vote during election periods. During the 2022 Lagos May Day rally, for instance, the president of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) of Nigeria, Quadri

Olaleye, decried the inactive role played by Nigerian workers in past general elections. In his address, he emphasised that Nigerian workers are partly responsible for the "pitiable condition the workers have found themselves, especially in the area of minimum wage implementation".

Olaleye further revealed that the union has plans underway to mobilise workers across the country to fully participate in the general elections, which come up in 2023 to support the election of good leaders that will change the course of the nation's development.

However, the TUC boss' statement appears to be quite insensitive to the

plight of the average Nigerian worker whose social and economic condition may not provide enough room to pursue secondary targets in the face of a highly inept system that is deeply rooted in corruption, nepotism and wickedness. Yes, when food, good healthcare, quality and affordable education and decent shelter have not been adequately accessed, queuing in long lines under harsh sunny weather with no sufficient security provided at the polls to vote for a privileged candidate whose choice of candidacy is marred by political oligarchy is a sheer waste of precious time and energy.

This country runs on a system where two major candidates from the most popular parties are presented, and now becomes the choice between which 200 million Nigerians may decide who rules the nation for the next four to five years. Usually, Nigerians are not given the opportunity to contest on a level playing field and have an array of choices among diverse credible options. For example, selling the presidential ticket between N40 million to N100 million

seems like a well-planned comedic way to exclude more credible, honest and hard-working Nigerians from contesting the presidential elections.

Hence, publicly wielding the personal voters' card and labelling it as the people's power of choice is not sufficient; that choice has been stolen from Nigerians right from the point of placing a monetary embargo on the campaign intention process for the various public positions.

Therefore, Olaleye's statement about the worker's part fault in the creation of a bad government is unfair and should be not be taken seriously.

Nigerian workers must unite in the fight against bad governance and poor conditions of labour in the country. This can be done through a concerted effort to frustrate any ill move made by the ruling class to subjugate the masses through biased policies and financial bullying. All trade and labour unions in the country should connive to act simultaneously without relenting. Also, the private sector and non-governmental organisations should support union workers' actions to mitigate the extreme but temporary harshness of the collective resolve against the government's star-crossed decisions, which most times are not in the favour of the masses.

NAN FEATURE

"What could be considered a worthwhile Worker's Day celebration when the labour market situation and indeed, the overall economic environment in the country is in turmoil? At the end of each rally, every worker returns home to his or her reality: low-paying jobs, backlogs of unpaid salaries and pensions and the recurring strike actions that follow at various levels, poor and toxic work environment, rising food and energy costs, receding real income levels, insecurity, unemployment and the ensuing overdependence effect on the working class, and so on."

HAPPY NEW YEAR! ITS 2022! We made it. Shame on covid-19 and economic hardship. Please put your hands around you and give yourself a big hug and then raise your hands to the sky and thank God.

Now that we are here, what next? A lot of us are thinking of making money and improving our quality of lives through work or Business. Some of us have the prerequisite experience and qualification while others do not. I did some research to see what jobs are in vogue this 2022 and I found that there is something for somebody. You can start an entirely new career this year if you choose. You do not have to have a degree. Of course, these are for the digitally inclined. You can farm or be a plumber if that is your fashion. So here we go. I culled the following from two articles for your reading pleasure and hopefully to steer your interest. As usual we go to the experts:

In an Article written by Divyesh Sindhwaad, Regional Vice President, Skillsoft. He writes the following:

Skills pay the bills! This phrase applies to every professional irrespective of their years of experience and position. Why? Because with every passing year, technology is evolving at a rapid pace, current job roles are either getting obsolete or automated, and the shorter shelf life of skills demands individuals to acquire new ones.

According to the World Economic Forum, 50% of all employees will require upskilling by 2025 to remain relevant in their job roles amid large scale disruption.

Here's a look at the top 5 tech skills organizations are looking for in their current and future workforce. These are the most employable skills for 2022:

1. Cybersecurity: According to Skillsoft's 2021 IT Skills and Salary report, 52% of IT decision-makers in the Asia-Pacific region consider cybersecurity a priority for their team. More cybersecurity professionals are needed to protect organizations' valuable data and prevent cyberattacks.

2. Cloud Computing
This domain has been a critical investment area for many organizations since 2017 until today in the fast-evolving digital-first world. The same report highlights that cloud computing is a key investment area for 43% of decision-makers. So, equipping yourself with cloud computing skills such as DevOps, Serverless Architecture, Automation, and QA will boost your career.

3. Big Data
The art and science of collecting, analyzing, and using data securely to make informed decisions, data management is the priority for IT leaders. But organizations struggle to find qualified talent to fill big data jobs and in Asia-Pacific alone 23% respondents have said the same.

4. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
AI and ML have become part of our daily lives.

They significantly drive automation that simplify systems across industries requiring organizations to constantly look for professionals skilled in this area. Job roles in this segment will be prioritized by 34% of Asia-Pacific leaders.

5. Internet of Things With more and more devices connecting with each other today and adoption rates soaring, IOT has become a hot new technology for businesses. From its infancy in 2015 to 2021, IOT devices have tripled and so is the requirement for IOT engineers. But it is one of the weaker skills set as reported by organizations either due to early-stage adoption or lack of skilled professionals.

Apart from these tech skills, individuals looking to kick-start or advance their careers need to also focus on power skills. Skills such as analytical and critical thinking, complex problem-solving, leadership and social influence are touted as the skills of the future according to World Economic Forum's 2022 Skills Outlook.

Article by Divyesh Sindhwaad, Regional Vice President, Skillsoft

The following is written by *INVESTED WALLET*:

High-Income Skills You Can Learn Without A Degree

While a college degree can be important to generating great income and may be required for certain work fields, you can develop high-income skills without a degree as well. Thanks to the Internet, you can learn pretty much anything that can translate to boosting your salary or starting a successful side hustle. However, it will still require time and experience to really jump your income, but you can learn quite a bit from the comforts of your home. So what skills are in demand and will help elevate your income and career worth? Below you'll find some of the best high-paying skills that can help you earn more from your full-time job, start a business, or create a lucrative side hustle.

1. Coding

There are hundreds of different coding "languages" available to learn, with some of the most popular being HTML, Python and Javascript. Full-time software developers (who spend their time coding) can expect to get paid an average of \$107,000 per year while freelancers could get even more lucrative salaries.

There are a number of online resources where you can learn to code for free or even pay for an online certificate, which can be a great alternative to college.

2. Web Development

Website development may also utilize those coding skills in order to build the back-end of websites. You might focus on building out the website structure (like on WordPress), or other technical elements.

A full-time website developer might make around \$61,000 in an entry-level role but can quickly surpass six figures. Again, you'll find plenty of online courses and resources to hone your web

emails, or across social media.

Copywriters can expect to earn around \$47,000 per year when working full time to start, but can quickly ramp up from there. Strong writing skills will always be in demand and there is plenty of work, whether in a freelance or full-time position.

7. SEO

Otherwise known as Search Engine Optimization, SEO is a highly-regarded skill that companies pay top-dollar for. You'll work on technical aspects, on-page content, and link-building in order to have the site rank higher on search engines like Google. An SEO consultant can earn around \$72,000 per year.

8. Email Marketing

Do you have a way with words? If the sound of the copywriting skills above felt like they were perfect for you, then email marketing might just be too! You'll be focused on testing different subject lines and hitting those open rates in order to directly market to the customer.

Employment, employability and self reliance in 2022



Buhari

development skills.

3. Web Design

Working on the front-end of websites, web designers focus on the UX (user experience) elements of the site. It's not all pretty color coordination, designers will also work on branding and navigation to ensure the site map is logical for customers.

They might also optimize each page so that customers stay online longer, for example. Junior-level web designers can expect to make approximately \$42,000 per year or it can also be a great side hustle.

4. Graphic Design

Although most colleges offer classes in graphic design, you can also excel in the role from a self-taught or non-traditional background. Graphic designers will ensure your brand fits in all aspects and appeals to your customers.

They also might make graphics for your marketing materials. Graphic designers can make around \$45,000 when working full time, or much more when freelancing.

5. Social Media Marketing

Whether you are a boss at creating catchy captions or you never miss a deadline, social media marketing is a high-income skill that is coming to the forefront.

Now that social media is one of the biggest factors for customers choosing to buy, dedicated teams will work on creating materials and building engagement on their platforms. Social media managers can earn \$50,000 on average.

Social media is a tougher market as pretty much everyone these days has develop some social media skills. But if you want to make good money from this, you'll need to learn how to build engaged audiences and be creative.

6. Copywriting

If you're good at telling stories, this might just be the job for you. Copywriters are hired to write persuasively, relate to their audience, and sell products. Your work may be used on the website, inside

Specialist email marketers earn an average of \$50,000 per year.

9. Video Editor

If you're willing to learn how to do creative transitions and color correction, you can earn a high income as a video editor. Putting together professionally produced videos is hard, and will require insider knowledge of multiple editing platforms and software suites, too.

But a video editor makes around \$38,000 per year at entry-level, which is a bit on the lower end. However, it can be a great place to start your side hustle business if you love video and editing video.

10. Podcast Editor

Similar to the above, podcasts are on the rise and could one day be as big as Youtube. But refining the audio, cutting at the right points, and merging parts of a podcast require a highly skilled individual. Although a newer role, podcast editors can expect to make an average of \$61,000 per year, and if you are inclined, you can start your own and potentially make big advertising revenue from your own.

11. Transcription

Are you a fast-typist? Transcriptionists type out audio into a legible document, sometimes in a monologue format, and sometimes as a conversation. You'll have to know your grammar, spelling and potential accents to do well in this type of role, as it might require some guesswork. Transcriptions typically earn in the region of \$30 per hour while freelancing.

12. Trade Skills (plumbing, electrical, construction)

While not online, vocational classes in plumbing, electricity, and construction are available in person. These should give you all of the knowledge you'll need to set up a business in the area, and may come with accreditation or certification too. Tradespeople who are working for themselves can earn six figures a year and beyond.

13. Coaching

Life coaching, business coaching, health & nutrition coaching. Coaches are



in high demand right now, both virtually and in person. And the best part? Some of these roles don't even require accreditation, as the industries are not regulated. It means that "anyone" can call themselves a coach. Having said that, the way to generate consistent income is through good service and retention of customers, so you'll need to be good at what you do and provide value. Do not trick people into paying for value that you cannot provide!

14. Course Creation

So many entrepreneurs create courses to generate passive income. But many of them don't know how to actually build out the courses, which hosting platform to use, and what value to add into every module. A specialist online course creator can be contracted by other businesses to create a product that can generate income for the rest of the lifetime.

15. App Creation

If the software development and coding roles above sparked your interest, then app creation may be another high-paying skill to add to your roster. App stores are no longer filled with online games and digital toys, nowadays every shopping website, airline and bank tends to have an app. What's more, companies will pay top dollar to have a great user experience and retain their mobile customers, which means this is a very high-paying skill.

16. Lead Generation

If you can learn sales techniques or build a system to generate leads, companies will invest in you to generate returns. This ROI (return on investment) is directly related to your performance in the job, so experience remaining cool under pressure will be needed. That said, you can earn commission on top of a base rate for this type of role.

17. Teaching or Tutoring

Now that teaching has moved online, some students might never look back. Particularly those who are native-English speakers, there are many opportunities to teach or tutor children and adults learning English as a foreign language. For example, there are a number of Chinese online schools that have their teachers work before or after the typical school day. This tends to work with different time zones. A new online teacher can expect to make around \$20+ per hour or more with one-to-one tutoring.

18. Real Estate Brokerage

Real estate commissions can be lucrative, so you might be pleased to learn that those working within the industry don't require a degree. Brokers are similar to estate agents but have completed additional licensing which means they can hire others and work independently. They typically make around \$100,000 per year, which is made up of approximately 40% commission.

19. Public Speaking or Presenting

While you may think that "soft skills" like public speaking are not valuable, they can actually be applied to presenting videos, giving talks, or consulting at companies.

These are practiced skills, rather than learned, which means your success is not determined by awards or accreditations. Many YouTubers make six-figure incomes, and keynote or motivational speakers earn approximately \$100,000.

20. Stock Trading

If you know your way around the stock market (or are willing to learn), you may be able to become a successful day trader or work at Wall Street!. This is a high-pressure environment with a lot of risks, so if you don't have such a strong stomach then one of the other jobs on this list may be more suited. Salaries vary but expect to make at least six figures when you become really good at what you do.

I personally prefer investing with a lazy

portfolio to day trading, but occasionally I dabble with a minimal amount. Never risk all your money or income with day trading!. If you are looking to get started with investing or day trading with less money, consider Stash, Acorns, or M1 Finance.

21. Internet Security

With many digital businesses and migrations to cloud technology come new cybersecurity threats. Protecting a company from these threats is very necessary, especially for larger companies within the Fortune 500. The average salary within this field is approximately \$76,000 per year but opportunity to make much more!

Best Places to Learn High-Income Skills
Pretty much all the above skills, you can certainly learn in college or obtain a degree in someway. However, thanks to the Internet and the advances in how people get educated, you don't need a college degree to gain most of these skills. There are tons of ways to master your interests and craft, which can translate into big bucks. Here are some ways to learn some high-income skills this year!

Books One of the go-to places to get educated and develop skills is by reading books on the areas you are looking to work in. Pretty much anything you want to learn, you'll find numerous books about. It's how I taught myself how to invest and started learning the basics of coding. Udemy or Skillshare. Online communities of experts teaching others specific skills have been a growing market for years. When the Covid-19 pandemic happened in 2020, more people were looking for things to do and find ways to make money. Two of the popular learning communities are Udemy and Skillshare, which offer thousands of courses and topics to choose from.

22. LinkedIn

Over the last few years, LinkedIn has turned into a place to learn and connect with other working professionals, instead of just a place to post your resume and connect with recruiters. There are many LinkedIn influencers who share insights into work and things you can apply to any high-income skills you are looking to develop. Additionally, you can join LinkedIn Learning, which also offers thousands of videos to learn from.

23. Google

Looking to get more into tech like coding, digital marketing, or data and analytics? Google offers a plethora of free certifications and courses that can develop your skills. Naturally, certifications only get you so far but it sets the foundation you need to start making more money. You can check out options on Grow with Google or learn Analytics, AdWords, Youtube, and more via Google Skillshop.

24. HubSpot

If digital marketing is something that really interests you, another great way to learn and build your skills is via the marketing platform juggernaut, HubSpot. The company is known for its inbound marketing methodology, but they offer tons of certifications for free. These include inbound marketing, social media, content marketing, advertising, inbound sales, and more. Check out the HubSpot Academy to learn more.

Final Thoughts

There you have it, some of the best high-income skills that can ramp up how much money you make and be a boost to your personal finances. As you can see from the above list, there are plenty of options to consider and most will not require a college degree to get started with. Remember, that learning and certifications are great, but just getting started and doing the work (even if it's your own project) will help you build your skills.

THE second gift of grace that is in Jesus is salvation. Ephesians 2:9&9 **for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.** Many of us have been so long in the school of walking with God so much so that we subconsciously trivialise salvation. Many times when we are giving God thanks for things, we mostly start with the things that are tangible forgetting the intangible things like salvation that power the tangible things. I myself fall guilty to this and have to always renew my mind.

If we will thank God for the things that are most precious to Him, the power of God will come to change the things that are precious to us. Hallelujah! Eph. 2:8 says **for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man.** When I look around the world today and all the craziness that goes on in it, I get glad that I am a citizen of heaven.

We are citizens of heaven here on earth and we are domicile from heaven. What a joy it is to know that we are in this world but we are not of this world. We belong to Jesus and we are the apple of His eye.

These days when I come before the Lord in worship and thanks giving, I say I thank you Lord for the grace to be able to fellowship with you. I have been called into fellowship of the Son of God and I thank you because you are my Lord. I thank you because I am saved; I am saved from hell.

My goodness, do you know that hell is still hot? The heat of hell is not a heat that you can even comprehend in this world but praise God because you are delivered from that thing forever.

This is why when God saves us He makes us His partners in the work of salvation. Brethren as we begin 2022 let us not come to church alone again. If you are believing God for cars, let it be that you may fill those cars with people that you will bring to church I beg you. Go out into your neighbourhood and into your ethnos; there are some people that you can reach that nobody else can.

There are some people who will not listen to pastor Dunka's voice but they will listen to your voice. Whether it is in the banking world or engineering world or in the world of science, arts or entertainment, God has connected you to the people there and giving you a voice in that world that you may reach them.

As we enter 2022 let us be conscious of these things. Let us be conscious as we go about the business of life, know that God has put us in our domain and gifted us uniquely in our careers, professions and

domain so that we can win others for Him. we do not have to put a badge on our faces but this Jesus life in you is a witness only let Him witness through you. Pull people like you into the church and do not just go to church alone.

Brethren what are we not only here to eat and believing God for the money drink but that we are here on a for? How many cloths can you wear at the same time? How much can you eat at a seating?

enter eternity without Jesus their fate is sealed and heading straight for hell. But hell is even the junior brother; the big brother is called the lake of fire into which even hell itself will be thrown.

This is why we must know we are not only here to eat and drink but that we are here on a mission. God is very kind and He will make our mission delightful but we are here on a



Thanks God for his unspeakable gift



We have these gifts and graces in abundance; there is an abundance of grace for your health, for your family life; for your money and your career, and so for all of our lives on this earth we are to learn to draw from this grace through the scriptures, learning about the provision of Christ for us and exercising our faith in it. Praise the name of the Lord!

I pray that 2022 will be your best year ever and I pray that God super satisfies all your needs and I pray most of all that you will prosper in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, knowing who He is to you. Have a prosperous new year in



ministry gifts as we see in Ephesians 4:8-11.

So, in summery of what we have been teaching on inn this season special as I bring it to an end, our sins have been **forgiven, salvation** has come to us and now we have **eternal life** and the **abundant grace** of God has been extended to us because we have been **made righteous** not of our own works but as a free gift that we may stand before God just as if we have never sinned; just like Jesus we are **sons of God** full of **spiritual gifts. We also have the gift of the word of God.**

We have these gifts and graces in abundance; there is an abundance of grace for your health, for your family life; for your money and your career, and so for all of our lives on this earth we are to learn to draw from this grace through the scriptures, learning about the provision of Christ for us and exercising our faith in it. Praise the name of the Lord!

I pray that 2022 will be your best year ever and I pray that God super satisfies all your needs and I pray most of all that you will prosper in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, knowing who He is to you. Have a prosperous new year in Jesus name. Amen.

Who many caps can you wear at the same time? What are we piling the money for? As we enter 2022 we must be a people of purpose. Please let us step up and win more souls for Jesus.

We first of all talked about the gift of the forgiveness of sin, secondly salvation; now the third Gift I want to introduce today is eternal life. All these are precious gifts and I have learnt that when you focus on these great intangible gifts, out of this intangible realm will come the power to change your physical life: because this is where life is.

I hope we know that eternal life is not living forever; everlasting life that the Bible talks about in John 3:16 is not living forever because the truth is every human being is going to live forever; that I guarantee you. Man is an eternal spirit and so every human being whether you like it or not will live forever. However, the issue is with the state in which you will leave. Will you be in life or death? Death is eternal separation from God; life is eternal union with God – eternal life.

This is why we are saved, that we too may save others. May we never loss the sense of this fact. As we rise and wake every day, according to that last statistic I heard of, they say every second in which you breathe in and breathe out, about 186,000 people enter into eternity. How many of those people know Jesus? Every one of these people that

mission to save souls

John 1:1-4 **in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**

So this child Saviour came to give men life. Not just to forgive our sins but also to give us His own life and this is the life that conquers the darkness in this world and eventually seals our place in heaven.

1 John 5:11 **and this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.** This life is found nowhere but in Jesus Christ. If you have the Son you have life. Hallelujah. He that has not the Son has no life; this is the gospel we preach. Paul said in 2 Cor. 5:11 **Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men** to be saved because we do not what men to suffer eternal damnation.

We also know the value of this life; this life causes men to rise to the top. Jesus who was born in a manger did not stay there. After 30 years when He was announced, He became the toast of all Israel. It was said to Jesus in Mark 1:37 **...all men seek thee.** Yet, the good news is that this Jesus is in you; your

failure days are over. **He that has the Son of God has life.** Hallelujah!

So as we have enjoyed and celebrated Christmas just know that we are celebrating is life; know that it is Jesus we are celebrating and please be a blessing to somebody anyway you can out of what God has blessed you with. Do this not just in this season but in your life; that is how to move forward and increase for the giving hands never lack and the pipe that water passes through is never dry.

The fourth and fifth blessings or gifts in Jesus are the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. Grace by definition is unmerited favour and access; righteousness is right standing with God.

Rom. 5:17 **for if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.).** We see that it is these two gifts which allow us to reign or rule in life. We call these gifts your staff of office in Christ.

Another gift in Christ is sonship. John 1:12 **but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.**

We also have been given gifts of the Spirit as you find in 1 Corinthians 12 and as well as

Most popular black female singers ever

Here we go guys, In this article, we are presenting you the most famous & popular Black Female Singers ever. They all are very talented and the most famous singer in the world, they won many people's hearts with their beautiful vocals. Black female singers face a lot of problems in the world like racism, sexism and more and have to work so hard. Nowadays, Black women are influencing the music industry and making their place in top positions. When you scroll up the page you will see the most popular Black

Mariah Carey

Mariah Carey is the most popular American black singer and actress, born on March 27, 1969. She is known for her five-octave vocal range, melismatic singing style, and signature use of the whistle register.



Robyn R. Penty

Robyn Rihanna Fenty is a Barbadian black singer, fashion designer, and businesswoman, born on February 20, 1988. Rihanna is one of the best-selling music artists of all time. She has earned 14 number-ones and 31 top-ten singles in the US and 30 top-ten entries in the UK.



Beyoncé

Beyoncé is the most famous American black singer in the world, born on September 4, 1981. She rose to fame in the late 1990s as the lead singer of Destiny's Child, one of the best-selling girl groups of all time. One of the most popular Black



Nicki Minaj

Nicki Minaj (real name Onika Tanya Maraj-Petty) is a black Trinidadian rapper & singer, born on December 8, 1982. She is known for her animated flow in her rapping and



versatility as a recording artist

Cardi B

Cardi B (real name Belcalis Marlenis Almánzar) is the most popular American rapper, born on October 11, 1992. She is the highest certified female rapper of all time on the RIAA's Top Artists. Cardi B is known for her aggressive flow and candid lyrics, which have received critical praise. One of the most popular Black Female Singers Ever



H. E. R.

H.E.R. (real name Gabriella Sarmiento Wilson) is an American singer and songwriter, born on June 27, 1997. In 2021, she was awarded the Grammy Award for Song of the Year for "I Can't Breathe", and the Academy Award for Best Original Song for "Fight for You" from the film Judas and the Black Messiah (2021).



SZA

SZA (real name Solána Imani Rowe) is a black American singer and songwriter, born on November 8, 1989. SZA is a neo-soul singer, whose music has been described as alternative R&B, with elements of soul, hip hop, & many more.



Continued on page 25

Nigerian celebrities who quietly ended their marriages

Some Nigerian celebrities have kept gist of their separation and divorce away from the public Here are some of your favourite celebrity marriages that ended quietly.



DR SID, SIMI

Nigerian music star Dr Sid and Simi got married in 2014 in one of the most talked-about celebrity weddings. They welcomed their first daughter and a second one a few years later.

Trouble in their marriage was first reported in 2017 but the couple stayed away from any public drama. In January 2020, Simi took to her Instagram page where she announced that their marriage was over.

Sid has remained silent about his divorce to date.



Osas Ighodaro, Gbenro Ajibade

Ighodaro and Ajibade met onset of a TV show and got married afterwards to fans and industry delight.

The couple's wedding ceremony was so huge, that it was televised on live TV.

In February 2019, fans and followers of Osas and Gbenro woke up to a rather strange post from the latter. He had in his post called out Osas over her parenting style. It was clear that they were separated at that time.

A few months later, Osas took down Gbenro's name from her Instagram handle. After several months in the United States of America, Gbenro marked his return to Nigeria with an interview on Rubbin Minds in December where he confirmed that they are divorced.



Etinosa Idemudia, Ighrosa

Etinosa Idemudia's marriage to Benin-based lawyer, Ighrosa is the most shortest-lived on this list. The former couple tied the knot in September 2020 and welcomed their first daughter on Christmas Day, the same year.

The movie star had planned to keep the news of her marriage crash away from the prying eyes of the public but the press had other plans. In May 2021, she called out a blogger for breaking the news about her marriage collapse.



Continued on page 25

Female Singers Ever.

Aretha L. Franklin

Aretha Louise Franklin was an American black singer and pianist, born on March 25, 1942, & died on August 16, 2018. Franklin recorded 112 charted singles on Billboard, including 73 Hot 100 entries, 17 top-ten pop singles, 100 R&B entries, and 20 number-



Diana Ross

Diana Ross is a black American singer, born on March 26, 1944. She is popular for the lead singer of the vocal group the Supremes, who became Motown's most



successful act during the 1960s and one of the world's best-selling girl groups of all time.

Tina Turner

Tina Turner is an American black singer and actress, born on November 26, 1939. Turner is famous for being the lead singer of the Ike & Tina Turner Revue before launching a successful career as a solo performer. One of the most popular Black Female Singers Ever.



Birthday Felicitation

The Commissioner Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Plateau State, HON. SYLVANUS D. TAPGUN mni, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Management and the entire staff of the Ministry, heartily rejoice with our dynamic leader, The Executive Governor of Plateau State and the Chairman Northern Governor's Forum, RT. HON. DR. SIMON BAKO LALONG as he clocks 59 years.

Sir, your leadership prowess in addressing the emerging challenges from the persistent ones that we face in the state and the nation as well as your striving efforts to make things work better with new approaches and determination stand you out as an uncommon leader.

As you celebrate this auspicious day, we join your numerous well-wishers and the good people of Plateau State, and pray that the Almighty God continue to bless you with wisdom and dedication to accomplish all the noble programmes and policies that you are executing in the state to the Glory of God and the benefit of humanity.

Once more congratulations sir.

59

**Hearty cheers
To His Excellency**

Signed:

**Sylvanus D. Tapgun (mni)
Hon. Commissioner,
Ministry for Local Government and
Chieftaincy Affairs, Plateau State**



SIMON BAKO LALONG

SYLVANUS D. TAPGUN (mni)

THE EVE'S WORLD

With Henrietta Gonzuk

Living

Tips to help over come negative thoughts

By SYLVIA SMITH

Do you suffer from excessive negative thoughts that often take a toll on your relationships and mental wellbeing? In medical science, it is known as rumination.

Rumination causes you to focus solely on your thoughts. Hence, it makes you lose your focus on other things. Some people also lose their ability to focus on other things as well. Most people also tend to blame themselves during the whole rumination procedure. In short, your thought process does not have an "Off" button. It continues to go on and on for endless cycles.

● Stress or traumatic events in life

Stress and traumatic events of life are what cause rumination in most adults.

If you have undergone some traumatic events in the past or have lost some dear people, you can become a victim of rumination.

Social anxiety

Social anxiety is also a common cause of rumination. Those who suffer from low self-motivation and social anxiety often repeat negative thoughts in their mind.

● Mental belief

Most people tend to believe that by self-humiliating themselves, they can improve. They confuse self-reflection with rumination.

● History of abuse

Those who have a history of physical or mental abuse also tend to suffer from ruminating. Other stress-inducing factors also cause rumination.

Whatever the cause is, you need to find ways on how to avoid rumination for a better and



healthy life.

Ways to stop rumination

Distract your mind

Distracting your mind from that negative memory or thought can be helpful. If you feel that you are going on the whole procedure again, try something that diverts your attention. You can try calling a friend, watching a movie, coloring pictures, reading a book, doing chores, or taking a stroll around the park.

Avoid triggers

The primary solution to stop ruminating is to identify the

triggers. It would help if you found those things or activities that repeatedly cause you to revisit those negative thoughts. Try to limit your interaction with those triggers. If possible, eliminate them.

For example, if you have some toxic relatives who cause you to remember your negative memories, take a break from them. If you are away from triggers, you will be less likely to have evil thoughts.

Set a time limit for thoughts

Those who ruminate often love to think and imagine. Hence, setting a time limit for thoughts is a great solution to stop ruminating. For example, set a time limit of ten minutes for thinking about something once. If you have any thoughts, force yourself to stop the thinking process after the ten minutes pass. This causes your brain to lose interest in the process, and you get relief.

Write down what bugs you

Is something bugging you? Take some time, grab a paper and pen. Write what you feel without any pause or issues. It will help you release the bottle of thought and stress to a great extent.

Learn to let go

Learning to let go of things in life is one of the leading solutions to stop ruminating anxiety. You need to understand that everything is not under your control, and you need to accept things as they are. It can be challenging but learn to let things go.

This will cause the negative thoughts to go away too!

Get a hobby

Hobbies are a great answer to how to stop ruminating. While a hobby distracts your mind, it also allows you to focus on something else than your thoughts. On top of that, hobbies also help you relax and enjoy yourself.

Exercise

Exercise releases endorphins (the "happy hormone") and helps to balance cortisol levels. Besides that, it also distracts you from thinking about something repeatedly. A little physical labor can also help

you to unwind more.

Learn to love yourself

Self-love is one of the best remedies for preventing ruminating. Try to indulge in the things you love and give yourself some time.

Seek professional help

If you cannot stop ruminating by yourself, it is time to seek some professional help. You can enroll in therapy sessions or visit a psychologist. They will help you overcome negative thoughts to ensure you do not ruminate a lot



THE SLOW WORLD

With Henrietta Gonzuk

Health

Simple ways to detox your liver

While most people are aware that over-use of alcohol can cause damage to the liver, this is far from the only way the liver sustains damage. When the liver becomes damaged or compromised, it can't do its job of detoxing the body as well. When this occurs, the liver needs help. Simple ways to detox your liver can help your liver get back on its feet, so to speak, so it can do its job to keep you healthy. Remember, if you are under a doctor's care for the management of any health issues or are taking any required medications, always talk with your doctor before changing your daily diet or health routine.

Drink more water.
Simple liver detox remedies can often seem, well, simplistic. But here, the simple truth is that water helps the liver move toxins through its own cellular systems and speed them on their way out of your body. But not just any water will do to have the full detoxifying benefit. Drink filtered tap water at room temperature at specific intervals of the day. Add a tiny pinch of salt and the spice turmeric to your water in order to accelerate its effectiveness. A good general rule of thumb is to aim for 4 liters of water per day. Stay away from carbonated water or water in plastic beverage containers.

Sweat, sweat, sweat.
Depending on where you live, you may be able to accomplish this simply by walking outside! But this isn't the optimal method to use sweat as a liver detox. Sweat induced by exercise has its own detoxifying benefits, pushing couch potato toxins up out of their comfy seats and moving them out of the body along with the sweat. HIT workouts, or a sauna session are great ways to sweat out toxins. Just make sure to wipe away sweat as



soon as possible with a toxin in order to prevent reabsorption of toxin back into body, and take a cool shower right after sweating. **Don't skimp on the zzzs.**
Science is finally starting to understand why human beings need at least eight hours of rest time every night where they are just being still. Sleep is detoxifying!

Sleep is a vital component of regulating metabolism as well as targeting brain and neurological toxins and moving them out of the liver. Sleep shuts off non-essential physical functions so the body can redirect its energy resources towards processing, healing, restoring, and detoxifying. The lymphatic system is the body system that works alongside the liver while you are asleep to send toxins packing while also restoring cognitive, physical, and behavior functions which improved mood, focus, and endurance.

Choose anti-inflammatory foods.
Certain foods are naturally supportive of optimal liver function. Learning about these foods and adding them into a regular daily rotation can help support the liver in doing its best work. As a side bonus, eating foods with natural anti-inflammatory benefits can lessen the risk for fatty liver disease, a disease that basically means the liver has taken on an undue amount of fat. Over time and with continued damage, fatty liver disease can turn into cirrhosis, a condition that produces permanent scars and prevents liver regeneration. The good news here is, a liver-healthy diet is also a diet that will naturally promote weight loss or weight maintenance, improved energy levels, better sleep and a more youthful appearance. Foods with natural

inflammation-repelling properties include all foods grown above ground such as green vegetables, beans, grains, and mushrooms. **Reduce or remove toxins from your daily routine.**
This tends to be the part of the liver cleanse routine no one is too enthusiastic about. Yet the simple truth is that the more toxins introduced into the body system equals the more toxins the liver then has to move back out again. Increasing the burden on the liver is never a good recipe for a successful liver detox! Reducing or eliminating all animal protein, alcohol, sugar, wheat, corn, soy,

tobacco, processed foods, caffeine, and nuts will give your liver a much-needed break to do some long-overdue house cleaning. **Give the digestive system some helpers.**
The more effective your digestive system is at eliminating toxins, the less work it will then pass along to the liver. One of the best helpers a digestive system can ever get is probiotics. These tiny beneficial bacteria get right to work shifting the balance of power in the gut from harmful bacteria back towards healthy flora and fauna.



Congratulatory Message

From

Mikang Local Government Council



I honorable **Augustine Bako** the Executive Chairman of Mikang Local Government Council, on behalf of my family, the Deputy Chairman, **Hon. Kevin Makum**, the legislature, traditional Council and the entire peace-loving people of the locality join other citizens of the state and the nation at large to wish our amiable leader, **His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Barrister Simon Bako Lalong** the Executive Governor of Plateau State and Chairman Northern Governors Forum happy 59th birthday.

Your Excellency, this historic day mark yet another period of testimonies of your selfless service to the people of the state and the nation at large. Your peace building mechanism which signifies your good heart, love, unity and peace for the progress of the state are the basic instruments used for the success you have so far achieved

You have provided inspirational hope for the Plateau of our future by embarking on projects that have direct impact on the citizens, particularly the recent award of contracts for the reconstruction of the Jos Main Market and British American fly over amongst other viable projects.

Sir, Mikang people are proud of you and have unanimously crowned you as the "prince of peace."

We pray for God's grace, good health, divine wisdom and the strength to continue to serve the state.

Our dear Leader, once more, congratulations and happy birthday.

Signed,
Hon. Augustine Bako,
Executive Chairman,
Mikang Local Government Council.

Hon. Augustine Bako,
Chairman Mikang

Birthday Felicitation

To His Excellency
RT. HON. DR. SIMON BAKO LALONG KSGG
 The Executive Governor of Plateau State
From
College of Education, Gindiri



The Provost, **Dr Emmanuel Daniel Jurte** on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of the College of Education, Gindiri heartily felicitates with **His Excellency, Rt Hon Dr Simon Bako Lalong KSGG**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governors Forum on the occasion of his birthday.

Your Excellency Sir, under your watch Plateau State has experienced tremendous achievements notable amongst which are the restoration of peace, economic prosperity, infrastructural growth and human capital development.

We in the College of Education, Gindiri are prime beneficiaries of your benevolence especially in the areas of assistance towards the successful conduct of accreditation, creation of new academic programmes, conduct of convocation, appointment of substantive Principal Officers, sustained TETFUND interventions as well as several other assistance.

We pray God Almighty to grant you wisdom, sound health and greater commitment to deliver more dividends of democracy to the good people of Plateau State as we pledge our total loyalty to the good ideals of the rescue Administration.

Once more congratulations and happy birthday Your Excellency.

Dr Emmanuel Daniel Jurte
 Provost



Governor Bako Lalong

DR EMMANUEL DANIEL JURTE
 Provost



Reality Bites

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Signs to walk away from a toxic relationship

AFTER the demise of popular Nigerian Gospel Musician 'Osinachi', there has been debates and arguments based on cultural, social and religious points of view on whether it is proper to walk away from a toxic marriage.

Recently, after trying to overcome the traumatic dehumanising death Osinachi faced in the hands of her abusive husband, another sad news broke from Plateau state and we woke up to reports of another death of Mrs. Mercy Samuel as a result of staying in a toxic marriage.

She was reportedly stabbed by her husband who ripped open her stomach leaving her intestines outside and she was rushed to hospital but didn't survive it. It might be time to leave.

The involvement of abuse in the relationship is a surefire sign of walking away. It is tough to break ties with someone you love, but for the sake of your peace of mind and self-respect, you should know when to walk away from a relationship. We all need to make some tough calls to lead a better life. One should never compromise on peace and dignity.

Being in an unhappy relationship will make you feel miserable, incomplete, lonely, and constantly disappointed, they say.

With the increasing rate of injuries and record of deaths caused by domestic abuse and violence, it is okay to walk away from a toxic marriage because from many happenings we are witnessing in the country, tolerating such toxic actions in marriage has eventually become brutal, in some cases leading to loss of life.



Relationships thrive when you honor your commitments, keep your promises, spend quality time with each other, and share responsibilities. However, when you have put in all the effort that you possibly could into your relationship, but your partner does not reciprocate, it might be time you call it quits and move on to find your happiness, say Psychologists and relationship experts.

According to Shreshtha Dhar, a licensed Clinical Psychologist, if you notice these signs, it might be time to walk away from a relationship:- They do not respect you.

Respect is the essence of any successful relationship, and when there's a lack of respect in

a relationship, it indicates an imbalanced partnership. If you feel your partner doesn't respect your feelings, thoughts, goals, and needs, you should be concerned. A disrespectful partner will disapprove your opinions and decisions, look down upon you, and neglect your efforts to make your relationship happy. If your partner manifests all these signs of disrespect, it might be time for you to walk away.- There's no trust between you If there is no trust between you two, your relationship is bound to crumble. When your partner knows about your insecurities but still does not feel the need to resolve them and gain your

trust, and if their actions and words do not merit your confidence, it is time to walk away from the relationship.- They do not value you.

Love blooms when you value each other and care for each other. A partner who values you will ask for your opinion on important matters, give you space to take up your hobbies and interests, and do everything they possibly can to keep you happy. If you feel that none of these are happening and your relationship has become one-sided, you should rethink if you should be in this relationship.- There is abuse involved The relationship should be ended the moment abuse begins.

Physical abuse is not the only kind of abuse you should be worried about.

Verbal abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and any form of abuse should not be tolerated.

Abuse majorly impacts your self-esteem, sense of identity, and confidence, and may even lead to depression.

If there is abuse involved, you should walk away without giving your partner a second chance.- The relationship has become toxic When partners do not support each other in any situation, are in constant conflict, jealousy, competition, and dishonesty creep in, the relationship has become toxic.

If this is the case in your relationship, it can take a toll on your physical health and emotional health, and thus, you should walk away from the relationship.- They have cheated If you have enough proofs that your partner has

cheated or is cheating on you, but they deny it or don't seem to regret their act, you should be parting ways with them.

The very fact that they are not remorseful is a clear indication that they would do it again, and you do not want to be with such a person.- Communication between you two has broken down Good communication is vital to any healthy relationship. If you are unable to communicate with each other, your relationship cannot survive. When you are not able to communicate, have meaningful conversations, or develop a deep intimacy, misunderstandings become common.

An irremovable communication gap is an alarming sign that you might need to walk away from your relationship.- They are selfish It is hard to be around a selfish partner. When your partner is focused on themselves, doesn't take an interest in your interests, manipulates you with tactics like guilt-tripping, and has a dominating behavior that you can't stand anymore, you should consider walking away from such a relationship.- They take you for granted When your partner takes you for granted, it signifies that they no longer care for you. If you feel you are being taken for granted, it's time to act for yourself.

Try to solve this issue by making your partner aware of the situation. And even after constantly emphasizing how you feel neglected, if they are unwilling to work on it, you have the option to walk away.- They do not have a sense of responsibility.

To be Continue next week



BUSINESS WORLD

200 young farmers will be trained – NALDA

THE National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) is sending 200 young Nigerian farmers to undergo capacity building in crop production and animal husbandry in Israel and Morocco.

The move is part of the federal government's new 'Aggressive Food Production' programme aimed to boost food production and job creation.

The youths, who are drawn from the 36 states of the federation, will receive intensive training on greenhouse farming and animal husbandry for six days.

Speaking during the official handing over of travel documents to the beneficiaries in Abuja recently, the executive secretary of NALDA, Prince Paul Ikonne, explained that the capacity building programme was a continuation of the National Young Farmers Scheme, (NYFS) programme which President Muhammadu Buhari flagged off sometime ago.

Prince Ikonne said this is a directive from President Muhammadu Buhari to ensure that youths are actively involved in food production, and make agriculture more attractive to them adding that the training will expose and equip them on modern agriculture and agribusiness.

According to him all



Abubakar

expenses paid by the federal government as contained in NALDA's budget, and they will be back to their localities to train other young people on NALDA's integrated farm estates in their areas.

He said, "The federal government is sending through NALDA 200 young farmers. It is a continuation

of the National Young Farmers Scheme, NYFS, programme that Mr President flagged off and these 200 youths will be engaged in the process of learning proper crop production and greenhouse management, and 100 youth will be engaged in animal husbandry, slaughtering processing of meat.

ICPC receives commendation for maritime sector interventions

THE Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has been praised for the reform initiative it instituted at the Nigerian ports.

The commendation was made at a Maritime Stakeholder's meeting in London, in view of the ease of maritime activities at Nigerian ports and Turn Around Time for cargoes clearance and efficiency of Nigerian Ports.

The meeting, which was attended by about 133 participants across the globe, was organized by the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), to among other things, learn about the ICPC interventions at the Nigerian Ports that led to the latest successes attained in the sector, and the processes put in place by the Nigerian government to address the challenges and trends faced by the maritime industry.

The Nigerian delegation was led by the ICPC Chairman, Prof Bolaji Owasanoye SAN, and Executive Secretary of Nigerian Shippers' Council, Hon. Emmanuel Jime.

While addressing the participants, Professor Owasanoye highlighted the importance of the maritime sector to the Nigerian economy, and the reason

ICPC had to intervene to make the Nigerian Ports more competitive and efficient.

Among the interventions engendered by ICPC in conjunction with other ports stakeholders were the development and harmonization of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs), the establishment of a complaint mechanism in the form of the Ports Service Support Portal, the development of Nigeria Ports Process Manual, as well as the establishment of Ports Standing Task Team (PSTT) which was the compliance and enforcement arm of the interventions.

The ICPC boss however pointed out that in spite of these reforms there were still pockets of challenges that needed to be tackled including the issue of malfeasance in the Ports Corridor wherein cleared cargoes are delayed by illegal checking points outside the ports.

He therefore reiterated the Commission's commitment to deal with corruption or anything that would "constitute a drag to the achievement of Ports Reform's goal," assuring the MACN delegates that no infraction at the Nigerian ports would go unpunished.

Professor Owasanoye added that the Commission would continually beam its lights on the activities at the ports to further strengthen the competitiveness and efficiency, saying, "Corruption Risk Assessment and System Study and Review will be

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has stepped up the campaign on its digital currency, eNaira, even as it said, it will, before the end of this month, introduce payment of bills on the wallets.

Speaking at a sensitisation campaign on the eNaira at the Kairo market in Oshodi Lagos in collaboration with Bizi Mobile, the Lagos Branch Controller at CBN, Mr. Bariboloka Koyor, said the USSD code for the eNaira *997# has been launched to make the onboarding of more Nigerians much easier.

He noted that the eNaira wallets will before the end of this month get an upgrade which will allow for the payment of bills such as cable and electricity bills payment as well as flight bookings via the app.

"Starting from this week, there is going to be an upgrade on the eNaira speed wallet app that will allow you to do transactions such as paying for DSTV or electric bills or even paying for flight tickets. Also the USSD code *997# is out and it is just for more people to be aware of it ab=nd begin to use it."

On the difference between the enaira and the internet banking services offered by banks, he said: "with the eNaira speed wallet, compared to the internet banking that many are used to it is fast and convenient

conducted periodically to engender efficiency of the port while mainstreaming compliance on mitigating plans, while the Commission will join other stakeholders in removing all illegal checkpoints and allow free flow of cargoes and services within the Ports corridors."

OPEC to adjust upward monthly production

THE Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has reconfirmed its decision for upward adjustment of the monthly overall production by 0.432 million barrels per day (mb/d) for the month of June 2022.

OPEC said this in its statement following the conclusion of the 28th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting, held via videoconference recently.

The meeting reconfirmed the production adjustment plan and the monthly production adjustment mechanism approved at the 19th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting.

The meeting reiterated the critical importance of adhering to full conformity and to the compensation mechanism, taking advantage of the extension



Kyari

of the compensation period until the end of June 2022. "Compensation plans should be submitted in accordance with the statement of the 15th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting," it said.

It also noted that continuing oil market

CBN set to upgrade eNaira with bills payment



Emefiele

and there is no charges.

"The enaira is an instrument that will be used in going forward by the government to disburse funds that they want to give to alleviate poverty. So the advantage is for people to onboard early. We decided to come today to sensitize the traders and business men around the market today concerning the eNaira."

"This is a project that the CBN has rolled out nation to reach out to every Nigerian in terms of financial inclusion and in terms of efficiency reliability and safety of banking transactions so that we can do banking transactions very easily and safely and the people in Nigeria can enjoy the benefit of the eNaira."

"It is a new project and the people in the market are excited about the project and accepted it and we are taking the sensitization to every where in the country."

"The e-naira is designed with the best Integrated

Security Management procedure that will help to mitigate against fraud, so there won't be any fraudulent transfers and no fraudulent alert and nobody can deceive you with e-naira transactions because it is foolproof, and we are working on it more and more.

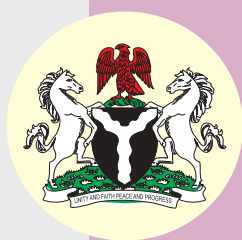
Also to note, it is 100 per cent local and 100 per cent global. It is made in Nigeria and for Nigerians, it can interface with any application and any banking system all over the world, both for individual transactions as well as for corporates transaction.

"The Naira is very fast for transactions and is cheap also for the diaspora remittances. If you want to receive money from abroad, e-naira is there for you, very cheap, direct and it also help government to reach the people too and help you to make local payments."

"For business the e-naira is very good, easy to help you make your sales you can easily make your sells to the e- and get the payments and the issue of receiving money with fake currency or counterfeit money will not be there. Your money is intact."

"For those who have suffered from financial inclusion this is an opportunity for you e-naira is there to include everybody. And what financial inclusion is talking about is the kind of ecosystem that involves buyers, students, sellers, traders, no matter who you are, no matter how much you have, because you don't need to have millions before you have e-naira wallet as little amount that you have you can open an e-naira wallet, and you can start sending and receiving, so it's for everyone no matter who you are," he pointed out.

On his part, the secretary of the Oshodi market traders, Obinna Omeh said, the eNaira will be a relief for traders as it will solve the challenge of unseen alerts, fake alerts and issues of fraud typically seen in the market.



QUA'AN PAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Salutes Governor Lalong at

59th

The Executive Chairman Qua'an Pan Local Government Council, **Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a**, on behalf of the council and the entire people of the area, heartily join the first family on the Plateau and other people of goodwill in celebrating His Excellency the Governor of Plateau State and Chairman Northern Governors Forum, **Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, Esq, KSGG**, as he marks his 59th birthday anniversary on May 5, 2022.

Your Excellency Sir, as you mark this special day, we celebrate you as a man of honour, a peace maker, a bridge builder and a leader per excellence, and the peace-loving people of Qua'an Pan LGA are proud of you and your administration.

Your Excellency sir, we, the people of Qua'an Pan LGA believe that your love and humility towards humanity, irrespective of political, ethnic, religious, economic and social divides has brought about the relative peace being witnessed on the Plateau today.

Qua'an Pan people also pray for God's wisdom for you to overcome the myriad of challenges that comes with governance in a heterogenous state like Plateau and may He lead you to conquer like King David, be filled with wisdom like King Solomon and live long like Methuselah.

Signed:

Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a



Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a,
Executive Chairman,





Most popular black female singers ever

Continued from page 16
Whitney Elizabeth Houston

Whitney Elizabeth Houston was an American singer and actress, born on August 9, 1963, & died on February 11, 2012. She is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, with sales of over 200 million records worldwide. One of the most popular Black Female Singers Ever.



Mary Jane Blige

Mary Jane Blige is an American black singer, born on January 11, 1971. Blige has won nine Grammy Awards, four American Music Awards, twelve Billboard Music Awards.



Billie Holiday

Billie Holiday (real name Eleanora Fagan) was a most popular black American jazz and swing music singer, born on April 7, 1915, & died on July 17, 1959. She was known for her

vocal delivery and improvisational skills.

Ella J. Fitzgerald

Ella Jane Fitzgerald was a black American jazz singer, born on April 25, 1917, & died on June 15, 1996. She is sometimes referred to as the "First Lady of Song", "Queen of Jazz", and "Lady Ella".



Patti Labelle

Patti LaBelle is the most famous American singer and businesswoman, born on May 24, 1944. LaBelle is a dramatic soprano recognized for her vocal power, range and emotive delivery. One of the most popular Black Female



Singers Ever.

Etta James

Etta James (real name Jamesetta Hawkins) was an American singer who performed in various genres, including blues, R&B, jazz, & more, born on January 25, 1938, & died on January 20, 2012.



Singers Ever.

Bessie Smith

Bessie Smith was a black American blues singer, born on April 15, 1894, & died on September 26, 1937. She was the most popular female blues singer of the 1920s and 1930s.



Gladys M. Knight

Gladys Maria Knight is an American singer and author, born on May 28, 1944. known as the "Empress of Soul". She has won seven Grammy Awards and is an inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Vocal Group Hall of Fame along with



The Pips.

Nina Simone

Nina Simone (real name Eunice Kathleen Waymon) was the most American singer, and civil rights activist, born on February 21, 1933, & died on April 21, 2003. She has lots of musical styles including classical, jazz, blues, folk, R&B, gospel, and pop. One of the most popular Black Female Singers Ever.



Nigerian celebrities who quietly ended their marriages

Continued from page 16

Mofe Duncan, Jessica Kakkad

Mofe Duncan and Jessica Kakkad had one of the most discreet breakups in the history of celebrity marriage crashes. It had to take a die-hard fan of Jessica to burst the bubble in September 2019.

A few hours after the news broke, Mofe Duncan took to his Instagram page to release a statement where he revealed that the marriage had crashed a year earlier and that he still maintains a cordial relationship with Jessica and her family.



Anita Iseghohi, Tom Iseghohi

Another celebrity marriage collapse that was very discreet was that of former Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria, Anita Iseghohi, and her business executive husband, Tom.

The former beauty queen took to her Instagram page in November 2018 where she revealed that her 11 years marriage to the former MD of Transcorp Corporation had ended. The union is blessed with three children.



Damilola Adegbite, Chris Attah

Just like Osas and Gbenro, Damilola Adegbite and Chris Attah had one of those onset beautiful love stories. The couple got hitched on February 14, 2015, in Accra, Ghana.

In April 2017, Chris Attah slammed divorce rumours in a radio interview. The couple had earlier unfollowed each other on Instagram.

The actress remained silent about their separation after that. However, in September that same year, Attah finally revealed that their marriage had crashed.



Blossom Chukwujekwu, Maureen Esisi

Blossom Chukwujekwu's split from Maureen Esisi was probably the most shocking separation gist in 2019. Social media will not forget in a hurry how Blossom and Maureen showcased their beautiful and 'happy marriage' to the admiration of many.

In September 2019, the news broke of their separation.

While blogs gave different accounts of the reason behind their marriage collapse, the couple remained mute. Although Maureen has made several cryptic comments about their failed marriage.

Blossom on the other hands has done a great job keeping conversations about his failed marriage out of his way.



ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE ATTSAR



'Dog meat business pays'

According to an adage, "what a man can do, a woman can do it better". This is the situation a young lady, Dorathy Sylvanus found herself in as a woman selling dog meat which most see as a male dominated trade especially in the southern part of Plateau. Miss Sylvanus in a chat with Celestine Danladi Attsar explained how and why she ventured into the dog meat business and the challenges she has encountered thus far.

DORATHY, who is in her late 20s said she came into the business of selling dog meat by accident. She explained that it was her mother that was doing the business but anytime the mother had to go for fellowship in the Church, (Zumunta mata) she would ask her to come and sell meat for her. And because the cutting of the meat needs skills, her mother would cut the meat in small sizes for her to sell. Gradually, she started observing how her mother was cutting the meat with keen interest. While narrating her story, Miss Sylvanus revealed that there was a day her mother left her to handle

the selling of the meat while she was away for her usual fellowship and the ones she cut have about to finish. Having observed how her mother cut the meat she took a big chunk, using the few remaining one as sample she cut to size. To her joy when her mother came back, she commended her for doing a good job. Dorathy said from that day she stopped entertaining fear whenever she was in charge.

As time went on and she continued helping her mother, Dorothy, then began to think of starting her own business of selling dog meat since she was idle and had been like that since she left school at Junior Secondary School

level.

Her stand which is located at Ebony joint in Piapang Street, Shendam is always filled with customers especially during the weekends. They go there to relax and enjoy dog meat especially in the evening till late night.

The Kanke Local Government born dog meat seller said her parents relocated to Shendam some years back and she is very comfortable with the people as they are very accommodating.

On why she stopped her education at Junior Secondary School level she said, it was due to lack of finances to pay her fees and other needs of her education. But if given

the opportunity, she would still enroll in school to further her education.

Miss Dorathy says, they go as far as Dawaki in Kanke Local Government to buy dogs because Shendam does not have a reliable dog market that can meet their demands.

According to her, the business has many challenges that range from customers buying on credit and refusing to pay or disappearing after they finish eating. She added that when she wanted introducing the system of pay before service, she was insulted by some of her customers to the extent that some threatened to beat her. So because of that, she reverted to the old system of "payment after service and the challenge of customers has eating and running

away has continued she added.

Another big challenge that is giving her headache is the way some of the customers talk to her which is mostly uncomplimentary, degrading and discouraging. But she has developed a thick skin against that and that has helped her to stay in the business. As the income from the business has helped her meet her needs and that of her younger ones.

She appeals to young girls like her not to be going about begging for money from people, but to get themselves engaged in one thing or the other so that they can meet their needs.

Change of Name							
YARNAP I, formerly known as ENOCH SELBOL YARNAP now wish to be known and addressed as YARNAP VYAPDONG ENOCK SELBOL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OKECHUKWU I, formerly known as O K E C H U K W U KOSISOCHUKWU WYNONA GRETA , now wish to be known and addressed as OKECHUKWU KOSI WYONA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please	ILIYA I, formerly known as DACHUNG PHILIP , now wish to be known and addressed as ILIYA DACHUNG PHILIP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	JENNIFER I, formerly known as JENNIFER NKIRUKA ANYAJI now wish to be known and addressed as JENNIFER NKIRUKA CHIDI-ORJIAKOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	JENNIFER I, formerly known as JENNIFER OKPACHU now wish to be known and addressed as JENNIFER JOSEPH All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	SILAS I, formerly known as LADI SILAS GURUMDI , now wish to be known and addressed as SILAS, LADI TARSUSA . Correct date of birth is 24/10/1970 NOT 24/10/1969. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.		
STEPHEN I, formerly known as OLUWATOBI OLAMIDE GBENGA now wish to be known and addressed as STEPHEN OLUWATOBI POPOOLA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MOHAMMAD I, formerly known as BALA ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMAD BALA ABDULLAHI , All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	LANGDAS I, formerly known as GAPDAI NASGOE now wish to be known and addressed as LANGDAS AMOS GAPDAI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	LONGWAP I, formerly known as LONGWAP BLESSING DANJUMA , now wish to be known and addressed as LONGWAP BLESSING TONGLE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	AUGUSTINE I, formerly known as AUGUSTINE ISRAEL PAM now wish to be known and addressed as AUGUSTINE ISREAL PAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	JOHN I, formerly known as LINGA BRISKILA AMINYA , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN RAHILA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.		
NGU'AR I, formerly known as JULIUS TITUS, JULIUS N. TITUS , now wish to be known and addressed as NGU'AR JULIUS TITUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MGBEONYERE I, formerly known as MGBEONYERE MERCY LOVE , now wish to be known and addressed as MGBEONYERE MERCY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	JULIET I, formerly known as JULIET CHUNDUNG DALYOP , now wish to be known and addressed as JULIET CHUNDUNG ENIOLA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ALIAWITE I, formerly known as IBISO TONYE , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIAWITE IBISO TONYE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	TELYA I, formerly known as MISS TELYA JOHN KURNAP , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. TELYA SIMPUT LONGKUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ALTI I, formerly known as ALTI JUMBA BITRUS now wish to be known and addressed as ALTI BITRUS . Correct date of birth is 15/12/1983. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take		
ANTHONY I, formerly known as ANTHONY TAMBAYA , now wish to be known and addressed as ANTHONY MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	RONDONG I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA GWOM ALI , now wish to be known and addressed as RONDONG CHRISTIANA DUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NEHEMIAH I, formerly known as NEHEMIAH NANCHIN AYUBA, NANCHIN NEHEMIAH, NANCHIN NEHEMIAH AYUBA, NANCHIN NEHEMIAH AYUBA, NEHEMIAH NANCHIN ADAMA, ADAMA NANCHIN GARBA, GARBA AYUBA NANCHIN , now wish to be known and addressed as NEHEMIAH NANCHIN AYUBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	NASH I, formerly known as GWOM ISTIFANUS NASH , now wish to be known and addressed as NASH GWOM ISTIFANUS . cOrrect date of birth is 19/11/1993 not 19/11/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	LAR I, formerly known as NANYAK LAR SARAH NANYAK , now wish to be known and addressed as LAR SARAH NANYAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	NYA I, formerly known as MOSES D. PWAJOK , now wish to be known and addressed as NYA JONATHAN DALYOP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.		
CLEMEMENTINA I, formerly known as CLEMENTINA SOENGLAT TA'AS now wish to be known and addressed as CLEMEMENTINA AZHIZHI IZANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH I, wish to state that my name is ROSEMARY EZEBALU OLUOMACHUKWU and my correct date of birth is 29/05/2003. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GYANG I, formerly known as CHUWANG ZANG GYANG now wish to be known and addressed as GYANG ZANG CHUWANG . correct date of birth is 31/03/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ZAKKA I, formerly known as ZAKKA JOY GYANG now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKKA JOYCE GYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SALEH I, formerly known as HAMNAH SALEH SULAIMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as SALEH HAMNAH SULAIMAN . Correct date of birth is 10/10/1996 not 15/03/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MANCHANG I, formerly known as MANCHANG ZINGFA LOLOH , now wish to be known and addressed as M A N C H A N G Z I N G F A SOLOMON . Correct date of birth is 20/10/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.		
GLORIA • I, formerly known as GOWON GLORIA JOSHUA ISA & GLORIA JOSHUA GOWON , now wish to be known and addressed as GLORIA JOSHUA ISA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	TOBUT • I, formerly known as TOBUT LONGKAT JONATHAN TOBWOT , now wish to be known and addressed as TOBUT LONGKAT JONATHAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	PETER • I, formerly known as SHALOOL PETER TOTYEN and PETER SHALOOL TOTYEN , now wish to be known and addressed as PETER SHALPOL TOTYEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	BASSI • I, formerly known as IBRAHIM EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as BASSI, EMMANUEL IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	KAUNA • I, formerly known as KAUNA DAVID ADORO , now wish to be known and addressed as KAUNA ADORO AKI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	KEVIN I, formerly known as SUZANNE MARTU , now wish to be known and addressed as KEVIN SUZANA MARTU All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.		
ITIRI I, formerly known as ITIRI EMELDA IFEOMA , now wish to be known and addressed as ITIRI EMELDA UDECHUKWU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GLORIA I, formerly known as GLORY GABRIEL OCHEI , now wish to be known and addressed as GLORIA GABRIEL OCHE . correct date of birth is 15/06/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CHRISTOPHER I, formerly known as CYNTHIA DANZOSS CHRISTOPHER , now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTOPHER, CYNTHIA DANZOSS . Correct date of birth is 19/12/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OBIALOR I, formerly known as MAXWELL EBUKA OBIALOR , now wish to be known and addressed as OBIALOR CHUKWUEBUKA MAXWELL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	UNEBE I, formerly known as JACINTA CECILIA NKWOANKWO , now wish to be known and addressed as UNEBE NKECHI JECINTA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ISAAC I, formerly known as ISAAC, EMMANUEL YERIMA now wish to be known and addressed as ISAAC, EMMANUEL TERYIMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.		
NANCY I, formerly known as MISS CHUNG NANCY EZEKIEL , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NANCY ALFRED BULUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	TASHA I, formerly known as TASHA MOHAMMADU , now wish to be known and addressed as TASHA MUHAMMED . Correct date of birth is 01/01/1956 NOT 08/03/1949. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AGUSA I, formerly known as VERONICA DENNIS AGUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as AGUSA VERONICA GWANGCHORMWA . Correct date of birth is 27/7/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	RABIYU I, formerly known as BABIYU AWAL SALIS , now wish to be known and addressed as RABIYU AWAL SALIS . Correct date of birth is 01/01/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JAURO I, formerly known as DANLADI SERAH, SARAH JAURO , now wish to be known and addressed as JAURO SARAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	HELEN I, formerly known as JAMES HELEN PAMA , now wish to be known and addressed as HELEN SAMUEL UVERE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.		
ISAH I, formerly known as USMAN ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as ISAH USMAN TANKO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DAKAHAR I, formerly known as IBRAHIM POKYES , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKAHAR POKYES IBRAHIM . Correct date of birth is 09/12/1994 not 02/05/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SHUIBU I, formerly known as AL AMIN IBRAHIM SHUIBU , now wish to be known and addressed as SHUIBU SADIYA NATITI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MARKUS I, formerly known as MALAN ALANS MARKUS , now wish to be known and addressed as MARKUS MASHAT BITRUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	KIPTO I, formerly known as KIPTOR TIMOTHY , now wish to be known and addressed as KIPTO TIMOTHY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ITODO I, formerly known as ITODO JOSOPH, ITODO JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as ITODO PRECIOUS JOSEPH . Correct date of birth is 23/09/1996 not 23/01/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.		
MRS. NUBIYA I, formerly known as MISS INNOCENT FALIYA , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NUBIYA FALIYA INNOCENT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MOHAMMED I, formerly known as MOHAMMED SALISU , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED SALISU YUSUF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SAMUEL I, formerly known as BLESSING CHIAHEMBA LANGSHEEMA , now wish to be known and addressed as SAMUEL BLESSING DUKU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NUHU I, formerly known as NUHU HAMISU YAKUBU , now wish to be known and addressed as NUHU UMAR YAKUBU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ABDULLAHI I, formerly known as MOHORDAT VICTORIA ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULLAHI VICTORIA MOGORDAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	LANGE I, formerly known as LANGE BLESSING ULLOH, DANIEL BLESSING ULLOH , now wish to be known and addressed as LANGE BLESSING DANIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.		

NEWS

NDLEA arrests drug baron

From JIDAUNA YAUNUNG
Abuja

THE National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has given more insight into how arrested drug baron, Afam Ukata, imported drugs into Nigeria.

The agency in a press statement by its spoke-person Femi Baba femi which was made available to newsmen in Abuja explained that Ukata, who has links to the suspended police commissioner, Abba Kyari imported containers of tramadol worth N22 billion in one month.

It would be recalled that some section of the media had reported how the agency arrested the billionaire drug baron, allegedly behind the N3 billion tramadol deal involving Kyari.

He was arrested on his way to Abuja at the Murtala Muhammed Airport after many months surveillance and evading arrest.

His arrest came few months after the National Drug law enforcement agency (NDLEA) took custody of the embattled deputy police commissioner who was earlier declared wanted by the agency.



Marwa

It would also be recalled that NDLEA had declared Kyari wanted for aiding and abetting drug pushing and running his transnational drug cartel. A few months earlier, the former police boss was indicted in an internet fraud case by a US Court.

In the latest revelation on Ukata, the NDLEA said, he had been a major importer of high dosages of tramadol and other substance. The agency also said he has a pharmaceutical company which he uses as a cover up for his dirty deals.

By PETER TITLE

ALL is now set by the Church Of Christ In Nations (COCIN), Regional Church Council (RCC), Dadin Kowa, PCC Jos, for her 10th Anniversary, Book Dedication and Launch.

The occasion which venue which venue is the RCC Headquarters, Rantya -Gyel would be under the distinguished Chairmanship of Dr. Simput Eagles Dafup 11, a Gubernatorial Aspirant, Plateau State and an American Businessman.

According to a statement made available to Journalists in Jos by the organising committee, Rt. Hon. Barr. Dr. Simon Bako Lalong KSGG, the Executive Governor, Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum would served as the Special Guest of Honour

Expected to served at the occasion as Chairlady and Distinguished Guest according to the planning committee are, Mrs Esther Polit, Director of Personnel Management (DPM), Barkin Ladi Local Government Council and Mr Mangai Nyankwon Maichibi, Director of Finance, (DFS) Shendam Local Government Council.

The COCIN President, Rev. Dr. Amos Musa Mohzo would be the Book Dedicator Rev.

COCIN RCC Dadin Kowa holds 10th anniversary

Gyang Yakubu Bot, Chairman, PCC Jos as well as Rev. Mudimka Yohanna Seri, Chairman, RCC Dadin Kowa would served as Chief Host /Guest Preacher and Host at the anniversary.

Dr. Patrick Dakum, a Gubernatorial

Aspirant, Plateau State and Mrs Comfort Majau are expected to served as father of the day and mother of the day.

The committee urged all members to be prompt and donate generously for the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jos North Chairman felicitates with Lalong at 59

THE Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Shehu Bala Usman has congratulated Governor Simon Bako Lalong as he marks his 59th birthday anniversary.

The Chairman in a congratulatory message, described Governor Lalong as an effective and efficient Administrator and a peace maker who has written a new chapter in the development, peace and security in the state.

The Chairman commended Governor Lalong for his remarkable and credible record of simplicity and humility in public service, with a proclivity for bringing harmony and stability into governance.

Usman noted that Governor Lalong is a source

of inspiration to the Local Administration in Jos North and a role model to many.

The Chairman used the occasion of the Governor's birthday to appreciate him for identifying with indigenes of the area through appointments into various positions of authority and development which include the ongoing construction of the British American inter- change, rehabilitation of Jos Township roads, as well as his desire to restore Jos Main Market back to its place of glory in the West Africa sub-region.

The Chairman who conveyed his birthday greetings on behalf of his Deputy, Leader, Principal officers and Members of the Council Legislative and Executive Arm, Council Secretary, Traditional rulers, Management and staff of Jos North Local Government Council and indeed the peace and Hospitable people of the area join the entire Lalong's family, their friends and associates in praying for good health and long life for the Governor.

Religious leaders charged on peace and harmony

RELIGIOUS leaders and faith communities must join hands with governments and play a significant role in ensuring fraternity and harmony in west Africa.

President Muhammadu Buhari stated this while speaking at the General Assembly of the Reunion of the Episcopal conference of West Africa, (RECOWA) held at the ECOWAS secretariat Abuja.

He said, an integrated, peaceful and prosperous sub-region would not be fully guaranteed if peace does not first reign in local communities and in each of the countries.

Represented by the Vice President, Prof. Yomi Osinbajo, President Buhari said the Fratelli Tutti is the powerful notion on which His

From JIDAUNA YANUNG,
Abuja

holiness, Pope Francis, anchors his most recent Encyclical – titled Fratelli – Tutti – the concept of the brotherhood of all humanity”.

He urged the religious leaders “to not only explore ways of strengthening the bonds of faith between your communities but also of building bridges across every divide that threatens to fracture our nations.

“It is my hope that you will conceptualize ways of bringing the full weight of the immense moral authority that you possess upon our nations and in the sub-region as a whole.

“The idea that fraternity and social friendship are the ways to build a better more

just and peaceful world with the commitment of all people and institutions.

The Encyclical proposes

NIMASA to host plenary

THE Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) in conjunction with the Nigerian Navy and the inter-Regional Coordination centre Yaounde have concluded arrangements to host the fifth plenary of the Gul of Guinea Maritime collaboration forum for the shared awareness and Deconfliction (GOG-MCF/SHADE)

This is contained in a statement by the Assistant Director Public Relations of the Agency Osagie Edward which a copy was made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Abuja.

Osagie Edward explained that the conference which will bring all regional navies and other international stakeholders will hold in Abuja on the 10th – 11th May this year with the Theme: “Enduring and sustaining security”.

Speaking ahead of the forum, the Director general of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety agency (NIMASA) Dr. Bashir Jamoh, identified regional co-operation as crucial in reducing incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

According to him, “the establishment of GOG-MCF/SHADE has enabled working level stakeholders from the GOGO region and outside the region to connect and discuss how best to tackle piracy in the area”.

He expressed the believed that the collaboration initiatives and efforts of the Nigerian Navy and other

some of the boldes and most radical ideas on securing human unity, peace and security”, he said.

From JIDAUNA YANUNG,
Abuja

regional navies including the deployment of the Deep blue project has been responsible for the considerable reduction in piracy incidents on Nigerian waters and GOG regions.

APC felicitates with Lalong at 59

THE ruling party APC has joined other well wishers, friends and family in celebrating Governor Simon Bako Lalong on the occasion of his 59th birthday on 5 May 2022. In a statement made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD**, the APC chairman in Plateau State, Honourable Rufus Bature felicitated with the governor at 59 on behalf of the state executive committee of the party, local government and ward executive committees and all members of APC

The statement reads in part, “As you mark this great day in your life, the APC family in the state is confident that based on your impeccable trajectories and accomplishments in life, you are in the years ahead going to soar like the eagle.”

Bature also pointed out that “your humility and total commitment to peace and justice have endeared you to Plateau people both at home and in the



Osinbajo

diaspora.”

The statement further stated “You have as the Chairman of the Northern Governors' from distinguished yourself as a true and selfless leader who has worked tirelessly to ensure the peaceful co-existence and harmonious

living of the entire people of the region inspite of their diversity.”

The APC chairman prayed God to continue to bless the governor with good health, abundant grace and wisdom in the onerous task of governance and continuous service to humanity



Osinbajo

NEWS

Buhari commissions 80 housing units in Taraba

From VICTOR GAI
Jalingo

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has commissioned 80 housing units, in Jalingo, comprising of three bed rooms, two bedrooms and one bedroom detachable bungalows.

According to the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Engr. Mu'azu Jaji, who represented Buhari, the housing estate was in fulfillment of his administration's promise to Nigerians towards the provision of accommodation to poor Nigerians.

He said the housing estate was one of the projects undertaken by his administration in phases since 2016.

"With the support of the Taraba State government who provided the land, this Place which was once unused land, amounting to no more than idle capital, which has come alive and will now provide shelter for ordinary Nigerians.

"This is a good example of some of the developmental possibilities that Inter-Governmental collaboration can produce and I am optimistic that with the provision of more land, the Federal Government certainly can do more.

"Of course, the progressive ideal of our government seeks to achieve one primary objective, which is to improve the human condition," Buhari said.

According to Buhari, a lot had been achieved in this regard by creating many jobs for Nigerians.

He revealed that the micro, small and medium



Ishaku

size businesses which drive the nation's economy were the ones that won the contracts to build the houses.

"They engaged suppliers who benefit from sub-contracts for the supply of building materials from sand to cement, roofing and plumbing material to doors and electrical fitting.

"In the process, the ordinary Nigerians at the bottom of the pyramid such as artisans, builders, skilled and unskilled opportunities for employment for those who were hitherto unemployed," he added.

In his remarks, Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola said that the ministry had delivered such houses in the 34 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory.

Fashola disclosed that the project was the outcome of the national survey conducted by the ministry to find out the type of houses Nigerians want.

According to him, the survey revealed a

prevalent need for bungalows in the Northern Nigeria and flats in the Southern Nigeria.

The Minister, who was represented by the Director of Public Building in the Ministry, Arc. Solomon Labafilo said that the government was certain that the product that was delivered was acceptable to those it was intended for.

In his speech, Governor Darius Ishaku, represented by the Secretary to the Government of the State, Anthony Jellason, commended the Federal Government for the provision of houses.

Emir charges subjects to uphold lessons of Ramadan

FROM MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,
KEFFI

THE Emir of Keffi, Alhaji Shehu Muhammadu Chindo Yamusa III has admonished his subject on the need for them to uphold and sustain the lessons acquired from the Holy month of Ramadan Fasting and put it into practice in their day to

A medical practitioner, Dr Abimbola Adesanya, on Thursday advised Nigerians to imbibe the culture of 'hand washing' to drastically reduce the transmission of infectious diseases in the society.

Adesanya gave the advice at a sensitisation programme organised by Federal Medical Centre, (FMC) Lokoja, to mark this year's "World Hand Hygiene Day" celebrated every May 5.

Adesanya, who is the Head of Department, (HOD) Community Health and Focal Person Infection Control, FMC Lokoja, said, the theme for this year is: "Unite for Safety and Clean Hands".

According to her, the focus is to create a culture of washing hands and ensuring that our hands are always clean, we are expected to make hand hygiene part of our culture.

She noted that hand hygiene had statistically reduced the transmission of infectious diseases to the barest minimum.

"We want to use hand hygiene as a tool in the community and everywhere to drastically reduce the transmission of infectious diseases in the society.

"That is why the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is mandating every facility to ensure that health workers and patients make hand washing a culture.

Imbibe hand washing culture to reduce infectious diseases

From AMEDU JOSEPH
Lokoja

- Adesanya



Bello

"It will help protect our families, reduce hospital and community acquired infections, such as COVID-19, lassa fever, measles, cholera, diarrhea, among others.

"We must protect ourselves through the washing of our hands and ensure that they are clean always," she said.

She stressed that hand hygiene remains the easiest way through which any infectious disease could easily be prevented.

In his remarks, the Medical Director of FMC Lokoja, Dr Olatunde Alabi said, hand washing remained very important to them as health workers.

He stressed the need for health workers to equally

wash their hands when going home after close of work in order to protect their families.

"We should make sure that we do the right thing as much as possible as health workers because of ourselves, patients and families," he advised.

The Head of Clinical of FMC, Dr Bernard Ododo, who also spoke at the event commended the management for making necessary provision for the celebration of the day and called on health workers across the country to imbibe maintenance culture.

Our correspondent reports that highlights of the occasion was the demonstration of how to do a thorough and effective hand washing.

Zulum dissolves executive council

PROFESSOR Babagana Umara Zulum of BORNO State has dissolved the Borno State Executive Council with immediate effect.

This was contained in a statement from the office of

From DAUDA PAM
Maiduguri

the secretary to the government, signed by the Permanent Secretary, Administration and General Services, Danjuma Ali, and

made available to journalists.

The disbanded members have been directed to hand over affairs of their ministries to their respective permanent secretaries.

According to the statement, the dissolution is to create enabling environment for interested members of the Exco to legally participate in forthcoming primaries and congresses of the All Progressive Congress, APC.

Governor Zulum used the opportunity to express his deepest appreciation to members of the executive council for unquantifiable contributions while they held sway in offices and wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavours.



Sule

day lives with a view to build a better society for the goods of all and sundry.

The Emir has also tasked them on the need to remain loyal to constituted authorities and imbibe the spirit of peaceful co-existence good neighborliness and other good moral virtues just as commanded by the Almighty Allah and exemplified by Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

He contended that since the Holy month of Ramadan teaches the Muslim faithful the virtues of piety, self-denial, sense of brotherliness, moral re-armament and all other social and moral virtues, with a view to achieve spiritual excellence, they should endeavour to put into

practice the virtues and make them their guiding principles in their daily lives.

The Royal father then used the occasion to call on his people to redouble their effort in agricultural production and all other lawful means of their livelihood with a view to become self reliant and create jobs and wealth for themselves and others under them.

Yamusa further stressed that since there are wide gap in agricultural production due certain challenges in some parts of the country, they should brace- up with a view to filling the gaps. He said by doing so it would help them to produce more food for their uses and also enhance their incomes.

To those engaged in various trades and skills, the royal father advised them to always do their activities with seriousness and also impact their knowledge to their young ones to also enable them have a means of dependence during their adulthood.

On education, the Emir also appealed to the parents to ensure that they invest in the education of their children and give them adequate moral upbringing to enable them become useful and reliable members of the society when they grow-up.

Speaking about the activities of some youth that engage in drug abuse, alcohol and all other anti-social conducts, the Emir warned them to desist from such negative activities and turn over a new leaf, stressing that the Emirate. Council under his leadership has zero tolerance to such attitudes. As such, all those found to be engaging in them would be made to face the wrath of their activities accordingly.

"While commending his subject for their peaceful co-existence, unity and harmony, he urged them to continue to sustain such noble spirits and also report any suspicious moves to the appropriate authorities for immediate actions.



Zulum

NEWS

Deputy Gov advocates for PVC collection

**WILLIE ATTAH,
Gombe**

THE Deputy Governor of Gombe State, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau, has challenged all citizens of voting age to participate in all the electoral processes especially by coming out massively to pick their Permanent Voters Cards, (PVC's).

The Deputy Governor threw the challenge at the Evangelical Church, Winning All, (ECWA) International Summit on Politics and Governance, held in ECWA Church Wuse 2, Abuja.

The ECWA International Summit was organized for members with the aim of encouraging them to actively participate in all political activities and processes with a view to contributing positively in nation building.

The summit was also aimed at correcting wrong notion by some members who equates politics, governance and business as worldliness.

In his message, the Deputy Governor noted the compelling need to educate the people, especially those from eighteen years and above about politics and it's importance in the economy so as to clear the ignorance of some who wrongly associate political parties with particular religions.

He said "I am totally in agreement with the ECWA president and the paper presenter who said that we must be in politics, otherwise politics will be in us and, that will be lamentable but too late. There should be no room for non participation in politics.

"Doing so will give room for politics and politicians to decide our culture, our religion our way of life, what we wear, eat or do. That in Afghanistan, you must wear your beards and not shave it or in Argentina where you must be a Catholic for you to qualify to contest the Presidency is all part of politics that have been allowed to be established in those places. To this end, we are all challenged to participate in politics", he stressed.

He also suggested that, ECWA owned media organisation such as ECWA Television, Today's Challenge and Radio ELWA



Yahaya

among others be used to spread the content of the meeting in future and the invitation be extended to larger and wider participants.

Dr. Jatau also advised ECWA to seek to be relevant, responsive and proactive through networking with relevant individuals, groups, denominations and organizations for effective participation in politics and governance.

Earlier In his address, the ECWA International President, Rev. Dr. Stephen Panya Baba, explained that the meeting was aimed at correcting the misconception of what he described as tragic misrepresentation of biblical facts where people wrongly equate politics, business, and governance to worldliness.

He said, the summit was second in the series aimed at changing the mindset and wrong perception of Christians of ECWA breed by encouraging them to get involved in politics, and governance at party and other levels.

The ECWA President charged them to live to carry out their callings especially in politics and governance with eternity in view and never to allow debased motives, covetousness for pecuniary worldly benefits and the lure of seeming glamour of worldly politicians is their driving force into politics.

According to him, many who have thrown themselves headlong into politics with wrong reasons have very sadly shipwrecked their lives and their faith and many more completely destroyed.

The Guest Speaker, Dr. James Zasha, in his paper titled: "Politics of Power and the Church," highlighted reasons that

have limited Christian participation in politics and raising issues that must necessitate their active participation if they must be relevant.

He advised on the setting up of an agenda, mapping out a publicity strategy and identification of people with impeccable character, unquestionable integrity, honour and responsibility that would institute the needed platforms for people to benefit immensely in politics in line with the provisions of democracy and fear of God.

Dandereng picks Reps nomination forms

BY DANLADI DUK

GREATER Movement captain, Ambassador Gideon Dandereng for Jos South, Jos East Federal House of Representatives, 2023 has promised to be a servant leader of the people.

Dandereng, a frontline aspirant for the seat of Jos South, Jos East House of Representatives comes 2023 under the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC) also pledged his commitment to be a servant leader at the green Chamber in Abuja.

The house of Representatives hopeful and Executive Chairman of Jos South Local Government Council stated this when he received the nomination and expression of interest forms from the delegation that picked the forms on his behalf at the APC National Secretariat, Buhari House Abuja.

The delegation that picked the form from Abuja were received amidst jubilations at Dabwak Kuru, Jos South LGA by a mammoth crowd.

Receiving the forms from the leader, Pam Danzoss who doubled as the Chairman, Greater Movement Campaign Council, the aspirant and leader of the Movement

YOUTHS of Ogori/Magongo Constituency have drummed their support for the candidature of Comr. Osiako Ezekiel Sunday, to represent the local government at Kogi House of Assembly come 2023.

A youth leader in the community, Atere Babatunde Samuel disclosed this while addressing journalists at his residence in Ogori at the weekend.

He said: "There is the need for the sustenance of the current spate of development being witnessed under the pragmatic and result-oriented leadership of Governor Yahaya Bello.

"Since the emergence of the current administration of GYB in 2016, you will agree with me that there has been a redefinition in the delivery of the dividends of democracy as well as sanity in governance, and this would not have been possible for the governor without the active participation of the state legislature.

"We Ogori/Magongo APC youth group, a group committed to promoting and upholding good governance through representative democracy, have deemed

Ogori/Magongo youths drum support for Osiako

**From AMEDU
JOSEPH, Lokoja**

it needful, expedient and timely to support one of our finest young man, Comr. Osiako Ezekiel, to clinch the ticket, to represent the good people of Ogori/Magongo Constituency in the 2023 general elections."

Governor Bello has shown that youth are ready and capable if given the opportunity to rule, hence the candidacy of Osiako is valid after serve at various political capacity and currently the deputy chairman of Kogi National Youth Council of Nigeria". He said.

He further added that



Bello

2023, Gideon Dandereng said the development was in response to a clarion call for him to truly represent the interest of the voiceless in the society.

A statement by the Chairman's SSA Media and Publicity, Shamaki Gyang said that his boss appreciated all his supporters, saying he cannot afford to fail them if given the mandate.

The aspirant took the forms to the Gwom Rwey Palace of Jos South at Gyel for royal blessings through HRH Da (Dr) Nga Dangyang.

Commenting, Senator Davou Zang and Director of Security, Greater Movement described the aspirant, Dandereng as a great asset to the people.

In his words, the DG Greater Movement team,

Evangelist Daniel Izang and chairman of the campaign council, Pam Danzoss stated that the forms were picked after several consultations with critical stakeholders that made up the Jos South, Jos East Federal constituency that earlier endorsed Ambassador Gideon Dandereng.

Inuwa appeals for calm after Sallah clash

**WILLIE ATTAH,
Gombe**

GOMBE State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has appealed for calm following a clash between two rival youth groups which claimed three lives during a Sallah Durbar procession in Jekadafari area of Gombe, the state capital.

The clash occurred when the rival youth groups of horse riders were going through Jekadafari in the state capital as part of activities that usually characterize the Eid-el Fitr Sallah celebration.

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

condemned the senseless act just as he commiserated with families of those who lost loved ones.

He also prayed for the quick recovery of those who were injured during the skirmishes.

The Governor then directed security agencies to carry out a thorough investigation and bring to book perpetrators of the heinous act.

The statement reads: "We condemn in strong terms this unfortunate situation and commiserate with the affected families.

"We also urge all aggrieved persons and residents to remain calm and allow justice to run its

due course, as efforts are underway by security agencies to ensure that those liable for the crime are brought to book".

"The government therefore wishes to categorically warn the citizens, especially youths, against any act that will undermine the prevailing peace and tranquility of Gombe State", Governor Yahaya stated.

The Governor who earlier led a delegation to the funeral prayer for two of the deceased at the Gombe Specialist Hospital, vowed to continue do everything necessary to protect the lives and property of the citizenry.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Dadu'ut



Alkali



Jatau

Derailed youths causing mayhem in Plateau communities?

Continued from Page 10

"The bottom-line however is that Nigeria as a developing nation has continued to lose a lot both human and natural resources as a result of community instigated conflicts mostly associated with youth restiveness in the country. Thus, the nation has continued to groan under the heavy burden of selfishly motivated violence perpetrated by some of these hired youths for reasons only known by their sponsors or cohorts.

"This development has equally continued to rob these derailed youths of their responsible leaders of tomorrow. It is also becoming unfortunate and disheartening that the negative conduct of some of these misled youths has created an enabling environment where criminals are shielded and not exposed to be sanctioned by our courts" the publication stressed.

Also sharing the same view with the **SUNDAY STANDARD**, a Jos based human rights activist Mr Alphonse Jaja, said; "the mood of the nation is now on political activities mainly that of 2023, but my fear is that some of these youth can be easily recruited as political thugs and one can imagine the

consequences. Unfortunately the present Federal Government and the states have not been able to address the fundamental issues at stake concerning employment, poverty eradication and so on. Perhaps the Buhari led administration is only waiting to pass the bulk to the next government to find a solution."

Madam Eunice Choji, a housewife in Bukuru state low-cost also in her opinion, told **SUNDAY STANDARD** that; "What do you expect in a society where the Government can afford to keep students at home for more than six months. This the surest way to get into criminal activities if not properly handled."

Although many reasons have been advanced by various social commentators as a very challenging problem for the

entire nation but Pastor Ayuba Dangiwa argues that although unemployment and high level of poverty is responsible for youth restiveness, the major cause can be placed on community leaders who have in most cases deviated from the traditional norms of moral discipline. "just look at our boys and girls how many of them can be said to be of good moral conduct, I bet you only few can pass the integrity test given the modern craze for materialism" Dangiwa said.

According to Glory Akhabue, in her contribution via an online media platform noted that youth restiveness is a social problem that has grave consequences on the overall development in Nigeria which is caused by the exclusion of the youth from the mainstream political participation while corruption,

bad governance and lack of equitable distribution of state resources among the citizens has caused a disconnect between the youths and the larger strata of the society.

SUNDAY STANDARD findings indicates the lack of engagement with the youths on issues that directly affects them particularly as it concerns education and enlightenment on the possible implication of participating in any criminal venture and how it affects their future requires concerted efforts on the part of both Government and the governed in other to make any head way in reducing restiveness while it must be seen that government creates avenues in the ICT sector and sports which can be a driving force in keeping them busy and off crime.

According to Mallam Nura Usman a businessman in Jos, in

a chat with **SUNDAY STANDARD** said, "Most of these youths have potentials in one field or the other and for society to tap from their reservoir of resourcefulness Government needs to provide them with avenues for entrepreneurship by making funds accessible to them to engage in any meaningful venture which can give them little income as well as take most of their attention off from criminality.

"Look at the level of insecurity across the country, who are those behind it, it is the youth. They need to survive in a world that doesn't seem to understand their plight or a society that has nothing to offer its teeming youth neither are there role models who will offer that big shoulder for them to rest their heads, its just an individualistic world where only the strong survives. Unfortunately we are operating a system that can be likened to the Animal Kingdom where you have to eat or be eaten which in our case should not be so."

However, no matter the challenges, the society needs to be reminded at all times that there is no place for criminals in a world that is dynamic where the brain can be put into good use so that its army of youths can remain on the path of decency, logic and reason.

"Look at the level of insecurity across the country, who are those behind it, it is the youth. They need to survive in a world that doesn't seem to understand their plight or a society that has nothing to offer its teeming youth neither are there role models who will offer that big shoulder for them to rest their heads, its just an individualistic world where only the strong survives. Unfortunately we are operating a system that can be likened to the Animal Kingdom where you have to eat or be eaten which in our case should not be so."

Metro-Focus

Mentally ill are back on our streets

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

JOS City, the beautiful has a lot of tourists attractions, like the Wildlife Park, waterfalls, game reserves, striking hills and rock formations etc. The city is a nice place to live, visit and particularly for its weather and serene environment that keeps attracting people from other states and works of life.

Over the years, Plateau State has witnessed a lot of influx of people that came to do one form of business, schooling, farming, mining, etc.

Recently, Jos metropolis is witnessing a resurgence of persons with mental illness roaming the streets freely without any check on them.

However, one of the signs or features of a mental ill person is when someone is preoccupied with the collections of rags, dirts and junk. Sometimes, the person might be physically aggressive, uncontrollable talks loudly himself, withdrawal from people especially family members, friends and associates

METRO FOCUS correspondent observed that mental illness is characterized by a combination of abnormal thoughts, perceptions, emotions, behaviour and relationships with others.

Again, mental illness is no respecter of race, gender, tribe, age or social status. Studies have shown that mental disorder is often provoked by depression, bipolar affective order, schizophrenia and other psychosis, dementia, intellectual disabilities developing into autism.

Sad to say that it is not everybody you see or think is normal on the streets. However, it was observed that within the state capital, the younger people are the most hit by mental illness. This has become a thing of concern to the general public. Moreso, as these group of persons ought to be engaged productively, but are busy roaming the streets and becoming a nuisance in the society.

World Health Organization (WHO), recently said that Nigeria's population is projected to double by 2050 if not checked.

As at January 2022, WHO gave statistics that over 20 million Nigerians are currently suffering from various degrees of mental illness or disorder without psychiatric health care.

Nevertheless, there is an urgent need for more psychiatrists doctors, alongside with a massive public awareness on preventive measures to mental illness in our country.

METRO FOCUS went round



A mad man in his world

the city centre to sample opinions of citizens on the resurgence of mentally ill persons within the metropolis. And these are their views.

An octogenarian, Mr. Felix Ndubuisi said that the cause of mental illness in our society today is as a result of consumption of illicit drugs by younger people. And such harmful drugs are sold in every nook and crannies of the city.

He attributed that the availability of these harmful substance in our society is because of the kind of porous borders we have in the country. Most of the drugs are being smuggled on a daily basis by drug barons, not minding the damage it would cause to the health of the Nigerian population.

A senior citizen, Mrs. Atong Martha Azi, in her opinion said that the economy of the country is harsh and most citizens can barely eat, means of livelihood is very difficult for an average citizen to survive, while some cannot bear the situation.

Baring his mind, Mr. Babajide Akinlade said that the major cause of these mental illness in our society today, for most younger persons is as a result of 'get rich quick' syndrome. Many

have gone to patronise diabolical means like meeting" Baba lawo, native doctors to help them make money by all means, which sometimes requires human sacrifice.

He said that many of them don't know the implication of their actions until after the rituals are performed and they are not able to keep their part of the bargain of the rules of the game.

METRO FOCUS also gathered that there is this general believe that once you are mentally ill, you remain mentally ill forever. While some citizens attribute it to a myth.

Similarly, some people attribute mental illness to environmental factors that are linked to stressors that can trigger an illness in a person who is susceptible to mental illness. Stressors include, death of loved ones, divorce, a dysfunctional family life, self-low esteem, anxiety, anger, loneliness, substance abuse by the person or person's parents or care givers.

Unfortunately, the attention needed to check mental health disorder in Nigeria is inadequate, considering the sum total of psychiatrists in the country is low, compared to the



total population of the mentally ill in the country.

It was viewed that the Nigerian mental health policy is only a framework without structures. And this is the time legislators are to ensure that the bill on mental health is given speed to protect individuals suffering from any form of disorder, and to have access to medical care.

In addition, Ndubuisi, Akinlade and Azi suggested that the government should take the necessary measures to arrest and jail any person caught peddling drugs. If not the

youths would not be able to move our great nation forward.

The current reality is that most of the youths today are going insane and the future of the country is bleak

They appealed to Plateau State government and the relevant authorities to take measures to clear up mentally ill persons roaming the streets without control and take them to rehabilitation centers and to also ensure that they clamp down on those found engaging in any form of illicit drug peddling. And consumers should be adequately punished according to the law.



Felicitations Message

from

SHENDAM LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL



Miskoom Alex Naantuum
Executive Chairman

Lalong @
59th

With heart full of Joy, I **Hon. Miskoom Alex Naantuum**, on behalf of the management, legislative, traditional institution, staff and the entire good people of Shendam Local Government Area wishes to felicitate with his excellency the Executive Governor of Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governor's Forum, **RT. HON DR. SIMON BAKO LALONG** the celebration of his 59th birthday anniversary.

Indeed, 59 years is no doubt a very long journey that deserves celebration despite all huddles of life and the love and mercy of God inclusive. We in Shendam Local Government Area joyfully join millions of your well-wishers in sharing the joy of this great celebration.

It is our fervent prayers that you will be protected, guided and be blessed with quantum of wisdom like King Solomon in the holy book to continue to pilot the affairs of Plateau State.

Sir, your remarkable achievement on the Plateau has written your name in gold on the sands of history particularly the restoration of peace and other monumental strides which space and time cannot permit us to mention.

Once again, Happy birthday and may God see you through Amen.

Signed:
Miskoom Alex Naantuum
Executive Chairman, Shendam LGC

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine war: What would victory look like to Putin?

Having failed to take over Ukraine, what are President Putin's military prospects now? Three defence experts weigh in. Judith Matloff



Mathieu Boulege, a senior research fellow at Chatham House, says no matter what, "Putin will not admit defeat" and will present his "version of history", which could entail announcing the city of Kherson – occupied since March with residents shown here at a rally against the occupation – as a republic

RUSSIA'S Victory Day parade is an annual extravaganza in Red Square. Falling on May 9, it commemorates the Nazi surrender of World War II with a lavish spectacle meant to project might. Formations, tanks and sophisticated hardware go on display to remind the world of Russia's lasting power. Celebrating what is known locally as the "Great Patriotic War" is used to stir nationalism and pay homage to the 24 million lives lost to fend off Hitler.

Rehearsals on the streets in front of the Kremlin in recent days hint at the spectacle next week. Show stoppers include an intercontinental ballistic missile and 11,000 marching forces. Fighter jets will fly above in a Z formation, the symbol of the invasion of Ukraine.

The Kremlin does not have much to celebrate, however. President Vladimir Putin has failed at his aim to take over Ukraine, a country he wrongly assumed would be a walkover. Tactical mistakes led to catastrophic Russian losses that the United Kingdom estimates at 15,000 over just two months.

What the world thought was a relatively modern and well-equipped army performed shockingly badly. Supply lines were attacked and stretched as troops scattered on too many fronts. The Russians underestimated their much smaller adversary or that a unified West would fire hose billions of dollars of military support to Ukraine. Beaten back from Kyiv, the Russians have recalibrated to the Donbas region in the south and east to solidify territory they have occupied since 2014 and gain more. Yet securing that front by May 9 to declare triumph looks unlikely. Over the past week, that offensive, too, has struggled to gain any significant ground.

Winning means different things to different people. Having failed to occupy all of Ukraine, it remains unclear what victory would mean to Putin at this point. The highly motivated Ukrainians continue to enjoy Western support and will fight fiercely to defend their territory. On some level, one could argue that Ukraine has already won strategically because it united NATO and

demonstrated effective wartime leadership. The vastly outnumbered Ukrainian military prevented the fall of their capital and pushed back against massive force.

The war now seems to be entering an attritional phase, where each side will try to wear the other down with no clear advantage by either. As the war on which he staked his tough-man reputation, as well as his country's economy, fails to meet any of its objectives, how will Putin frame "victory" on May 9? And what are his military prospects for the months to come?

Victory Day, which Moscow is currently preparing for, is likely to include portrayals of the current moment as a time when Russian people must be 'heroic while under attack,' says Margarita Konaev, a research fellow at Georgetown University in the US.

Konaev expects that to save face, Putin will try to distract from the reality of the war and double down on the narrative that has worked thus far: a call to nationalism and the argument that this is a war forced on the Russians by NATO

expansion and that Ukraine is not a real country. "He will insist that the US and NATO are willing to risk continued violence and economic downturn around the world just to humiliate Russia and limit its power in the international order," she says.

"Since it is May 9, they will evoke the Great Patriotic War and portray this moment as another when the Russian people must be steadfast and heroic while under attack," she says. "Putin's proven himself quite capable of twisting truths and reorganising the narrative in a way that might seem logically unsound but resonates nonetheless. It's not his first rodeo or Russia's with propaganda."

Boulege believes that, after initially receiving poor intelligence, Putin is finally cognisant that his forces are overstretched. He now knows that all in all, there is only so much his military can achieve. But he cannot be seen to be looking desperate.

"Putin will not admit defeat. The Kremlin will not compromise," Boulege says. "Right before May 9 there will

be a big moment for Putin to say, mission accomplished, this is my version of history. This is my legacy. It needs to be presented as a mission accomplished. Forget about taking over Kyiv. We've flattened Mariupol, we've liberated more parts of Donbas. Maybe they will announce a republic in Kherson [a city in the south that has been under Russian occupation since March]."

Going forward, he predicts a war of attrition that will last "as long as Putin is in place." Boulege points out that much is unknown about his state of mind, and how far he is prepared to take down the country with him.

"He's a spent 70-year-old Russian man," Boulege says. "There might be something that we don't know about his mental or physical health. This is about the hubris of a man who wants to make a stand, have a legacy. And it happens to be in Ukraine."

Would he resort to nukes? "As far as I am concerned, he is destructive but not suicidal," Boulege says. "Unless proven otherwise. All scenarios are on the table."

Change of Name

AHMADU
I, formerly known as **AHMADU GRACE HABIBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMADU GRACE HABILA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

KAIBA
I, formerly known as **DOGO STEPHEN ORENTATA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KAIBA STEPHEN ORENTATA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

MALLAMBALA
I, formerly known as **MALAM MUSA YUSUF**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MALLAMBALA MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DASHE
I, formerly known as **DASHE THANKGOD TIMOTHY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DASHE JUSTINE TIMOTHY**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DASHE
I, formerly known as **DASHE DAKUP POLYCARP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DASHE DAKUP**. correct date of birth is 01/01/2002 not 01/01/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DANLADI
I, formerly known as **NAMICIT BONGKO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANLADI TIMBYEN MIRI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DANIHIL
I, formerly known as **DANHIL DANHIL SHUWARMAK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANIHIL WILSON SHUWARMAK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

AHAMD
I, formerly known as **HAMIDU AHMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AHAMD HAMIDU GHANI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADA
I, formerly known as **MATTHIAS DORIS JULIE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ADA ACHARAK DORIS JULIA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

IDRIS
I, formerly known as **IDRIS MOHAMMAD ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IDRIS MUHAMMED ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DANLAMI
I, formerly known as **ABISHAG DANLAMI WILSON**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANLAMI MATE ABISHAG**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

GUBANG
I, formerly known as **HANNATU GOTUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GUBANG HANNATU WAKSHIK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

RAMNAP
I, formerly known as **RAMNAP NEHEMIAH CHAKUR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **RAMNAP NEHEMIAH**. Correct date of birth is 20/07/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DUNG
I, formerly known as **DAVOU HANNATU BOYI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DUNG HANNATU MANCHA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SHUAIBU
I, formerly known as **SHUAIBU SALE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHUAIBU SALIHU IDRIS**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

GIESOM
I, formerly known as **KIEMZAM INNOCENT LUKA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GIESOM KOPWA KIEMZAM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

HASHIMU
I, formerly known as **HASHIMU GARBA AMINU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HASHIMU GARBA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ALIYU
I, formerly known as **ALI ISA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ALIYU MOHAMMED ISA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SHIBAL
I, formerly known as **NAOMI JAMES**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHIBAL NAOMI JAMES**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

OKAFOR
I, formerly known as **SAMUEL CHINONSO PETER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OKAFOR CHINONSO PETER**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ISHAQ
I, formerly known as **ISIKA OLAWALE ABDULRASAK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISHAQ ABDULRASAK OLAWALE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

GOTENG
I, formerly known as **GOLGAK NENZARDUNG SAMUEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GOTENG NENZARDUNG GOLGAK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

MUHAMMED
I, formerly known as **SAIDU MOHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMED SAIDU MUSA**. DOB 05/10/1956. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

YASIR
I, formerly known as **YASIR ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YASIR ABUBAKAR BILYA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADAM
I, formerly known as **ADAM AMINU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAM AMINU USMAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DORA
I, formerly known as **DORA DANLADI GONET**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DORA GONET YELGIT**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ALI
I, formerly known as **ALI ABDULKAREEM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ALI ABDULKAREEM DAWAL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DUNG
I, formerly known as **MATHEW EZEKIEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DUNG MATTHEW EZEKIEL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

YASIR
I, formerly known as **SHAFATU UMAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHAFATU IDRIS**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

AHMAD
I, formerly known as **FARUKU AHMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISMAIL AHMAD UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

Public Notice

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
This is to inform the general public of the lost of original Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) **No. PL 25269** of property located at Rayfield, Jos issued to **ALHAJI MUKHTAR NAYAYA NIG. LTD.** All efforts made to traced the missing document prove abortive. Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning Jos other concerned authorities and the general public to take note.
Signed:
ALHAJI MUKHTAR NAYAYA

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
The general public is hereby notified of the lost of original Grant of Right of Occupancy (R of O) **No. PL 36761** of property located at Rayfield, Jos issued to **ADAMU RITKATMWA THERESA**. All efforts made to traced the missing document prove abortive. Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning Jos other concerned authorities and the general public to take note.
Signed:
ADAMU RITKATMWA THERESA

Public Notice

SURE CHRISTIAN CENTRE & FAITH MINISTRY
This is to inform the general public that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Abuja for registration Under Part “C” of companies and Allied Matter’s Act, 2020.
TRUSTEES ARE:
1. Anzaku Amos - Chairman
2. Ovey Joseph Anzaku - Secretary
3. Ibrahim Mailafiya - Member
4. Gloria Amos - Member
5. Musa Sajud Ruku - Member
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
To preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ
Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar, General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.
Signed Secretary

NEWS

'Lalong is a man of peace'

By Palang Kasmi

Responding on behalf of the family, younger brother to the Governor Mr. Fred Bako equally commended the gesture saying they highly appreciate the love, encomiums and support shown to the governor and the entire family. Deputy Chaplain of the Government House Chapel Rev. Dewan offered special prayers for the Governor and his family as well as for the peace and progress of Plateau State. Meanwhile, messages of goodwill have continued to pour in from various notable organisations and individuals. Among them is the Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase who described the Governor as "One of the shining love lights among the new breed of leaders". "I join millions of citizens and Nigerians to celebrate this great Nigerian @ 59. As Governor of Plateau State, he has been able to unite the people irrespective of their religious and ethnic diversity", he said. Senator representing Plateau South in the National Assembly, Prof. Nora Daduot lauded the governor on his birthday saying "Lalong is a gentleman and bridge builder and visionary leader who has overtime shown his unalloyed commitment to the betterment of his people and has continued to lead as a democrat and an unrepentant optimist". Also in a congratulatory letter to the Governor, Director General Industrial Training Fund, Sir. Joseph Ari said the ITF was proud to be associated with Governor Lalong's achievements in his capacity as the Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum. He stated , "The passion for peace, infrastructural development and human capital development has helped Governor Lalong to restore the lost glory of Plateau State and make it one of the most viable and attractive states in Nigeria". On his part, Chairman of Progressives Governors Forum (PGF), Abubakar Atiku Bagudu in a statement commended the celebrant for his leadership, vision and commitment to a united prosperous Nigeria and laudable contributions to the forum.

and development of the state.

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has been described as a man of peace who has the interest of his state and country at heart. The encomiums were showered on the Governor by some of his close officials and family members as he marked his 59th birthday on Thursday 5th May 2022. The low-key birthday celebration took place at the Governor's Rayfield residence in Jos amidst eulogies and prayers for the governor. In his remarks, Deputy Governor Prof. Sonni Tyoden eulogised the Governor and said his style of leadership has promoted harmony, peace and massive infrastructural development at all levels. Tyoden said the governor is a humble and listening leader with a good heart whose laudable decisions are always anchored in the interest of his citizens. The Deputy Governor prayed God to grant the Governor a healthy life and more opportunities to continue to serve the people. Members of the State Executive Council and some government officials including Head of Service of Plateau State, Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat, Commissioner for Information and Communication, Dan Manjang, Permagnet Secretary Government House, Mary Afan, Special Adviser on Political Affairs Samuel Kwamkur and other speakers described Governor Lalong as a gift to the state and Nigeria, praying God to enable him finish his tenure in peace and with his head high. They all expressed optimism that with the purposeful leadership and achievements recorded under his tenure, a higher calling awaits him at the national level. Governor Lalong appreciated God for the gift of life and dedicated his birthday to the state and two star golfers who lost their lives in an accident during the sallah. He also appreciated his family and associates for standing by him and supporting him to deliver the dividends of democracy to citizens of his state. The Governor also assured that his administration will continue to serve his state and humanity and work for peace

BUSINESS WORLD

NEPZA and imperative of boosting economy via blockchain technology

Unarguably, the Federal Government changed the name of the Federal Ministry of Communications to Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy in order to be in tune with global trends and reality The World Economic Forum (WEF), predicts that by 2022, 60 per cent of the world economy will be digital. AFONNE EMMANUEL writes

ACCORDING to WEF, an estimated 60 per cent to 70 per cent of new value created in the economy over the next decade will be based on digitally-enabled platforms.

Companies need to re-imagine how to create, distribute and capture value in this new environment. Closing digital divides is not only conducive to economic growth for all sectors, but also critical for social and political stability in the decade ahead, it added.

The World Bank in a 2019 report noted that Nigeria is uniquely positioned to reap the benefits of a digital economy.

According to the report, Nigeria accounts for 47 per cent of West Africa's population, and half of the country's 200 million people are under the age of 30.

Nigeria has the largest mobile market in Sub-Saharan Africa, supported by strong mobile broadband infrastructure and improved international connectivity.

The bank says for Nigeria to meet the bold objective of creating 100 million jobs, the country needs to increase investment in infrastructure, create an enabling regulatory environment for digital economy to grow.

When President Muhammadu Buhari unveiled the National Digital Economy Policy, initiated by the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, he directed the Ministry to ensure seamless and coordinated implementation of projects, programmes and policies.

The aim of the policy is to enable Nigeria maximise the benefits enunciated by the World Bank and WEF from a digital-driven economy.

It is in line with this policy, that the Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA), is desirous of opening up Nigeria's free zones to the digital space.

Prof. Adesoji Adesugba, the Managing Director of NEPZA said it was imperative to open up Nigeria's free zones space to blockchain technology and crypto currency operations.

He spoke recently in Abuja when two blockchain firms visited him to make submissions on their proposals for blockchain operations in Nigerian free zones areas.

Adesugba said the consideration followed requests from local and international players.

He said that his team received multiple presentations on the need for crypto exchanges and hubs within the Nigerian special economic zones to tap into multi-billion dollar revenue streams which currently eluded Nigeria.

"I have also been approached at various international gatherings and ranked sixth out of the top 20 events on why Nigeria, in spite her



Adesugba

fiscal pressure, is comfortable losing so much in capital gains tax to neighbouring nations.

"We are aware of various reports and studies that indeed confirm operations of blockchain technology in many special economic zones all over the world.

"Our management is, therefore, considering inaugurating policy consultation with sister agencies on the need for a regulating framework on this emerging field.

"It is worrisome that Nigeria is said to be losing billions of dollars annually in capital gains tax paid to other nations even though the crypto transactions took place in Nigeria."

The NEPZA boss said that statistics on crypto operations pile up more pressure.

"Nigeria is currently the number one in terms of people searching for 'Bitcoin' and 'Crypto' keywords on Google, with more than 6.3 per cent of the entire population owning at least one type of crypto currency.

"In the Chainalysis 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index, Nigeria is ranked sixth out of the top 20 countries in terms of crypto currency

adoption.

"It is important for us to develop a robust blockchain policy in line with current international trends.

"And we hope to be able to consider interested organisations for capacity and development of blockchain tech within the free zones.

"In policy formulation and implementation, we shall definitely invite all the stakeholders including large crypto exchanges such as Binance, Coinbase, Crypto.com, and other young local operators."

Adesugba said that this would bring access to technology and expand the capacity of the sector to employ estimated 250,000 youths.

"Leaving this vast field unregulated appears to constitute huge economic loss to the nation. We hope to come up with a draft perspective after due consultations," Adesugba said.

Earlier, the Finlease in its submission sought the endorsement of NEPZA for the establishment of Lekki International Financial Centre at the Lekki Free Zone (LIFCFZ).

The Managing Director of Finlease, Dr Sunday Sijuade, said the planned Lekki International Financial Centre

would cover offshore crypto zone to cater for crypto currencies.

According to him, it is to become an offshore destination for crypto exchanges, digital assets and virtual assets.

Sijuade said the proposal was in line with international trends across global special economic zones.

He cited examples of Chinese Financial free zones in Shanghai and the United Arab Emirates' International Finance Centre, where such innovation had been introduced into the free zones.

Adesugba, when he paid a courtesy visit on Mr Mohammed Nami, the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) reiterated the need to deploy novel digital technology to open up the Free Trade Zones (FTZs) space for operators of the multi-trillion-dollar blockchain technology businesses.

He re-emphasised the readiness of NEPZA to open the country's free trade zones' corridor for genuine global competitiveness.

According to him, the African Continental Free Trade Zones Area (AfCFTA) has given leverage to all countries in the continent to diverse their business catchments.

"As we speak, free trade zones are springing up everywhere in Africa. Nigeria must be concerned about competitions from Egypt; South Africa; Kenya; Benin Republic; Ghana; and Togo where huge investments have been committed to free trade zones development.

"For us, we are doing well with about 500 enterprises operating in 42 zones across the country, but we must expand the investment corridor to magnet operators of the blockchain technology which remains the future of global economy.

"The time to join the train is now, else we shall be counting our losses in a few years time. We are delighted

that the Federal Government through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) recently approved and deployed the e-naira."

Adesugba said that Nigeria must key into the technology as more than 90 per cent of European and US banks were researching blockchain options.

He said that multinational organisations like JP Morgan, MTN, KFC, Tesla and many others have entered the crypto currency and metaverse digital blockchain sector, with MTN said to have purchased 114 metaverse properties recently.

He said that NEPZA was aware on how the technology could revolutionise government, finance, insurance and personal identity security, adding that trillions of naira could accrue to the Federal Government as revenue from this ecosystem.

The NEPZA chief executive also said that the decision to fully promote the blockchain technology hinged on its fast rate of revenue turnovers and the unlimited job space the technology had for the teeming youths.

He explained that the country's tax net would be exponentially enlarged if the investment came alive, as according to him, Nigeria is currently rated as the 6th largest player in the world in the crypto and blockchain trade, especially amongst the youths.

"I, therefore, see no reason why we should not open up the space and attract the much needed capital into the country, while government benefits from taxes, or management fees amounting to billions of naira as is done in countries like Canada and South Africa.

Adesugba also said that NEPZA was ready to deepen collaboration with relevant government agencies in order to fast track the country's industrialisation.

He explained that the visit to the FIRS was to prepare grounds for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aimed at ending indiscriminate tax regime that had stunted the full development of the free trade zone scheme.

He said that the scheme was a global business policy that exempts operators of zones from all forms of taxes and duties. He however said that when goods and services from the zones are taken to the customs area, they will be required to pay the required duty which is not necessary when exported elsewhere.

"You can see that the country is not losing any revenue, as most of the goods and services from the zones are now imported to the customs areas.

"FIRS and the Custom Services must wait until items from the zones are brought to the customs area before they can be taxed," he said.

Adesugba also explained that it was imperative that the key agencies partnering with the NEPZA to drive the development of the scheme understand the dynamics of the scheme.

Undoubtedly, with zeal exhibited by Adesugba since his appointment, the Authority, established via NEPZA Act 63 of 1992, will deliver on its mandate.

The mandate includes: licensing, regulating, monitoring and promoting the operations of all zones in Nigeria.

It also seeks to provide a conducive investment climate by offering a competitive incentive regime, streamlined administrative procedures and world class infrastructure.

The current efforts of NEPZA are all geared towards delivering on the mandate of the Authority. (NAN)

"It is worrisome that Nigeria is said to be losing billions of dollars annually in capital gains tax paid to other nations even though the crypto transactions took place in Nigeria." The NEPZA boss said that statistics on crypto operations pile up more pressure. "Nigeria is currently the number one in terms of people searching for 'Bitcoin' and 'Crypto' keywords on Google, with more than 6.3 per cent of the entire population owning at least one type of crypto currency.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Turaki's Unity Football Competition take off

From
MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE sixth edition of the Turaki Unity Football Cup Competition which comprises of the five local government areas that make up the Nasarawa Western Senatorial zone and sponsored by Senator Abdullahi Adamu the present national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has kick started at the Keffi Mini Stadium amidst fanfare last Tuesday.

The participating local government areas are Karu, Keffi, Kokona, Nasarawa and Toto. The competition would involve eight teams that would slug it out with include Keffi, Karu and Nasarawa who are presenting two teams each while Kokona and Toto are presenting one team each.

The co-ordinator of the competition, Malam Hussaini Musa Sabban, who made the disclosure while speaking to **SUNDAY STANDARD** sports stated that the two week long competition is going to witness the display of young football skills from the players that came to participate in the competition.

He, however, explained that the major reason for organizing the competition is to fish-out hidden talents from the participating local government areas which would be used to form a standard league club (Keffi United).



Adamu

Sabban further disclosed that in order to make the project of forming a strong and formidable team out of the players a reality a professional football coach Mr. Zakary Baraje has been employed and saddled with that responsibility.

He, then, expressed his optimism that by the end of the day, a formidable Keffi United Football Club that would participate in both local and national competitions would be formed by the coach.

Meanwhile, our man gathered that the competition is going to attract prizes of One Million Naira for the club that comes first while the runners-up would get the sum of N 750,000 and the third position would also go home with half a million Naira among other prizes to be given to individual players and

officials that excel in many ways during the competition.

Burnley's suffered huge setback against Aston

INGS, who spent four years with the Clarets before moving to Liverpool in 2015, did not celebrate after tucking past Nick Pope, having been put through by Emiliano Buendia.

Argentine Buendia, starting in place of Philippe Coutinho who was dropped to the bench, then scored with a deflected finish after being picked out inside the box by Lucas Digne.

Ollie Watkins added to the home side's misery when he was left

THE Coach is expected to beam his searchlight during the ongoing Turaki Unity Football Cup Competition that comprises eight teams from the five local government areas namely Karu, Keffi, Kokona, Nasarawa and Toto participating in the contest which has already kick off at the Keffi Mini Stadium last Tuesday.

The co-ordinator of the competition, Alhaji Hussaini Musa Sabban who made the disclosure stated that already the coach who has the experiences of coaching many professional clubs in the country to include the Plateau United and many others has already started his job.

unmarked to head the third after John McGinn's cross.

Burnley had won their previous three games to give themselves hope of avoiding relegation, but they were back to their bad old habits.

Wout Weghorst headed a couple of chances wide and went close with another attempt on the turn, while Dwight McNeil forced a couple of saves before substitute Maxwell Cornet scored a consolation in stoppage time.

With three games remaining, they are 16th in the table, two points clear of Everton, who are third from bottom but have two games in hand.

Leeds, who are directly below the Clarets in 17th, are level on 34 points with Burnley but have one game in hand.

Burnley looked down and out after slumping to 18th in the table, four points from safety, before

Turaki's unity Cup comprises eight teams

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

He expressed the hope that by the end of the day a formidable national league club would be formed which would be made to participate in both local and National competition

Sabban therefore advised the players and their officials to endeavour to avail themselves of the opportunity by giving a their best and at the same time be disciplined throughout the competition in order to earn the rewards therein.

Meanwhile, the assigned Coach Zakary Baraje has

stated that he has already commenced his work and expressed the optimism that he would be able to come-up with a formidable team at the end of the day.

Speaking with **SUNDAY STANDARD**, Coach Baraje stated that he is going to beam his searchlights on all the participating clubs and their players in order to make correct and reliable choices.

He however solicited for the support and co-operation of all the players and their officials in that order.

Villa before entertaining Newcastle on the final day of the season.

Villa's sixth win in 12 away games under Steven Gerrard all but secures their place in the Premier League for another season.

Manager Steven Gerrard has been frustrated at his side's lack of consistency and said before this game that the team had "underachieved" this season.

He faces a busy summer in the transfer market and one of the first decisions he has to make is whether to sign Coutinho permanently.

The arrival of the former Liverpool playmaker on loan from Barcelona in January included the option to buy the 29-year-old for £33m.

However, Gerrard opted to start the impressive Buendia instead of Coutinho at Turf Moor and it remains to be seen if they will go ahead with the signing.

Ancelotti: Bale's back is so bad

GARETH Bale was absent from Real Madrid's Liga title celebrations because of a bad back, rather than because of a poor relationship with the rest of the squad, insists manager Carlo Ancelotti.

Madrid sealed the Spanish league crown last weekend with victory over Espanyol and celebrated it with an open-top bus tour - but Bale was not among the players celebrating.

Bale has been a peripheral figure at Madrid in recent years, spending last season on loan at Tottenham and rarely playing this campaign amid injuries and regular questions over his commitment.

The Welshman's absence from the bus tour was viewed as being further proof of his being ostracised from the first team, however Ancelotti has moved to defend his player.

The Italian coach said Bale was not on the bus because of serious back pain which prevented him from moving, let alone dancing and partying with the rest of the team.

Speaking at his press conference ahead of facing Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Sunday, Ancelotti said: "Bale couldn't even walk the day of the Liga celebrations, he's injured. If he was fine he would've been with his team-mates."

Madrid's Liga crown is the 35th in their history, and also represents an incredible personal achievement for Ancelotti - he has now won all of Europe's top five league titles as a manager, adding Spain to his Premier League, Ligue 1, Serie A and Bundesliga crowns.

Having conquered all of Europe's leagues, there has been speculation that Ancelotti could retire from management when he leaves Real Madrid - but he isn't planning on that just yet.



Bale



Danny Ings scored against his former club as Burnley's survival chances suffered a huge setback against Aston Villa at Turf Moor.

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Relationship

Dealing with the fear of being cheated again

By **RITA HANSEN**

We have all likely heard the phrase "once a cheater, always a cheater". If this is true, then if one chooses to stay with a spouse who has been unfaithful, one would feel justified in expecting them to cheat again. But it seems that most partners who don't call it quits after there has been infidelity are not signing up for the lack of monogamy to continue; rather they are expecting and hoping that their spouse will refrain from future affairs. Despite their best wishes, it is fairly common for the betrayed spouse to have strong doubts that the cheating will resume.

Quite often these fears are going to be heavily influenced by the behavior of the betrayer. If the behaviors are such that suggest they are not changing or taking the violation of trust seriously, then the insecurity may be more valid. The rest of this article will focus on circumstances where there seems to be reason to think the marriage can survive and perhaps end up stronger in the end. In some situations, it would not be advised that the spouse remain, such as the betrayer refuses to end affair/commit to



monogamy.

One takes a risk anytime an intimate relationship is entered into, as one can never know for sure the other will be or remain trustworthy. This risk is greater when the trust has been broken in such a devastating way as happens with an affair.

Despite there being understand how their some promising signs actions were wrong and that the cheating is over, do not attempt to avoid one can never know for the topic or sweep it sure, and staying with under the rug and easily the betrayer can produce move on. Taking a variety of emotions. To responsibility for their make matters more choices rather than complicated, the blaming the betrayed is betrayed may not have typically healthy.

the support of family and friends, as these individuals may have This goes beyond advised the betrayed to allowing trust in the leave the relationship. betrayer to be rebuilt and This creates a lot of also includes being able to internal and external trust oneself and listen to pressure to make the one's gut. Chances are marriage work and avoid there may have been red possible scrutiny of flags the betrayed chose to overlook. At this point others.

There are some things it is best to forgive oneself the betrayed might try to for misjudging the attempt to quiet the situation. Being trusting fears (of being cheated is a good quality; it may on again) that they be helpful to work on experience.

1. Look for signs that the betrayer is working to prevent the cheating and associated behavior

One major factor is go overboard in making how sincerely willing the sure to not miss warning betrayer is to signs and become overly acknowledge the pain suspicious, reading too and destruction caused much into things. by their behavior. It can Reaching out to a be a good sign when they professional who can be demonstrate willingness objective and point out to take the time to

unreasonable conclusions thoughts are becoming may be the most problematic and resulting beneficial, particularly if in avoidable suffering. family and friends are too Working on and involved or opinionated addressing these fears in about the situation. either individual or

The betrayed spouse is entitled to doubts and recommended rather than hoping they will get determine if their better with time.



SUNDAY SPORTS

Boehly's plan to redevelop Stamford Bridge

A consortium led by the American has beaten off a host of rival bidders to complete its takeover of the Premier League club.

Chelsea are set to enter the unknown, with a Todd Boehly-led consortium set to buy the Blues from Roman Abramovich after a competitive and protracted bidding process that has been going on since March.

Boehly, who owns the Los Angeles Lakers and LA Dodgers, is expected to be given Premier League approval to complete his purchase after finding an agreement with the New York investment bank - Raine Group - that facilitated the sale.

The US billionaire, who has a net worth of around £3.3 billion (\$4.4bn), has been a popular option among Chelsea supporters because of his knowledge of the club and his success in other sports.

His cause has also been helped by the fact that he's been fairly transparent with his proposal during the bidding process.

Of course, it's highly unlikely that any owner will continue running Chelsea as Abramovich did.

Having little need to run the club for profit, Abramovich pumped over £1.6bn (\$2bn) of his personal wealth into the outfit to ensure that the team remained successful on the field.

From now on, the Blues will need to be savvier in the transfer market and fund the business through new revenue streams.

Indeed, when it comes to player recruitment, Chelsea now intend to model themselves on Liverpool, who have managed to compete with Manchester City for Premier League titles by making signings specifically suited to their manager's footballing philosophy.

In truth, though, while the start of the Abramovich era was undeniably wild in its approach to transfers, the Blues' strategy is now much more mature, while the huge investment in the academy at Cobham has been paying dividends for years now.

Of course, while Chelsea have already started moving towards the data-based scouting championed by Liverpool, costly mistakes are still being made in the market.

The signing of Romelu Lukaku for a club-record £100 million (\$136m) is obviously the most glaring case in point, given the Belgian doesn't fit with Thomas Tuchel's style of play at all.

As well as figuring out what to do with Lukaku this summer, it is understood that Boehly's camp are concerned by the amount of expiring contracts among the playing staff, with Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen having already told the club that they will be leaving on free transfers this summer.

The new owners are desperate to ensure that neither Mason



Boehly

Mount nor Reece James are tempted to quit Stamford Bridge, given that they are not on the kind of lucrative salaries that their talent merits.

Still, Chelsea fans will be encouraged by the Boehly-led group's awareness of all of the problems that immediately need resolving.

That should not come as much of a surprise, though, given Boehly did his due diligence on Chelsea in 2019 when he first tried to buy the club.

Of course, in the end, his £2.2bn (\$2.75bn) offer was rejected by Roman Abramovich, even though the Russian was entertaining the idea of selling up after his tier-1 investment visa was withdrawn by the United Kingdom government following a rise in political tensions with Russia.

At the very same moment, Chelsea's ambitious £1bn (\$1.25bn) redevelopment of Stamford Bridge was cast aside.

Now, with the ground one of the smallest in the Premier League, addressing that issue has been central to the process of finding a new owner.

Indeed, Boehly's group produced one of the most detailed redevelopment proposals and have already spoken to several architects, such as Jane Marie Smith and David Hickey, who were involved in Abramovich's initial project.

Furthermore, all bidders were

asked to commit at least £1bn towards the running of the men's, women's and academy operations during the first decade of ownership.

They were also later asked for a further £500m (\$625m) to be added towards the sale price, which will either go towards a charity relating to the ongoing war in Ukraine or be frozen in a bank account controlled by the government.

It must be said that although Boehly is the face of this bid, there's a huge list of important players behind the scenes, the most significant of which is arguably Clearlake Capital, a private equity firm that is financing at least 66 per cent of the acquisition.

Behind Clearlake is co-founder Behdad Eghbali who is committed to being an 'active director' despite the scale of his other investments.

They will have a powerful stake in the future of the club, but some around the process believe that they will at least be partly financing the purchase on debt.

There's also Boehly's long-term business partner Hansjorg Wyss, a Swiss billionaire who won't play a particularly visible role but will be an important influence, the LA Dodgers' principal owner Mark Walter, and British investor Jonathan Goldstein.

All in all, this is a group that is incredibly well-connected in the

financial and political spheres.

They've employed the services of big banks such as Goldman Sachs and Robey Warshaw, the latter of which has former UK Chancellor and Chelsea supporter George Osborne working in an advisory role.

They will also add Chelsea fans to their board, including Danny Finkelstein, who was a Member of the House of Lords and a columnist for *The Times* newspaper. Alongside him is Barbara Charone, who is a powerful marketing executive in the entertainment industry.

The reason why so many prominent figures were attracted to the bid was the mere fact that a blue-chip asset doesn't come onto the market too often, with Premier League clubs increasingly hard to buy, even for the wealthiest people in the world.

Being based in London made Chelsea an even more attractive proposition to investors, who also believe that the Blues have not exploited their commercial potential as effectively as some of their 'Big Six' rivals.

Boehly, who spoke at the 2022 Milken Institute Global Conference during the sale, spoke of his plans to monetise fans in creative ways.

"You're just characterising it as 'tokenisation' because it's digital," he said. "But the reality is if you want to buy stock in the Green Bay Packers, that to me is

'tokenisation'.

"You have no rights, you have no control, but you can say you have an 'interest' in the Packers.

"I think loyalty programs, whether it's Vivid Seats, Dodgers, Lakers, Chelsea, we're all thinking about how do we have direct customer relationships that we can then build upon.

"And if a form of that comes in a 'tokenisation', then so be it, but what we really care about is direct access to our fanbase.

"And if we have direct access to our fanbase, [then] we can start thinking about [having] lots of tiers of different fans that want different products.

"So, we're starting to think a lot about what it is that we really want to give our 'super fans' and how do we develop fans."

It will be interesting to see how his ideas are received, with supporters likely to need to adjust their expectations of how the club will operate.

Article continues below

It could create more turbulence, with uncertainty already surrounding the board's long-term future and whether they will keep the promises made during the negotiating process.

Still, with the Boehly group closing in on their takeover, the Blues are now set to move on from a glorious but ultimately controversial era under Abramovich.



Watford have been relegated from the PL

Watford have been relegated from the Premier League after Wilfried Zaha's first-half penalty secured a deserved victory for Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

Defeat by Burnley last week had left the Hornets 12 points adrift of safety with four games remaining and Palace sent their former manager Roy Hodgson's side straight back down to the Championship with a dominant display.

The Eagles controlled the contest from the outset and went ahead when Zaha confidently swept his 31st-minute spot-kick past Ben Foster after Hassane Kamara had used his arm to block Michael Olise's back-post header.

Watford never looked like scoring and their misery was compounded when Kamara, already booked for that handball, was dismissed when his push on Olise produced a second yellow card.

It is the second time Watford have dropped out of the top flight in the past three seasons. The manager-less Hornets



Wilfried Zaha tucked his penalty past Ben Foster after Hassane Kamara's handball

also went down on the final day of the 2019-20 campaign before securing an immediate return under Xisco Munoz.

The identity of the coach who will be tasked with emulating Munoz's achievement is still unknown, however, with Hodgson set to retire

from top-level management when his contract at Vicarage Road expires at the end of the season.

Relegation represents a bitter final chapter in 74-year-old Hodgson's time as a manager, which has included spells at 17 clubs - including Palace - in eight countries, plus

four international sides, during a 46-year career.

Palace's win - which takes them to win five points of their highest-ever tally in a Premier League season - confirmed what many Watford fans had already accepted after last week's loss to fellow strugglers Burnley.

While they briefly boosted their survival hopes with victory at Southampton in March, a fourth Premier League relegation was effectively sealed with a run of five straight defeats before the trip to Selhurst.

Watford never really got going as Palace took

control early on. France Under-21 winger Olise, one of five players recalled by Eagles boss Patrick Vieira, created the home side's first chance after five minutes when Marc Guehi headed his teasing cross over the bar.

Olise was also involved in the first-half's key moment when his header from Eberechi Eze's left-wing cross struck Watford full-back Kamara's outstretched arm.

Graham Scott pointed to the spot, and while Kamara claimed Olise had pushed him in the back, a VAR review upheld the referee's decision, allowing Zaha to add to the double he netted in Palace's 4-1 win over Watford in February.

While Watford needed to score twice, it was Palace who looked like grabbing the game's second goal with Odsonne Edouard almost netting a superb solo goal just after the hour, dancing his way through the visitors' defence before hitting the post from a tight angle.

With Kamara sent off on 68 minutes, Palace cruised to victory as the game - and Watford's stay in the division - ended with a whimper.

Man City didn't hire me to win the CL - Guardiola

Pep Guardiola says that he was not hired by Manchester City with the sole purpose of winning the Champions League.

City were minutes away from reaching a second

consecutive Champions League final as they had a 5-3 aggregate lead against Real Madrid in the semi-final on Wednesday.

But a late double by Rodrygo sent the tie into

extra time before Karim Benzema converted a penalty to send the Spanish side through to the final.

City, who lost to Chelsea in the final last year, are

determined to claim the European trophy - but Guardiola says his job does not depend on winning the competition.

"Last season, we lost the Champions League. It was 13 games. We won 11, drew one and lost one," he told *Sky Sports*.

"If we lost the Champions League, was it a bad Champions League season? Absolutely not. This season we were in the Champions League semi-final again.

"We want to win the Champions League, of course. But when they called me they did not tell me we had to win the Champions League. Not even the Premier League.

"They said they wanted to be competitors in all the competitions until the end, to be a team that for our fans is nice to watch and wins as many games

as we can in all competitions. That is why they knocked on my door to come here. And we did it.

"There is no doubt, in all competitions, we did it. The people who play against us know, they are good. They run, they fight and they bring their opponent to the limit.

"This is when you become a solid club. A club you can rely on. For sponsors, fans, people who want to follow us when they switch on the TV and want to watch Man City. The honesty of these players and this team has been quite remarkable for many years."

Despite their Champions League disappointment, City can still finish the season on a high.

They sit a point ahead of Liverpool in the Premier League with four matches left to play.



The coach has not been able to achieve the club's dream of winning the European title in his six years in England