

'Zoning is the best in democratic setting'

Page 10



ASUP begins nationwide strike today

Page 2

Prophet entices married woman, threatens husband

Page 2

Lalong assures of hosting PSN conference

Page 20

THE Nigeria Standard



FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 734

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

N200

www.nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

NANS directs students to block all federal roads

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), has directed all its structures and organs to block all federal roads in protest against the continued shutdown of public universities in the country.

Against the backdrop of the extension of the warning strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), NANS asked the students to

Cont'd on Page 2

INEC kicks as parties seek adjustment in timetable

Despite the provisions of the 2022 Electoral Act, eighteen registered political parties under the auspices of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) have called for the adjustment of the timetable for the 2023 general elections.

The electoral umpire, Independent National Electoral Commission

(INEC) published the timetable for the 2023 elections shortly after the 2022 Electoral Act was signed into law.

But IPAC said after exhaustive examination of the timetable, it discovered that the schedule of activities were based on certain circumstances and developments that have hampered timely and strict compliance by the political parties to the timetable.

It requested that the deadline for the conduct of party primaries be extended to August 4 as against the June 4 timeline stipulated by the Commission.

IPAC National Chairman, Yabagi Yusuf Sani, who read the position of the position of the parties at the second quarterly meeting with INEC, said:

"In making the request for

Cont'd on Page 2



Prof. Mamood

Plateau, South African company to invest in agribusiness

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau State Government and a South African company Wellington and White have agreed to invest in agribusiness in the state.

This was disclosed when the State Governor Simon Bako Lalong receive the Managing Director Mr. Ian White and his team

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at Government House, Rayfield, Jos.

White said Plateau has alot of agric potentials and a fertile soil where anything can grow that is why his organisation took the opportunities partner with the state and explore its agribusiness potentials.

He said his company,

based in South Africa has worked in Kenya and other countries adding that they are identifying the produce crops in the country to get them to commercial levels and remove the middle man to enable the growers gain more from their farm produce.

"The purpose of our visit

is to identify what facilities are available, and the number of crops to start with. We will start with flowers, tomatoes and pepper, produce enough, train a management team to expand to other projects, make a name and brand including export opportunities".

"We can do this job and take away lots of imports from Nigeria like tomato paste", saying most of the tomato paste consumed in the country comes from China".

Ian also said the project will engage extension services, right soil, right fertilisers, agronomists,

Cont'd on Page 2

We didn't purchase APC Presidential form for anyone

-Miyetti Allah

Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) has denied media reports it obtained the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential form for former President Goodluck Jonathan.

It said it did not and will not buy any form for any candidate contesting the 2023 general elections.

The association said it has far higher needs for money to assist its members being uprooted and killed in the South East and several other States than buying forms for politicians.

Its National Secretary MACBAN, Baba Othman Ngelzarma, in a statement in Abuja said the association will support a candidate that shows commitment to end the suffering of its members after the conclusion of party primaries.

He said: "The attention of

Cont'd on Page 2



Plateau State Governor, Rt Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, Mr. White from Wellington and White, South Africa, Managing Director, PIPC, Mr. Chry Yilzak, Government officials and others in a group photograph after their visit yesterday at the new Government House Rayfield, Jos

Photo: DANLADI DUK

Covid - 19 CASE UPDATE; 225 NEW CASES CONFIRMED; 4.00 p.m. May 11, 2022; TOTAL CONFIRMED: 225,255 . DISCHARGED: 211,660 . DEATHS: 2,985; NCDCToll-free Number: 080097000010

News

INEC kicks as parties seek adjustment in timetable

Cont'd from Page 1

extension in the INEC stipulated timetable and schedule of activities for the 2023 general elections, we in the Inter-Party Advisory Council, are not unmindful of the provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Act with respect to timelines in the electoral process.

"We are however, of the considered view that our request will not, in any way, tantamount to an infringement or, a breach of any extant laws and provisions. This is because, the alterations that we are demanding, will not affect the statutory dates already fixed for the conduct of the 2023 general elections

"We are praying for the slight changes in the timetable for the conduct of party primaries in full consciousness of our position as key stakeholders in the nation's democratic process and who, at the bottom of it all, constitute not only the greatest beneficiaries but, as the platform of all the registered political parties, we are in fact, the fulcrum around which the entire system and processes revolve.

"We should therefore, be seen as a body of responsible and patriotic interest bloc with a very high sense of responsibility and commitment to the success of every crucial stage and aspects in the electoral chain".

But INEC Chairman Professor Mahmood Yakubu said there would be no review of the timeline for the party primaries.

He reminded the political parties that the period earmarked for the conduct of primaries by political parties commenced on 4th April 2022 and will end on 3rd June 2022.

Yakubu disclosed that all 18 political parties have forwarded the schedules of their primaries to the Commission "and some have commenced the process of choosing their candidates by conducting Ward and Local Government congresses".

According to him: "Therefore, the Commission will not review the timelines. Working together, we should ensure fidelity to the timelines in conducting transparent and democratic primaries for the purpose of electing candidates for the 1,491 constituencies for which elections will be held on 25th February and 11th March 2023."

In attendance at the

meeting were All Progressives Congress (APC) chairman Senator Abdullahi Adamu; APC National Secretary Senator Iyiola Omisore; PDP National Chairman, Professor Iyorchia Ayu; PDP National Secretary, Senator Samuel Anyanwu; All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) chairman Victor Oye, among other political party leaders.

Plateau, South African Company to invest in Agribusiness

Cont'd from Page 1

extension workers, and will create many opportunities and it will be built over a span of 10 years which can attract international investors to the state.

Responding, Governor Lalong expressed great interest in the team and their proposed investment plan in his state.

He promised to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive with infrastructures like the dry

Cont'd from Page 1

ensure the roads are blocked daily for at least three hours, until the Federal Government resolves its impasse with the aggrieved lecturers.

NANS National Public Relations Officer, Victor Ezenagu, declared the mass action tagged 'Operation Test Run' on Tuesday, during his appearance on Channels Television's Sunrise Daily.

"We are poised at ensuring that our campuses are reopened and as such, the instruction has gone out to all the 36 states and the FCT, calling on all our structures to begin (the mass action)

inland port, and through enhancing a peaceful environment.

He also assured the visiting team that through the Plateau Investment and Property Company (PIPC), the body championing the project, his administration will facilitate and guarantee their investment in Plateau.

Speaking earlier, Managing Director PIPC, Mr Chris Yilzak who led the team to government

NANS directs students to block all federal roads

immediately, starting from today, by barricading and blocking every federal road, every road leading to the airports and ensuring they remain on the street for at least three hours every day until the Federal Government does something as regards to settling their impasse with ASUU for us to return to our campuses", he said during the breakfast programme.

Academic activities have been grounded in public

universities across the country, following a warning strike by ASUU in February.

Some of the issues that led to the industrial action include renegotiations of the 2009 agreement, payment system for members, and revitalisation of the nation's universities, among others.

Following several negotiations between the government and ASUU that ended in a deadlock, the union on Monday, extended the strike by another 12 weeks.

This further worsens the plight of students whose hopes of returning to the classroom have been dashed again, despite staying away from campus for almost three months.

NANS, in its reaction, said 'Operation Test Run' would be a precursor to a total shutdown that would be decided during its Senate meeting/pre-convention on Saturday, May 14.

While the ASUU strike persists, according to the union, students will continue to occupy roads leading to airports and might be forced to disrupt political activities,

including parties' primaries to elect candidates for the 2023 general elections.

"There shall be no primaries, there shall be no political activities if our future is not resolved, if our future is not decided well, if the issue concerning the Nigerian students is not resolved, because we cannot be talking about next elections, we should be talking about the next generation.

"If we are only concerned about elections, then what happens to the next generation? Education is the only thing that can ensure and ascertain the existence of Nigeria and make Nigeria a better place. We cannot sit back and watch our fathers, who are almost in their dying age toy with our future, we will not allow that.

"There shall be no primaries, there shall be no political activities in Nigeria except the ASUU strike is resolved. We are not deterred, we are formidable; we are coming to shock Nigerians, we are coming to shock the government, we are coming to shock everybody", Ezenagu stated.

We didn't purchase APC Presidential form for anyone

-Miyetti Allah

Cont'd from Page 1

MACBAN has been drawn to a trending story in which we are being quoted as having bought a presidential nomination form for former President Goodluck Jonathan for the 2023

elections.

"We wish to make it clear that MACBAN did not and will not buy any form for any Candidate contesting elections.

"MACBAN does not see any gain in this kind of profligate enterprise that

adds no value to the million of our members who are wallowing in poverty as a result of banditry, cattle rustling and the dastardly activities of self appointed vigilantes who for all intent and purpose are committed to executing

genocide.

"We believe politics should be left to politicians, we see no mileage in supporting any politician when we are overwhelmed by the crisis being faced by our members Nationwide.

"We call on the media to

take their time to understand the difference between the various fulbe organisations and avoid dragging us into political mud".



Jonathan

ASUP begins nationwide strike today

Barring any unforeseen circumstance, the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) will on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, embark on a nationwide strike action in protest against the non-implementation of the Memorandum of Action reached with the Federal Government in May 2021.

The Zonal Coordinator of Zone D which comprises of South-South and South-East, Mr Precious Nwakodo, hinted about the nationwide strike action at a press briefing held in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State, on Monday.

Nwakodo said the planned strike was hinged on the yet to be met demands among which are the non-release of the N15 billion Revitalisation Fund approved over a year for the sector to address infrastructural deficit as contained in the 2014 Needs Assessment Report.

"Following the discouraging response of the government to the one month notice of ultimatum which ended five days ago, May 4 the NEC of the union will be meeting in two days' time in Abuja to review the situation and take a decision on the planned strike," Nwakodo said.

Nwakodo who explained that the Federal and state governments had failed to commence payment of 10 months arrears of the new minimum wage after three

years of signing the bill into law, stressed that many states of the federation were yet to implement the new minimum wage in the various institutions.

He decried the manner in which the management of the Polytechnics and Ministry of Education had continued to take actions that were clearly in contrast with the provisions

of the law.

He called on Federal and state governments to act to the yearnings of the academic staff to avoid a strike in the interest of the students and parents, just as he appealed to members of the chapter to support the decision of the national body on the planned strike, adding that the planned strike was a collective decision and for the

best interest of members and the polytechnic sector.

Earlier, the Chairman of ASUP, Auchi Polytechnic Chapter, Mr Lawani Jimoh, at the congress assured that the Auchi chapter would comply with the strike.

"For us at Auchi Polytechnic, our members are committed to the strike as long as the directive is from the national body," Jimoh said.

Prophet entices married woman, threatens husband

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA/JIDAUNA DARING

ONE Prophet Moses Essessien, of Garden of Prayer Miracles Ministry in Bassa LG of Plateau State has been dragged to court for hypnotizing and having carnal knowledge of a house wife.

According to a Police FIR presented in the court, the accused is standing trial for alleged adultery, procuring abortion and criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy.

The accused, a leading Prophet of Mount Zion Miracles Ministry which was later changed to Garden of Prayer Ministry was also alleged to have used some mysterious water and oil on his victim, swindled her and psychologically hypnotized her into believing that he was a man of God before having carnal knowledge of her.

It has also been alleged that Prophet Essessien, has been doing same to so many

married women with impunity because he was reportedly said to have connections with security agencies.

Mr. Adewumi Adebami, the husband of his latest victim disclosed that their predicament started after the prophet prophesized that his entire family was surrounded by death and something must be done to avoid the obvious from happening.

Narrating their ordeal Adewumi responded that "I said God forbid! Then, he asked if I am doubting the prophecy for him to show me a sign and I said no then he placed his hand on my head and I left, but on reaching home I had to take Panadol Extra for good three days before I could get a relief.

A month later, I was called from my home town and that, my father was hit from the back by a bike and was

hospitalized. I immediately thought of what the man said then I called him and enquired. When I approached him, he asked me to source for three hundred and twenty thousand naira (#320,000) not for the deliverance, but he was going to use the funds to mobilise his boys and convey them to Mercy Land so that they will pray for me and family.

"He also gave me a bottle of water and oil to administer it on my parents. When I administered the water and oil on my parents, they started defecating uncontrollably to the point that my father died followed by mother. When I reported the case to the police and he discovered that I have evidences against him he threatened to deal with me.

"As I am talking to you now, I have a long text message he sent to me threatening my life. I have submitted it to the security agents. When you google you will also see the

video threats, he has made claiming that, I was trying to destroy the name he has made over the years", he narrated.

Adewumi, however, revealed that the life of his wife was now threatened too because she was delivered by one man of God in Abuja (name withheld) and presented evidence too saying, "the Prophet's Personal Assistant called my wife after we were arrested by security agents hired by the Prophet, threatening that they will expose what transpired between them to her husband.

He also expressed concern that the death of his father and mother as a result of this Prophet's activities has generated a lot of issues on his person because people are accusing him of sacrificing his parent for money rituals.

As at the time of filing this report, all efforts made to reach the Prophet for his comment proved abortive.



Improving women economic empowerment to boost national development

Since independence in 1960, Nigeria has introduced a series of development plans as part of effort to move the country towards the path of growth and development. The national development is the country's action plan for national development, as approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC). The latest one, the National Development Plan 2021 to 2025, was approved on November 10, 2021. SALISU SANI IDRIS writes.

THE plan was expected to succeed the "Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020, and the Economic Sustainability Plan 2020" that elapsed in the year 2021.

The new development plan is aimed at building a vast infrastructure development, promoting macroeconomic stability and improvement living conditions.

Given the importance of Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) to the national socio-economic and political development, this report is an analysis of the new plan with the following objectives: To determine whether or not the new plan prioritises WEE; ascertain whether WEE is seen as a strategy for achieving the goals of the plan, identify the similarities and differences between the new plan and the previous development plans and identify the policy issues in the new plan.

WEE is increasingly at the centre of international development policy not just as a means to an end, but as an end in itself.

To reach several development objectives, such as those set out in the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, empowering women is seen as key to reducing poverty and improving the health and wellbeing of future generations. Women make up one half of the human population, yet they suffer gross inequalities.

Gender gaps in income and human capital persist despite rapid improvement in global living standards and educational attainment, and women continue to disproportionately bear the burden of unpaid care work and be subject to gender-based discrimination and violence.

According to experts, Nigeria's fundamental issues in the sub-national WEE Budgets 2018-2021 are Poor Prioritization of WEE: Between 2018 and 2021, some states allocated up to 1 per cent of their capital budgets to WEE-focused programmes. Although there are WEE-related programmes that are lump sum in many some other states' empowerment projects across the Ministries, Departments & Agencies (MDAs).

For the lack of WEE Project coordination: Several States are implementing WEE and there are no known efforts available in such states to coordinate these WEE programmes. While the Federal Ministry of Agriculture is implementing its WEE budget, the Ministries of Enterprises, Finance, Women Affairs, and others are also implementing theirs. This is prone to corruption and the same set of people are capable of benefiting at all times, leaving a large number of others without access.

In June and September 2020, the three planning committees namely; Technical Working Group (TWG), Central Working Group (CWG), and National Steering Committee (NSC) were set up to prepare the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP), 2021-2025, MTNDP 2026-2030 and Agenda 2050.

One year after their



Tallen

inauguration, the draft of the long-awaited development plan was approved.

The new National Development Plan is aimed at generating 21 million full-time jobs and lifting 35 million people out of poverty by 2025. It is part of the Federal Government's effort to lift about 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

The plan has the following broad strategic objectives: To establish a strong foundation for a diversified economy, with robust MSME growth, and a more-resilient business environment, to invest in critical physical, financial, digital, and innovation infrastructure; to build a solid framework and enhance capacities to strengthen security and ensure good governance, and enable a vibrant, educated, and healthy population.

To achieve these objectives, an investment of about N348.1 trillion from both the public and private sectors is estimated between 2021 and 2025.

While 14 per cent (N49.7 trillion) of the fund will be sourced from the government capital budgetary allocation, 86 per cent (N298.3 trillion) will be sourced from private investors.

Expectedly, 59.5 per cent of the N49.7 trillion from the public sector will be contributed by the Federal Government, 27.2 per cent (N13.4 trillion) by the State Governments, and 13.6 per cent (N6.8 trillion) by the Local Governments.

The Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC) has suggested that the Federal Government, as a matter of urgency, should come up with indicators and set interim targets for various WEE promises in the National Development Plan 2021-2025.

That the Federal Government of Nigeria should link resources to promises, stating clearly, that the funding commitment of each of the tiers of the government as well as



Ahmed

the private sector is to invest in WEE-specific projects annually over a period of five years.

The DRPC said that this should also apply to subsequent plans such as the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2026-2030 and Agenda 2050.

On the issue of the lack of attention paid to women in some critical sectors such as mining, solid minerals, and creative sector, the MDAs need to ensure that projects and programmes to be designed address the challenges of women working in this sector. This also applies to women in other sectors such as science trade and industry.

It said that the government should ensure the production of gender audit of the plan implementation annually, and should always upload the National Development Plan progress implementation report online to guarantee unfettered access to information on the plan implementation in a simplified user-friendly manner, including the availability of a comprehensive report of the plan.

It said that there was the need for transparency, accountability, and prudent management of all resources accruing to the plan from all sources and the need for continuous capacity development (training and retraining) of MDAs on gender audit.

The state government should avoid the sabotage of the LGAs funding and allow them to carry out their functions as prescribed in the 1999 constitution.

According to the DRPC, this is to enable the LGAs implement programmes and projects on WEE at the local level in line with the national development plan 2021-2025.

It said that the Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) should conduct high-level advocacy for the WEE implementing MDAs, and endeavour to engage the National

Assembly on the amount to be dedicated to the WEE in both their annual ZIP.

It advised that CSOs to create awareness on the full implementation of the NDP 2021-2025 and also monitor implementation and simplify the document for effective understanding by the average Nigerian woman.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed, has also called for the socio-economic empowerment of Nigerian women and girls to achieve the desired strong economic growth in the country.

Ahmed said, "the economic and social empowerment of women and girls is critical to our collective vision of a prosperous and resilient Nigeria."

"It is therefore imperative that we prioritise the advancement of women in all spheres of society, and specifically in areas relating to their socio-economic empowerment."

"If we are to have a stronger and more inclusive economy, it is crucial that we take a long-term and strategic approach to ensuring that women are economically empowered."

"Global research shows that, despite their contributions, many women remain economically disempowered. Women are especially vulnerable to poverty and are more likely to be affected by poor service delivery and instabilities."

She called for the development and implementation of policies, regulatory frameworks, and programmes that are inclusive and gender-sensitive.

"And we must remove the socio-economic and cultural barriers that prevent women from participating fully in society and from reaping the economic benefits of their participation."

"This is especially important given the evidence that gender-

neutral policies are often applied in ways that exclude and disenfranchise women stakeholders and other vulnerable communities," she said.

According to the minister, the economic empowerment of women and girls "is a necessary driver for our country's development".

She said that her team adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting in the preparation of the recently approved 2022 Budget.

"The step was taken, following months of stakeholder-consultations, with support from the International Monetary Fund."

She added that the Budget Office would be working with MDAs on the implementation of the gender budgeting provisions, with an initial focus on those sectors that have been considered critical to human capital development, including health, education, and humanitarian affairs.

She called for partnership among the various levels of government, CSOs and the private sector, urging all stakeholders to show greater interest in the empowerment of women in the country.

"By economically empowering women and ensuring their full participation in society, particularly in leadership and decision-making roles, we can ensure improved economic development outcomes for all," she said.

According to Mrs Mercy Adejo, founder of Women Strengthening Women in Nigeria, an official Community Interest not-for-profit organisation dedicated to Women across the nation, giving women greater economic empowerment means enabling them to increase their right to economic resources and their control over meaningful decisions that benefit themselves, their households, and their communities.

Adejo said that these include the right to control their own time, their income, and access to participation in existing markets equally, as greater empowerment would improve their well-being and economic status.

She said empowering more women to work, results in better growth of third-world economies, because women's economic empowerment increases economic diversification, and boosts productivity and income equality, resulting in other positive development outcomes.

According to her, as a study from the IMF shows, "policies that improve access to educational opportunities and finance for women can contribute to a reduction in inequality and an increase in economic growth for the developing country."

She said that providing women and girls with more educational opportunities contributes to reductions in fertility rates and increase in labour force participation rates, and better quality of human capital of the future economy and generations.

(NAN)



NNPC: Airline operators to get aviation fuel supply

THE Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Ltd says airline operators and marketers have agreed to take interim measures in order to keep the aviation sector functioning in the country.

The agreements were reached in a meeting with stakeholders and the House of Representatives leadership led by Speaker Femi Gbajibamila recently.

The speaker informed that there were three resolutions reached in the interim between the stakeholders and recommended that ten marketers will get a steady supply of Jet A1 fuel for three months from the NNPC.

He says "In the long term, you commence the process of applying for your own licence to be able to import your own Jet fuel. So, that will remove, whether it is middlemen or frontmen or whatever. You will know the landing cost to assist you in your business. Have we agreed on that? We have agreed on that."

"And there is the benevolence of the governor of Central Bank; there are six million litres available at N480, correct? You will get allocation for the next three months through the companies that you have nominated. So that you will not come back and say Jet fuel is a particular amount and is being sold by NNPC because you nominated those people that are selling to you."

In applying for the licence, the Speaker emphasised that the midstream agency should as much as possible grant waivers that would not touch on the security and safety of the process while urging the committee chairmen on aviation and downstream to follow up.

Earlier, the NNPC Ltd GMD, Mele Kyari stated that it was agreed at the earlier meeting to make the marketers sell the product to them at N500



Kyari

for three days pending the day they would sit down and agree on the pricing formula.

"It is our role to ensure we intervene. We did. We brought in products so that we can dampen the price. In March and April, we brought in cargo and made it available to the entire industry at N460. There is a build-up to that price."

He added that the only way to fix the price is to put a subsidy on adding that to sell for N500 in any circumstance, then somebody has to pay the difference.

He further noted that there is a ForeX constraint. "There is a limit to what the CBN can provide. We are constrained because we are not able to produce dollars because of the dearth of oil in the Niger Delta. This is then reality. So we do not have. That means customers must source for FX from alternative sources."

Additionally, the Governor Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emeifile says "The availability of Forex is very important and the issue of constraint from Forex arising from issues bordering on theft in the Niger Delta is a big issue. It is when NNPC is able to export that dollars

can come in.

"We do not have FX to sell. It would be difficult for us to grant any concession. It means we would be taking a hit or we would be providing some sort of subsidy for the industry."

Speaking on behalf of the Airline operators, Chairman of Air Peace, Allen Onyema explained that the operators were not striking. But they are fighting to save a very crucial industry being bogged down by unnecessary bottlenecks.

"We did not intend to go on a strike. It was not a strike. What the AON was saying on Friday when we released our communique was that we do not have the money anymore to pay."

"Even spare parts, sometimes you take the spare parts and pay later, not to talk of aviation. You don't have to carry loads of naira in your cargo hold to pay. We all owe these marketers, yes, but we are servicing them."

"What we are doing actually is that we are fighting for this government and the poor masses of this nation. We are subsidising ticket fares at N50,000," he said.

THE cost of food, fuel, and fertilizer in some of the world's poorest communities is soaring, with families spending double, triple, and nearly four times what they were paying before Russia invaded Ukraine, a new analysis by ActionAid finds.

While the average cost of wheat products like pasta has increased by more than 50 per cent in local markets and communities in the 13 countries surveyed, families in Lebanon, which is heavily dependent on imports from Ukraine and Russia, are spending as much as 275 per cent more than they were at the end of February.

In the Horn of Africa, where 20 million people are already facing severe hunger due to prolonged drought, communities in Somaliland are now spending more than double (163 per cent) as much on a loaf of bread. Average prices for cooking oil have increased by over 60 per cent, but in some areas of Somaliland, costs are up by as much as 260 per cent.

In Nigeria, findings show that the prices of wheat bread have increased up to 59 per cent in Sanrabb semi-urban community in Kwara state. In Yobe state urban community of Nasarawa, the prices of wheat bread have increased up to 67 per cent. In Lagos, the price increase has been up to

Food, fuel, fertilizer prices more than triple -ActionAid

127 per cent. In rural areas of Kaduna, fertiliser prices have increased up to 111 per cent. At the same time, few areas of Lagos have witnessed up to a 111 per cent increase in sunflower cooking oil.

Ene Obi, Country Director of ActionAid Nigeria, says: "The Ukraine-Russia war has worsened the cost of living in many parts of the world, but the gaps in governance and lack of social safety-net have thrown more Nigerians into the abyss of poverty. The current hyper-inflation has made the meagre income of many Nigerians insignificant; for a government committed to lifting 100 million Nigerian out of poverty, there is a need for reflection and immediate action."

"Rising public debt, unemployment, inflation, and high cost of living require the immediate embracing of

fiscal federalism in absolute terms. This will enable the country to break the vicious cycle of poverty. It will eliminate the wholesale dependence on oil, making Nigeria a monolithic economy. Adopting fiscal federalism principles will be a practical approach to solving the challenges governments at all levels face today, such as the generation and equitable distribution of income, efficient and effective allocation of resources, and economic stability. Revenue drive and allocation of resources can be done effectively by states and local governments with strong measures to curtail graft and corruption".

ActionAid calls for the immediate roll-out of social protection measures, which target women and girls, including cash transfers and food support, to assist families most at risk.



Abubakar

Experts raise alarm over Nigeria's inflation

FINANCIAL experts have raised the alarm over Nigeria's rising

inflation rate which is set to hit a seven-month high, advising the Central Bank of Nigeria to start tightening the cycle by raising the baseline interest rate in response to the spiraling inflationary trend.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is scheduled to release the April 2022 inflation rate ahead of the meeting of the CBN's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on May 23 and 24, 2022.

According to analysts, global inflation is at record levels with a four-decade high in the U.S. and three-decade high in the United Kingdom and European Union (EU), and the spiraling upward trend may continue in Nigeria and other Sub-Saharan African countries.

They argued that the spiraling inflationary trend would continue, and the third consecutive increase expected for April would be a game-changer for the

apex bank.

According to analysts, the implications of higher interest rates on cost of borrowing, return on savings and stock market valuations are already causing some jitters in money and capital markets.

Afrinvest, a major finance and investment group, said the proposed increase in tariffs by telecommunication operators would have a spiraling inflationary effect on the general economy if implemented, given the strategic nature of telco services to business and households existence.

In a report, Financia Derivatives Company (FDC), a high-level think-tank led by Bismarck Rewane, a member of President Muhammadu Buhari's Economic Advisory Council, stated that its independent survey indicated that inflation rate may rise to 16.2 per cent for April 2022, 0.28 per cent ahead of 15.92 per cent announced for March 2022.

DMO auctions two more FG bonds for subscription

THE Debt Management Office (DMO) says that it is offering 2 more Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) savings bonds for subscription.



Oliha

The first offer is a 2-year FGN savings bond which will be due on May 18, 2024, at an interest rate of 7.93% per annum.

The second, is a 3-year FGN savings bond which will be due on May 18, 2025, at 8.93% per annum.

This disclosure is contained in a public circular issued by the DMO and can be seen on its official Twitter account.

According to the DMO, the opening date for the bonds is May 9, while the closing date and settlement date is May 18, adding that the coupon payment dates are August 18, November 18, February 18 and May 18.

The notice partly reads, "The bonds are offered at N1,000 per unit subject to a minimum subscription of N5,000 and in multiples of N1,000 thereafter, subject

to a maximum subscription of N50 million.

"Interest payment will be made quarterly, while bullet repayment will be made on the maturity date."

"They qualify as government securities within the meaning of Company Income Tax Act (CITA) and Personal Income Tax Act (PITA) for Tax Exemption for Pension Funds, among other investors."

It will be recalled that earlier in April the DMO offered for subscription on behalf of the federal government, the February 2022 Federal Government Savings Bond to investors for 2 years and 3 years with interest rates of 7.338% and 8.338% respectively.



Dangote: Tackling Nigeria's fertiliser conundrum

The issue of fertiliser has been a knotty matter for farmers in Nigeria over the years. Very often, it is either in short supply or just too expensive and well beyond reach. RABI'U SANI ALI writes.

The supply of the commodity, so cardinal to bountiful farming output, has, over the years, defied all logics, with the activities of middlemen, who hoard the product, and lack of adequate local production capacity, combining to compound the woes of farmers across the country.

Eager to address the lingering problem, the Federal Government initiated policies to drive the agricultural and agro-allied sector as a component of its economic growth agenda.

In 2016, President Muhammadu Buhari introduced a fertiliser initiative which saw a surge in the number of local manufacturers of fertiliser.

Prior to that year, there were very few functional fertiliser plants. The number has increased to over 70, most of which are owned by private sector operators.

One of such local fertiliser plants, the Dangote Fertiliser Plant located at the Lekki Free Trade Zone, Lagos, was inaugurated by President Buhari in March this year.

Believed to be Africa's largest granulated urea fertiliser plant, it was built at a cost of 2.5 billion dollars and occupies 500 hectares of land. It has the capacity to produce three million metric tonnes of urea fertiliser per annum.

Analysts believe that this quantity will meet almost half of the country's total fertiliser need, estimated at seven million metric tonnes per annum.

With the coming on stream of the Dangote Fertiliser Plant, it is expected that the product will be available in large quantity as at when due.

It is also expected that Dangote Fertiliser will make Nigeria and Africa self-sufficient in food production and a net exporter of food to the world.

Dr Joe Dada, Chairman of Livestock Feeds plc, believes that Dangote Fertiliser will bring massive foreign exchange to the country and also create employment.

"For me, it is another crude oil to Nigeria because Nigeria will soon be an exporter of the product.

"Recently, Nigeria signed the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, so this is a major platform for us to cover the whole African region.

"I see massive foreign exchange inflow as a result of the Dangote investment," he said.

Mrs Omolara Oguntuyi, Zonal Director, South-West, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, has a similar view.



Dangote

"The plant will bring succour to the nation, especially with fertiliser standing as a big hurdle on the nation's path to food sufficiency.

"Over the years, the Dangote Group has always penetrated the rural areas to ensure the end-users got its products; we do not expect the fertiliser to be different."

While inaugurating the plant, Buhari had said that the 2.5 billion dollar plant would boost Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings and accelerate economic growth.

"This fertiliser plant is expected to enhance our administration's drive towards achieving self-sufficiency in food production in the country.

"I commend the Dangote Industries Ltd. for their business initiative in establishing this plant.

"It will reduce our dependence on importation of fertiliser, create jobs, increase the inflow of foreign exchange and accelerate economic growth."

According to him, the establishment of the plant demonstrates the commitment of Dangote Industries Ltd. to the socio-economic development of the country and the well-being of Nigerians.

The president expressed optimism that the investment in the plant would replicate the group's earlier experience in the cement sector where it had become a leading name in Nigeria and across the African continent.

Mr Gideon Negedu, Executive Secretary, Fertiliser Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria (FEPSAN), is optimistic that more investments will still

come into the fertiliser industry.

According to him, the good policy of the federal government is responsible for the recent surge in the number of fertiliser manufacturing plants in the country.

He said the fertiliser plant would meet the requirements of farmers across the country.

"One challenge with fertiliser is that the requirement of Southern Nigeria is totally different from Northern Nigeria as the Northern soil is not as fertile as the southern soil, which has a higher level of nutrients.

"Now, Nigeria has a local industry that blends fertiliser to the specific needs of farmers.

"So, all farmers need to do is to visit any local blender around notifying them that a soil test has been done and then the blender provides the farmer with appropriate and even customised fertiliser," he said.

On complaints over the high price of fertiliser, he said the price of the commodity had

increased globally, which affected fertiliser importation and purchase price.

A bag of fertiliser is said to cost between N20,000 and N23,000, depending on the company, quality of fertiliser and size.

But operators have attributed the 30 per cent of the cost to logistics, as the commodity is transported mainly by road.

For Dr. Akin Olonihuwa, ex-provost of the College of Agriculture, Kabba, Kwara State, farmers need more support and assistance for their production activities.

He said that support was needed, for instance, in land preparation in some parts of the country, for rice and other food crops.

To John Olateru, chairman, Commodities Association of Nigeria, what remains crucial is the expansion of the federal government's Anchor Borrowers Programme to the South, arguing that it had remained lop-sided mainly in favour of the North.

He claimed that since the inception of the programme handled by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the beneficiaries had been mainly from the North.

But to ensure availability of fertiliser to farmers with the coming of Dangote Fertiliser, stakeholders have called for the overhaul of the entire distribution system of the products.

Mr Lanre Oguntoye of the National Association of Chambers of Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), particularly cautions against allowing middleman to neutralise the gains expected from the new plant.

He recalled that during the inauguration of the Dangote Fertiliser, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Chairman, Dangote Group, promised availability of the products, saying that the days of scarcity of the product were over.

Mr Basil Okafor, a local farmer

in Delta, believes that agriculture can be the main stay of the nation's economy if given the necessary priority.

He said the country had vast arable land in all the six geo-political zones to support the nation's food security agenda.

Chief Joseph Olanrewaju of the Organised Private Sector Exporters Association, believes that support of non-oil exporters by the federal government would help in attracting the much needed foreign earnings, thereby creating millions of jobs across the country.

He said that friendly and conducive policies would not only boost investors' confidence like the case of fertiliser sector, but also attract the much needed Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) to the country.

But while analysts await the impact of the Dangote Fertiliser Plant, Mr Oboh Abumeri, a cassava grower in Edo, believes that food shortages will be tackled if fertiliser is made available to genuine farmers.

"The coming on stream of the plant will put more food on the tables of common Nigerians, create jobs, wealth as well as help the country attain the much talked-about food security.

"There are regrettable challenges of insecurity in the land which may distract farmers and frustrate effective supply across the country, but I am confident that such hurdles will be effectively tackled so that the nation will fully enjoy the full impact of the Dangote Fertiliser plant," he said.

Like Abumeri, many analysts believe that gains from the Dangote Fertiliser Plant are massive and urge stakeholders to support the group so as to effectively tackle the fertiliser conundrum that had stood on the path to Nigeria's effective economic revival. (NAN)

"He said the fertiliser plant would meet the requirements of farmers across the country. One challenge with fertiliser is that the requirement of Southern Nigeria is totally different from Northern Nigeria as the Northern soil is not as fertile as the southern soil, which has a higher level of nutrients. Now, Nigeria has a local industry that blends fertiliser to the specific needs of farmers. So, all farmers need to do is to visit any local blender around notifying them that a soil test has been done and then the blender provides the farmer with appropriate and even customised fertiliser, he said."

Politics

NYCN encourages members' participation in politics

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE National Executive Committee (NEC) of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) has promised to give necessary support to members willing to participate in politics.

The Chairman of the Kogi State Chapter of the council, Ambassador Usman Ogohi in a statement made available to Journalists in Lokoja on Monday, disclosed that the agreement was reached during an interfaced of NEC with Rivers State APC youth stakeholders and leadership.

Amb. Usman Ogohi who appreciated the audience granted to his team and other stakeholders, affirmed that youth remain the bedrock of political activities in any nation hence the need to support and encourage their effective participation in the game.

According to him, NYCN is a non-partisan group whose aim is geared towards ensuring adequate and capable leadership across all sectors, especially as it relates to youth welfare and representation.

Amb. Ogohi then called for the unity of Nigerian youths to take over power in 2023, stressing that "if we don't support and stand for what we believe in, no one will do that for us and we would be doing ourselves a great disservice".

The APC youth leader in River, State, who is also an APC statutory delegate, Baridakara Gbarato while speaking, commended the Youth Council Chairman in Rivers State for hosting the



Adamu

NEC meeting, noting that beyond individual and party interests, youths must strive to build good relationships.

Gbarato further advised youth on active political participation, adding that if politics is left in the hands of the elders, the youth constituency will continue to suffer misrepresentation and good governance.

While lauding the Kogi NYCN efforts shown towards GYB2PYB advocacy in the country, he stressed that at the right time, GYB profile will be accessed and the needful will be done accordingly.

Earlier, the host NYCN Chairman of Rivers State, Nwisabari Bani praised the leadership traits of Kogi NYCN Chairman and his strong desire shown toward GYB2PYB emancipation come 2023.

Similarly, the National

Youth Council of Nigeria, under the leadership of its President, His Youthfulness Amb. Sukubo Saraigbe, in his chat with newsmen after the council's annual National Executive Council meeting, disclosed that all youth council members are free to contest in any elective position of their choice.

According to him, there is a need for youth in the council to take advantage of the 'Not Too Young To Run' opportunity to encourage youth political participation.

He added that the council will give their full support to any members of there's that want to contest, in the party.

The NYCN boss also reaffirmed the NEC recognition of Nassarawa NYCN Chairman as the state leader of the council and the Chairman of all Chairmen position he is currently occupying.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Comrade Adeiza Momoh Jimoh, at the weekend, inaugurated a three - man Media Parley Committee in preparation for the 2023 general elections.

Adeiza while performing the ceremony at the NUJ Press Centre, Lokoja, said that the essence of the programme was to bring the aspirants to make public their mission and vision.

He said that the parley is also aimed at redefining and deepening the nation's nascent democracy.

The Media Parley Committee is entrusted with the responsibility of mobilising National Assembly aspirants in the three senatorial districts of the state to honour the programme irrespective of their political parties.

Speaking after the

Buhari's 2019 returning officer in Gombe dumps APC

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

KHAMISU Ahmad Mailantarki, President Muhammadu Buhari's returning officer during the 2019 elections in Gombe State has quit his membership of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Mailantarki was a founding member of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) in Gombe State who won the House of Representative seat for Gombe/Kwami/Funakaye federal constituency in 2011 with a massive 122,987 votes, the highest winning

NUJ inaugurates NASS aspirants Parley Committee



Isiguzo

inauguration, the chairman of the committee, Comrade Ocheme Jerry thanked the NUJ Chairman for the opportunity and promised to deliver on the assignment.

Other members of the NUJ

Media Parley Committee include the publisher of the Nigerian Post, Mr. Abu Michael and the Secretary of the Kogi State Council of NUJ, Alhaji A d e m u S e i d u .

.

votes then.

He contested and won again in 2015 but was removed by the Supreme Court, which declared Yaya Bauchi Tongo as authentic winner of the APC primary election of the Gombe/Kwami/Funakaye Federal Constituency.

He also participated in the 2019 APC Governorship Primary election along with Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya who won the election and later emerged victorious in the Governorship election.

Mailantarki announced his resignation in a letter addressed to the APC Chairman of his Herwagana Ward of Gombe Local Government Area, a copy of which was made available to our correspondent.

According to the letter, Mailantarki said, "With gratitude to the Almighty Allah, I hereby wish to notify you of my decision to resign my membership of the All Progressives Congress

(APC).

"I thank you and the entire membership of the party for your support while my membership lasted", the letter reads.

Confirming his resignation to our correspondent, Mailantarki said his decision was for the best interest of the state and his political future adding that, he would not, otherwise, have left the house he built with passion.

"As the only member elected under the Congress for Progressives Change (CPC), I personally funded the entire process of merger in Gombe state and I was the returning officer of President Buhari's election in 2019 in the state.

"Even after the Guber primaries in the state, we supported President Buhari and Gov Inuwa Yahaya and made sure APC won to an extent that we converted Gombe State from fully PDP to a fully APC state," the former lawmaker added.

The economy is in shambles

SOKOTO State Governor and PDP Presidential aspirant, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, has described the economy of the country as being in shambles. He also asked the Central Bank Governor and Presidential aspirant, Godwin Emefiele, to resign immediately in the interest of the economy.

Tambuwal while addressing

PDP delegates in Jalingo on Saturday, described the economy of the country as being in shambles and that the decision of Emefiele to run for the presidency would have an immediate effect on the economy considering its volatility.

"It is high time that Muhammadu Buhari calls Emefiele to order... If he wants

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

to contest, he must resign. If you want to run, please run, but leave our Central Bank alone. The economy is very volatile and such a decision can affect the economy," he stated.

He decried the present state of the economy and that "you can't achieve economic turnaround without production".

Tambuwal also noted that successful leadership demands fairness and equity and that the country was more divided now than ever before.

"By virtue of my political trajectory, I became conversant that you must be fair and equitable. Part of the problems we have today is the inability to be fair in appointment, distribution of infrastructure. Nigeria has never been as divided as it is now," he stated.

According to him, the present generation needs leadership that it can connect with and that can connect with them. "I possess the qualities of a candidate that can reunite this country," Tambuwal boasted.

The Sokoto governor also disclosed that his campaign objectives based on the three Cs: Competence, capacity and character. On his part, Adamu

- Tambuwal

who was represented by a delegation under the leadership of Lawrence Onuchukwu said President Muhammadu Buhari has given 'kudos' to his ambition and other party members should key into the project.

2023: Ishaku hosts two Presidential hopefuls

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

TARABA state Governor, Darius Ishaku, had on Monday hosted two PDP Presidential aspirants, Bauchi state Governor, Bala Mohammed and former Anambra state Governor, Peter Obi, who both came to the state to campaign to the delegates of the party.

Earlier in the day, Peter Obi, a Presidential aspirant under the PDP, canvassed for support from delegates and critical party stakeholders. He identified poverty and lack of investment as the major causes of criminality in the country.

He stressed that, the

debts we have in this country cannot be paid" and that the more you "pushed people out of poverty, the more you reduce crimes."

Obi, also admitted that it has become relevant to move the country from "sharing formula to producing formula" and that Nigeria as a nation needs the support of small scale businesses to survive.

According to him, Nigeria has the highest number of people living in poverty and the highest number of unemployed youths.

He expressed sadness that, "when you wake up every morning, you hear killings everyday" and that "Nigeria has experienced

leadership failure within the year".

Meanwhile, Bauchi state Governor and Presidential aspirant, Bala Mohammed, said the country was on a precipice due to nepotism, arrogance of the leaders and that the country needed to be rescued.

According to him, the PDP needs to zone the presidency to the north, however disclosed that he wouldn't object to a southern president.

"I am not averse to a President from the south, if he is chosen. I will resist if there is a brutal holding of power... I am ready to work with anybody if I am not chosen," Mohammed stated.



Tambuwal

Politics

Sanda empowers constituents, distributes motorcycles, cash

By PAULINE DALLONG

IN line with his empowerment initiative, the member representing Pengana constituency and Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda has distributed 10 motorcycles and cash incentives to 350 beneficiaries from his constituency.

The programme which is in partnership with PLASMIDA was held recently at Government Secondary School Kokona and saw beneficiaries cutting across the seven different wards of Kasuru, Buji, Gurum, Kadamo, zabolo, Rimi and Jengre including Jere and Amo districts.

In his remarks, Sanda disclosed that that the empowerment initiative was a yearly event that has been ongoing since his assumption as member representing Pengana constituency, adding that his target for this year was to empower about fifty persons from each ward.

He said that sewing machines, hair dryers, water pumping machines and other items were distributed last year but decided to give motorcycles and cash incentives this year so that beneficiaries should be able to go into any businesses of their choice.

In a keynote address, the representative of PLASMIDA, Hon. Victor Diyal said the empowerment initiative



Sanda

being witnessed was inline with the agency's mandate of eradicating poverty through the creation of jobs and employment.

He advised the beneficiaries to put into good use the finances and items given, so as to improve on the living standards of their families, communities and the state at large, adding that the agency would continue to partner with the state assembly towards ensuring the eradication of poverty in Plateau.

Also speaking, the Deputy Chairman of Bassa local government council, Hon. Joshua Ishaku who expressed gratitude to the Hon. Speaker stated that their target and mission as a council was to see how to bring their people out of

poverty, or at least reduce it to the barest minimum.

While describing the initiative as timely and highly commendable, he added that being an agrarian community, the gesture will no doubt go a long way, especially at this farming season as he urged beneficiaries to make proper use of all that was given in order to help sustain their families and alleviate poverty.

Two of the beneficiaries, Mercy Kibado and Jesse Solomon who spoke on behalf of others expressed gratitude and appreciation to the lawmaker for the kind gesture, promising to use the money for business and farming.

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A former member of the House of Representatives for Karu, Keffi, and Kokona Federal constituency Hon. Ahmad Aliyu Wadada has said he is the most qualified to be elected as the senator to represent the Nasarawa West Senatorial Constituency based on his pedigree, political and legislative experiences.

Speaking during a valedictory fare well in honour of Senator Abdullahi Adamu organized by the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the Nasarawa West Senatorial zone in Keffi, Hon Wadada contended that since by virtue of his experiences he is a thorough bred politician, he is the most qualified and competent person to succeed Senator Abdullahi Adamu.

"Given my pedigree, political and legislative experience without any doubt I remain the most qualified and competent person to occupy the position of the next senatorial seat against my two co-contestants who lack such experiences" he contended.

Wadada who expressed his satisfaction with the remarkable and encouraging support he is now enjoying across the constituency attributed such feat to the understanding of the people that he is most qualified to be in the red chambers this time around having served delightfully in the green chambers.

Speaking about the celebrant, senator Abdullahi Adamu, the senatorial hopeful described him as a father who he has benefitted immensely from his wise counsels and political direction.

'I remain the most qualified, competent'



Wadada

He stated that even thorough in life there are situations whereby they may disagree but that is not within the purview of anybody to interfere or trespass.

While wishing him and all other persons of goodwill the best in their endeavours, he appealed to all and sundry to imbibe the spirit of peaceful co-existence, unity and harmony in order to build a dynamic and prosperous Nigeria for the betterment of all.

Also, a Senatorial aspirant for Nasarawa Western zone of Nasarawa State under the platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC) Barrister Labaran Shuaibu Magaji has pledged to continue to pursue his aspiration with high degree of decorum, maturity and sense of responsibility in order to maintain his popularity and acceptance by both the party and the people of the area.

Speaking during a valedictory meeting in honour of Senator Abdullahi Adamu for his recent election as the National Chairman organized by the Nasarawa Western zone of the party in Keffi, Barrister stated such has become highly imperative in order not to overheat the polity or chase away his teeming supporters.

"My resolve to pursue my political aspiration with the a high degree of decorum is to ensure that everything is done decently and orderly in order not to throw away the baby with the bathing water," he explained.

Magaji stated that even when he was going to obtain his nomination form he called his two co-contestants Hon. Ahmad Aliyu Wadada and Architect Shehu Tukur to notify them and seek for their prayers and blessings and he also did same when he was returning the form after completing all that is supposed to.

According to him, such attributes of responsibility is what is required to make the politics better and pledged to team- up with any one that emerges amongst them in the spirit of sportsmanship.

He therefore tasked his teeming supporters to exhibit a high sense of decorum and responsibility in all their conducts as a means of attracting more supporters to

his side to enable him grab the ticket of the party and win to represent the zone in the Senate. On the celebrant Senator Abdullahi Adamu, he described him as an experienced politician that has impacted and mentored many people to become responsible in both their political and personal lives.

Meanwhile, the former Nasarawa Western Zonal Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Alhaji Iyal Aliyu Hassan has attributed the remarkable success recorded by his outgoing administration to the demonstration of equity, fairness and justice to all irrespective of all their differences.

Speaking during the valedictory meeting in honour of Senator Abdullahi Adamu the current, National Chairman of the party, organized by the party in the area in Keffi, Iyal Hassan stated that he has succeeded in building an all-embracing party whereby all the party faithfuls and supporters were carried along and with a high sense of respect and justice.

"We have indeed succeeded in putting in place an all-embracing party machinery whereby all party supporters are carried along, treated justly and respect accorded to every one of them," he stated.

Hassan who expressed delight that during his time the party is growing from strength to strength, urged his successor(s) to build upon where we stopped so as to consolidate on his achievements and even move forward.

He further expressed happiness with the support and co-operation his leadership enjoyed from the supporters of the party and urged them to extend such spirit to the new officials to enable them succeed.

On the contributions of the celebrant, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, the former Chairman described him as a true political father who has successfully crossed all the murky waters in the path of his political journeys.

Hassan then wishes him the best and assured him of their continued support and loyalty to enable him succeed in the task of taking the APC to the next level.

'2023 presidency: Osinbajo best for Nigeria'

THE national delegates of the All Progressives Congress have been urged to support Vice President Yemi Osinbajo to win the party's presidential ticket in the presidential primary election that will hold soon.

The National Chairman, Professor Yemi Osinbajo Support Group, Babatunde Olokun, said this in an

interview with journalists on the sidelines of the inauguration of six state chapters -Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti States, of the group in Ibadan on Saturday.

He said Nigeria needed Osinbajo's experience at this time.

Olokun said the country did not need a newcomer

who would start learning basic things about governance and how to fix the problems facing the country after inauguration.

He added that none of the presidential aspirants can boast of the experience, the agility and the capacity of the Vice President.

He said "He (Osinbajo) has been there for seven years. He is a man that will hit the ground running. He knows where the problems lie in governance and ways to resolve the issues. He is intelligent, passionate and will fulfill all his promises."

The Zonal Coordinator of PYOSG in the South-West and North West, Ajibola Ogunmakinwa and Aisha Lawal, also, in separate interviews with journalists, said Osinbajo is the best among all the presidential aspirants.

Ogunmakinwa said, "We have that opportunity now and we have that person who has global exposure. As a sound economist and lawyer, his capacity and

competence on economic issues under his leadership, with the help of the economic management team of Nigeria, were able to bring the country out of recession way ahead of other countries within two years.

"He has been trained to be a befitting president for seven years. He has performed well. Whenever the president is away, we can see the outcome of the country's economy during that period. These are the attributes we should see to convince us that he has what it takes."

The North West Coordinator of PYOSG said, "Osinbajo is the most qualified among all the presidential aspirants. He has been with the president, and he even served as Acting President.

"He has been on the job, learning it prior to this coming election. So, he is very competent. He has travelled round the world to see what it is, how the world is going, and he is an economist and a lawyer. He is a party man."



Osinbajo

IMAGES

LALONG RECEIVES MD PIPC AND TEAM FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong yesterday at the new Government, courtesy call room received the Managing Director, Mr. Chrysogonus Yilzak and Mr. Ian white from South Africa on investment drive



Governor Lalong receiving the visitor, Mr. Ian White from South Africa, Wellington, to Government House



Mr. Ian White from South Africa receiving a souvenir from Governor Lalong of Plateau State



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bko Lalong (left) responding to the message of the team from South Africa



Hon. Sa'ad Ibrahim Bello, Commissioner of Water Resources and Energy (right) flanked by some Government officials listening with rapt attention



A cross section of members of Plateau State EXCO listening keenly to the Governor's response



Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (right) putting heads together with Head of Service, Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat, mni



A cross section of staff of PIPC that accompanied the Managing Director



Mr. Ian White (middle) signing the visitors register during his visit on the Governor at Government House Rayfield, Jos

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Politics

Insecurity: Can elections hold in Nigeria?

The security situation in the country may affect voter mobilisation, deployment of personnel and materials to different parts of the country. Festus Okoye, a National Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in charge of Information and Voter Education, made the above remark in a paper he presented at a brainstorming session between the Department of State Services and the civil society/non-governmental organisations held at the DSS Headquarters in Abuja on April 6, 2022. YUSHAU A. SHUAIB writes.

AT the meeting participants were drawn from various CSOs/NGOs, the diplomatic corps, INEC, the media, and other relevant security agencies. The programme was aimed at building a synergy between security agencies and CSOs/NGOs to enhance communication for national peace and security.

I was among the few media executives invited to the session, which focused more on national security and the forthcoming general elections in Nigeria. The engagements at the meeting reminded me of a similar brainstorming session hosted by the then National Security Adviser, Colonel Sambo Dasuki on February 11, 2015, a month after Boko Haram fighters had overrun the former headquarters of the Multinational Joint Taskforce (MNJTF) in Baga, Borno State and massacred innocent citizens.

The Dasuki media parley had happened two days after the erstwhile Chairman of INEC, Professor Attahiru Jega announced the postponement of general elections for one month over insecurity in the North-East.

The president of the Nigerian Guild of Editors at the time, Mr Femi Adesina led journalists to the security parley with the media, which was very blunt, sincere and constructive.

While providing insights into the next anticipated phase of the war on terror, which was to be very decisive, Dasuki yet reassured the attending editors that despite the temporary setback the 2015 elections would still be conducted throughout the federation. He said that the then incumbent administration of President Goodluck Jonathan had provided enough funds for the active participation of Nigeria's neighboring countries in the MNJTF seeking to contain terrorists around the Lake Chad basin and the Sahel, while it had also created facilities for recruited Military Technical Advisers (which others would rather describe as mercenaries) from South Africa and the Eastern bloc.



Mahmood

Insisting that the parley was strictly confidential, in order to carry the media along the counterinsurgency efforts being made by the Jonathan administration, Dasuki explained the new security measures being taken to enhance military deployments, coupled with the coordination of operational and logistic provisions for the speedy defeat of terror in Nigeria and the region.

Within a short period and with the movement of the MNJTF to Chad, troops recovered and cleared the border towns, while the technical advisers truly 'advised' and 'assisted' the Nigerian troops – day and night; from the air and on the ground – in repossessing more

than a dozen towns, which guaranteed the respite that enable the smooth conduct of elections in 2015.

Some of the towns recovered and liberated included Abadam, Askira, Baga, Bama, Bara, Buni Yadi, Damboa, Dikwa, Gamboru-Ngala, Goniri, Gujba, Gulag, Gulani, Gwoza, Hong, Kala Balge, Konduga, Kukawa, Marte, Madagali, Michika, Monguno, Mubi, and Vimtim, among other communities.

As we approach the forthcoming elections in 2023, with politicians spending fortunes to buy nomination forms rather than using these huge funds to invest in the people and communities, while all sorts of strange fellows are staking claims for the presidency, I wonder – even as I remain optimistic – if the security

situation in the country would guarantee for free and smooth elections. Would the country be safe and secure enough for these as we gradually move towards the appointed period?

Currently, not only are some communities not easily accessible in the North-East because of the activities of terrorists, in the North-West and North-Central of Nigeria, armed bandits are calling the shots. Coupled with the attacks on security personnel and facilities by unknown gunmen, especially militants of Eastern Security Network (ESN)/Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and other violent secessionist agitators in the highly volatile Southern parts of the country.

In the South-East, for instance, which has become a sprawling location for the recurrent retailing of violence by non-state actors, INEC officials carrying about their duties were recently shot dead as a warning to the government that no elections would be allowed in some of the regions.

Some other communities have been turned into the dens of terrorists and camps for captives. Even President Muhammadu Buhari just confirmed that dozens of the Kaduna train passengers kidnapped in March, who are now captives in communities where they are being held, are being used as human shields by their abductors.

He said: "The kidnappers are using civilians as human shields, thereby making it difficult to confront them directly. They don't care about killing their hostages if they come under attack."

Last week, a PRNigeria report indicated that at least 42 villages in Kebbi State are currently occupied by bandits, following persistent attacks on, abductions and the killing of dwellers of these places. That investigative report of PRNigeria was produced with support from the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ), under the Collaborative Media Engagement for Development Inclusivity and Accountability project (CMEDIA) funded by MacArthur Foundation.

Most of the displaced victims of the Kebbi banditry are now living in camps in Chonoko town where humanitarian agencies are yet to provide them with relief materials and medications, while the INEC is still unable to confirm if any of these victims of violent attacks would be able to vote since their communities have now become havens for bandits and terrorists.

While he was reluctant to raise alarm over the coming elections in Nigeria due to all manners of concerns, especially along the lines of insecurity, Commissioner Festus Okoye nevertheless disclosed that INEC would work with the security agencies to safeguard electoral processes and elections, as we move towards 2023.

He even emphasised that Nigerians who have become internally displaced and are in IDP Camps would be registered, as the Commission is determined to create the conditions that will enable all eligible Nigerians to vote.

"It is important for security agencies to do all in their power to degrade the current security challenges in several states of the federation," he added.

Despite the official assurance, even as it sounds fairly tentative, and with the unfolding situations in many places across the country, it remains to be seen how elections will manage to take place in the different communities that have been impacted by or are presently zones of hibernation of unknown gunmen, bandits and terrorists.

One can only hope that the present administration is putting together a formidable strategy to ensure that our present democracy will not only be able to continue but will equally be deepened, despite all these manifest challenges.

"As we approach the forthcoming elections in 2023, with politicians spending fortunes to buy nomination forms rather than using these huge funds to invest in the people and communities, while all sorts of strange fellows are staking claims for the presidency, I wonder – even as I remain optimistic – if the security situation in the country would guarantee for free and smooth elections. Would the country be safe and secure enough for these as we gradually move towards the appointed period? Currently, not only are some communities not easily accessible in the North-East because of the activities of terrorists, in the North-West and North-Central of Nigeria, armed bandits are calling the shots. Coupled with the attacks on security personnel and facilities by unknown gunmen, especially militants of Eastern Security Network (ESN)/Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and other violent secessionist agitators in the highly volatile Southern parts of the country."

NEWS

Abuja-Kaduna attack: Families protest victims release failure

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

FAMILIES of victims of the Abuja-Kaduna train attack who are still in captivity have staged a peaceful protest in Kaduna.

Their protest is coming about 42 days after terrorists attacked a Kaduna train, killed nine passengers and abducted 70 others.

The leaders of the abducted victims' family forum, Dr Abdulfatai Jimoh and Dr Baaba Muhammad said the train services on the Abuja-Kaduna corridor should not resume until all the kidnapped passengers are safely rescued and the safety of prospective passengers assured.

The duo who addressed the press in Kaduna expressed disappointment with the Transport Ministry over failure to secure the release of the kidnapped train passengers.

The families equally called for the punishment of officials of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, (NRC) over its failure to implement the presidential directive for the opening of a situation room to give a minute by minute account of rescue efforts to relatives of kidnapped passengers.

"We are the families of abducted passengers of the NRC AK9 Abuja-



el-Rufai

Kaduna bound train attacked on 28th March 2022.

"Today marks the 42nd day our loved ones have been held, hostage. It has been 42 long days of living in fear, virtually no sleep, no bath, wearing the same clothes, under the scorching sun and rain, and exposed to extreme environmental hazards. The emotional, psychological, mental, and physical torture arising from these conditions are only imaginable.

"Among the abducted passengers are children, some as young as 3 years old, pregnant women, including an 85-year-old great grandmother, and others. Some of these victims have health

challenges requiring daily medications, which they have had no access to in the last 42 harrowing days.

"We read in the news that one of the two pregnant women in captivity delivered her baby in the forest. Giving birth is supposed to be a moment of joy; how would it have been if this woman delivered her baby in the comfort of a maternity ward? In whose hands? What is the place of birth of this baby, the forest?

Taraba community frowns at planned villages upgrad

THE Ichen Community in Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State has frowned against the planned upgrade of 15 village areas to districts by the state government.

The community while commending Governor Darius Ishaku for his efforts at ensuring the return of

PREPARATIONS have been concluded by Reverend Eli Well Bang of the famous Gindiri College of Theology for the dedication, presentation and launching of two books on Sunday 15th May, 2022.

The two books titled "Counselling/Teaching The Visually Impaired and Counselling/Teaching The Hearing Impaired" is billed to hold at the COCIN Ulster Church, Gindiri in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State by 1:00pm.

These were made known in a statement signed by the planning committee and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, which revealed that the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong would be the Special Guest of Honour.

According to the statement, Prof. Sunny Tyoden, the Deputy Governor of Plateau State is expected to be the Special Father of the day with Rev. Dinfa Mamshah, the Chaplain of Ulster Church to serve as Host.

The Chairman, Mangu Local Government Council, Hon. Minister Daput according to the release would serve as Special Guest while Rev. Nanfwang Damwesh is expected to be the Guest Preacher. Hon. Dr. James Lalu the Executive Secretary NCPWD Abuja and Mr Sunday G. Biggs, Gubernatorial Aspirant, Plateau State according to the statement would serve as Chief Launchers at the occasion.

Chairmen expected at the

Rev. Well launches books Sunday

By Peter Title

occasion according to the planning committee include, Big. Gen. John Sura, Mr Reuben Dampo, Associate Prof. Geokums, Dr. Dayen Paul, Dr. Samson Nyakas, Dr. Bitrus Lere, Hon. Diket Plang, Prof. David Wannang, Hon. Barr. Ayuba Burki, Chief Jerry Gushop, and Chief Shehu Pukat.

Elder Mrs. Dorothy Dawap and Elder Mrs. Oprah Gonten are expected to be the mothers of the day while chairpersons are Mrs Rifkatu J. Togol and Mrs Kenan Mizim.

Book presenters expected at the occasion according to the

statement include, Dr. Emmanuel Jurte and Elder Actor Zal while Dr. Amos Chirfat Provost, F. C. E. Pankshin and Prof. Isuwa Jurmang, Institute of Education, University of Jos would serve as reviewers.

Hon. Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda and Mr Friday Kyarhar are expected to be the Co - Launchers with Elder Dung Bature would serve as the Service Leader at the occasion.

The release revealed that Rev. Prof. Pandam Yamsat, Rev. Prof. Soja Bewarang, Rev. Prof. Dacholom Datiri and Rev. Dr. Amos Mohzo are serving as Spiritual Fathers of the Day.

It urged all and sundry to come out enmasse to the success of the occasion.



Tyoden

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

During a press conference held in Jalingo Monday, on behalf of the Ichen in Bissaula, Mr Fhatso Tukura, called on the State House of Assembly to visit the proposed village areas to determine the suitability or otherwise of the proposal before giving the memo a legislative backing.

"We appreciate the efforts of government in finding a solution to the crisis between the Ichen and Ndaka in Bissaula, including the setting up of a Commission of Inquiry.

"However, we find it strange that the Chairman of Kurmi Local Government, Hon. Ammamzalla John-Danladi has sent a memo to the State Governor, requesting the upgrading of 15 village areas to districts and the creation of three additional districts in the Ichen and Ndola Chiefdoms.

"The government's priority should be to install the Third-Class Chief of Ichen Chiefdom in Kurmi Local Government, who will be in the best position to begin the process of creating more districts, rather than the Local Government Chairman.

"The precedent of making every village area in Kurmi

Local Government a district will mean that every village area in the state's 16 local government areas will demand that their village areas be upgraded to districts, thereby undermining the importance of the exercise," Mr Fhatso Tukura stated.

He also cited the Taraba State Upgrading of Traditional Rulers and the Creation of Districts Law 2018, as well as Section 12 of the Taraba State Chiefs Appointments and Deposition Law, which provides that; "the Governor shall have the power to create and/or upgrade a district upon recommendation by the traditional council where the district is situated subject to the confirmation of the State House of Assembly."

Tukura also disclosed that the recommendation was not from the Traditional Council, but the Local Government Council without consultation with the Traditional Council.

Meanwhile, the community has appealed to the government to deploy soldiers to Bissaula and Sunkuru in order to avert possible attacks and killings

'Zoning is the best in democratic setting

PDP presidential aspirant in 2023 general election and Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed has said zoning is the best way for internal democracy.

From Mathew Jwantu, Minna

Governor Bala made the assertion while conversing for votes from Niger State Delegates in the forth

coming PDP National Delegate Convention slated for 23rd May.

He said, I don't see zoning as a problem, it depends on how you see zoning, it is a formula brought for devolution of power between the federating entities.

He maintained that, zoning remained the only way to ensure equity, fair play and justice in a democratic setting.

Mohammed who said the party has the responsibility of zoning, and wherever it is zones to, he is ready to able by it, said it is a constitutional provisions in the party and he believed in the party supremacy.

"The party is supreme and its decision must be obeyed I will abide by the



Mohammed

News

Jos North, South declare for Tyoden

By DUMAH RANDONG

JOS-South and Jos-North Local Government Areas of Plateau State have thrown their weight behind the candidature of the Plateau State Deputy Governor and Frontline, aspirant on the platform of the ruling All Progressive Congress, APC, Professor Sonni Tyoden to clinch the Party's ticket to succeed Governor Simon Lalong, come 2023.

This, the Chairmen said they have set standard for governance which they will go by it and that the state Deputy Governor, Professor Sonni Tyoden met such standard because he is a bridge builder, a father to all and a pathfinder of justice.

Speaking separately on when Professor Tyoden and his supporters visited the two council areas to interact with delegates and stakeholders to round up his tour ahead of the APC primaries, Chairman of Jos South Local Government, Gideon Dandareng said he has strong believe that Professor Tyoden has what it takes to govern the state.

Dandareng said they will not go for the highest bidder but one who will protect the state noting that they were convinced that Tyoden knows the workings of government having served for 7 years and knows the problems of the Plateau.

The Deputy Governor and APC gubernatorial hopeful, Professor Sonni Tyoden had sued for teamwork among the local government executive and stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition of power from APC to APC in 2023 telling them that he has come to solicit for the support on his aspiration to fly the party's ticket in the forthcoming governorship race in the state.

While interacting with the Legislative Council, Tyoden noted the critical position they occupy advising them to use their sensibilities to elect the right people stressing that he has been in the corridors of power for 7 years and knows the problems of Plateau better.

Leader of Jos South Legislative Council, Hon Simon Duncan described the visit as an honour and promised to give their support to actualise his aspiration.

He was also at the Palace of Da Gwom Rwei of Gyel, Da Nga Danyang for a royal blessings where Captain of the Symbol of Trust Movement, Prof Sonni Tyoden intimated the Jos South Traditional Council of his aspiration to be the next governor of the state, come 2023 and sought for their Royal blessings and the support of the subjects.

Jos North Local Government Chairman, Shehu Bala described Tyoden as a bridge builder and noted his immense contributions to the development of the state and the party and said he has all it takes to govern the state



Tyoden

promising to give him all the support.

While interfacing with the Legislative Council, Tyoden said as political leaders in their respective wards, they have the responsibility to guide their people appropriately urging them to ensure credible people were elected.

Leader of the Legislative Council, Yakubu Atsen described the gubernatorial hopeful as an epitome of peace and humility and promised to

work collectively for his success at the APC primaries.

Tyoden also had a parley with the Jos North Party Exco where he carried support and promised not to betray their trust.

Jos North APC Chairman, Mohammed Dani Gangare extolled the leadership qualities of Prof Tyoden describing him as a party man and the most loyal Deputy Governor in Nigeria and assured of their support.

WAEC: Kogi warns against exam misconduct

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State Government has warned principals of secondary schools and supervisors against condoning any act of examination misconducts during the upcoming West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in the state.

The state Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Wemi Jones, FCIB, gave the advice at this year's WAEC briefings of principals, exam officers and supervisors in Lokoja Monday.

The Commissioner congratulated the participants at the meeting for the improved examination activities in the state since he assumed office.

He noted that Kogi used to be rated high in examination misconducts over the years, but has improved tremendously over the past two years.

It is with utmost delight and gratitude to inform you that we have improved tremendously for the past two years," he said.

Jones explained that schools were made to write an undertaking in respect to examination misconducts, saying the principals complied and that had yielded great results.

According to him, last year, only one school was deregister and 25 schools warned.

This achievement was a product of the joint efforts between the Ministry of Education and Principals of our noble schools.

"I am standing before you in my capacity as the Hon. Commissioner to assure you, and to receive promise from you that this year's examination will witness excellent performance, meaning that Kogi State will not hear the language of derecognition and being seriously warned again," he said.

He, therefore charged the principals to always be available in their respective schools during any paper to avoid compromise, and urged supervisors to take their work seriously in order not to enter the black book of WAEC and the Ministry.



Playing politics with education

SINCE February of this year, students of Nigeria's public universities have not smelt the four walls of their classrooms. Reason? Their teachers have been on a protracted strike that has defied all reasoning. Both the government and Union sides have stuck to their guns and refused to yield to any suggestion. Everyone is holding on to the fact that it is either their way or nothing at all. And, the students and their parents have been at the receiving end of this back and forth. For a course of four years, students end up staying seven or eight years and the ripple effect on the parents can only be imagined. Yet in the midst of all these, political activities have reached fever pitch with politicians jostling for various positions in spite of the hugely outrageous costs of nomination forms. Even at this, ASUU and the federal government have not seen the need to sheath their swords, come to a round table and sincerely find a way forward for our education and the future of our children who have already been branded "lazy youths". Both parties to all intent and purposes, fail to grasp the implications of their recalcitrance on the future of our country. They are so engrossed in fighting for the immediate that the dangers posed by their actions seem to escape them. Indeed, both parties are oblivious of the lessons of history which would definitely haunt them tomorrow. For me universities are centres of excellence where ideas are not only conceived but are tested and made workable and flourish for the good of all. It is, therefore, only logical to assume that they are and should be centres for finding solution to the many problems that challenge the society and once they fail to do this, they add no value and lose their place in the scheme of things.

But ASUU which is the leading light in these revered institutions seem to be losing it. Or how else can one explain the unending and protracted strikes that have come to be second nature of these institutions of learning and which they have failed to find solution to? It is expected that by now, academics should know that embarking on strikes as is obtained in Nigeria yields no results. They should thus work out other means of forcing the governments to listen to them. There have been cries that tuition fees should be introduced in these institutions yet ASUU has been in the forefront of fighting against this. For parents, that would be much better since it would guarantee some degree of sanity on the campuses. If parents are made to part with so much monies to pay for secondary education, why can't they pay something to ensure

their wards remain in school and leave at the right and appropriate time?

We have been inundated with arguments that public education should be made free for the common person. Much as I agree with this postulation, it would only make sense if a form of scholarship is worked out in such a manner that after graduation, students would be made to payback over time to make government provide for others who would come after them. This is the practice in countries that are our standard bearers. But if this has to be done, corruption must be curbed and seriously reduced. Evidently also, ASUU has refused to explore new grounds to help fund education. If private universities can thrive and succeed without subventions from government, it is thus possible to find ways and means of surviving in an era with leaders who seem to care less about the future.

On the other hand, the arrogance exhibited by those who represent government must be checked. We cannot expect thugs to whose values are questionable to lead a process that is meant to grow our society. This "area boys" attitude must be jettison if anything meaningful is to come out of our society. Unless and until we encourage solution driven institutions, Nigeria would continue to rigmarole and make no headway. Finding solution should be the priority of every leader. If you cannot solve problems, you have no business seeking leadership whether it is in the Union or for the larger society. And as a caveat, we cannot succeed if we keep doing the same thing over and over. We must accept that the only permanent thing in life is change, which is a constant.

We have been inundated with arguments that public education should be made free for the common person. Much as I agree with this postulation, it would only make sense if a form of scholarship is worked out in such a manner that after graduation, students would be made to payback over time to make government provide for others who would come after them.

PROBATE NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.
AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON KAILANI MURTALA OLA late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st August, 2021 at Nasarawa Gwong, Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT YAKUBU HAUWA KEHINDE of E8 Nasarawa Gwong Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON CHOLLOM BOYI late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th January, 2021 at Zarmaganda, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT HARUNA CHOLLOM BOYI & JUGU CHOLLOM BOYI of COCIN LCC Chamber Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON ILIYA BISSITDA PIGERA late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th March, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DINATU DENNIS NENROTMWA PIGERA & DOUNENDUNG PIGERA Fwor Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter/son of the said
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DANLAMI ABUBAKAR JAKADA late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th January, 2021 at Heipang, Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT JOSHUA DANLAMI & SHARON DANLAMI Block 150D Faan QRSR Heipang Josair Port Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MABWE MARY MOSES late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st January, 2022 at Kano State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MABWE JCMOSES MAPIS of No. 8 Doctor Mabwe Street River Side Rantya Jos, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON TERNGU ERNEST ABUUL late of Benue State. Died on the 28th September, 2021 at Gboko Benue State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT TERKENDE ABUUL ERNEST & NYOAYA ABUUL of COCIN Chamber Zarmaganda Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON E M M A N U E L C H U K W U E M E K A U B A N E C H E late of Anambra State. Died on the 21st February, 2022 at Nnewi South LGA, Anabra State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT SAMUEL ONYEKA U B A N E C H E of No. 1 Ochuru village Osumenyi Nnewi South LGA, Anambra State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MAREN HASKE DANIEL late of Lagos State. Died on the 16th May, 2021 at NAF Hospital, Lagos State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MAREN NOAH AHWIN ZAINAB NANKYER MAREN of Behind Aluma Dil Filling Station Bukuru Express Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON OLALERE TABITHA AZA also known as TAIBAT AZA late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th November, 2021 at Federal Lowcost Jos, Plateau	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT HABIBATU LOLA BAKARE of No 10 9th Avenue Federal Lowcost Housing Estate Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON BALI RINGNAP GODMAN late of Lagos State. Died on the 2nd December, 2020 at Lagos State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT JOYCE YACIT BALI of Behind Jossy Royal Hotel, Bukuru Express Road, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sister of the said ceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON BURSHIN KWAMKUR late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th October, 2019. At General Hospital, Langtang North LGA, Plateau state.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT VICTORIA KWAMKUR & KWAMKUR JUSTINA of Angwan Shimshe along Wase Road Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON EMILY JOSEPH LOLA late of Jos, Plateau State. Died on the 17th March, 2022 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT NAOMI DOPSAL of 9 Ojukwu Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON INSPR. ISHAKU AYUBA late of Plateau state. Died on the 25th March, 2022 at Kwal, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MUSA ISHAKU of COCIN Kwal Kanke LGA, Plateau. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON AGWOM ADANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th February, 2022 at Zatsitsa Barkin Kogi Foron.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT GWOM PAUL DANG of COCIN LCC Zatsitsa Barkin Kogi Foron Barkin Ladi. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON AGWOM IZANG late of Jos Plateau State. Died on the 1st January, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ARIN ISHAYA AGWOM of Van village Gwafan District of Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON BAKLE TONGNAN KUMSHIN late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st November, 2019 at Lankan, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT BAKLE SEKYEN KUMSHIN of Chapel of Redemption F.C.E Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. I Lawful brother of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MAFULUL MANGAI JOSHUA late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th May, 2021 at Bokkos LGA, Plateau	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ISHAKU JOSHUA MANGAI ofCOCIN LC.C Gawarza, RCC Daffo, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON JAURO MAGAJI late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th March, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT JOHNSON JAU'RO MAGAJI of behind PADP, Dogon Dutse Jos North LGA, Plateau state. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON PRISCILLIA MANYANG GANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th March, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DAYOM PAMELA NORO & DACHOMO PATIENCE PAM of No. 99 Dachomo Close Zone, Shaka, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughters of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MADUGU JIBRIN late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th January, 2009 at Vom Turu, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT YAKUBU JIBRIN of COCIN Church Dakun Piyan Turu, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON LAMI NASS GYANG late of Plateau state. Died on the 2nd May, 2020 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MAFENG DAVOU GYANG of 11th Avenue, Shagaya Estate Federal Lowcost Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON TIMOTHY TWAMNWP KELONG late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st January, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT NOEL NAANMAN KELONG of Temple Road Soja Bewarang Street Dadin Kowa, Jos Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON GAIUS ZAKKA PANSHAK late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th March, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT BEATRICE GAIUS of No. 4 Miri Drive Rayfield Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON BUBA LASAH late of Adamawa State. Died on the 22nd March, 2021 at Adamawa State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DAUDA BUBA National Biosafety Management Agency, Gombe State. Lawful son of the said deceased
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON JUMMAI HEZAL BARJE late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th June, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT LOIS ASHIRI ZINANMI BARJE of No. 19 NAPRI/ABU Staff Quarters Zaria. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON SGT EMMANUEL BOBORI late of Imo state. Died on the 12th June, 2019 at Imo State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT EFE EMMANUEL BOBORI Sacred Heart Cathederal Catholic Church Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON LIKITA BOMAN late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th January, 2022 at Ratholkak Gyel, Bukuru Jos South LGA,	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT VICTORIA PETER JAGGA & MICHAEL PETER JAGGA of Gyel Village Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DAVOU GILBERT late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th Aug, 2021. At Riyom, LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DAVOU SARAH PATRICK of Kuru Station Railway Riyom, Riyom LGA, Plateau State. Lawful mother of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON LINUS PAM late of Plateau State. Died on the 17TH Jan, 2022. At Kuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DUNG LINUS PAM of Dahwol Vwanah Kuru, Jos south LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON EZEKIEL GUTIP late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st Nov, 2021. at Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MUNLANG HIERINE JOHN opposite ITF Bukuru express Way Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON SAUL BINFAT NDAM late of Plateau State. Died on the 14TH DEC. 2019 at Bima Hosp. Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT SAUL NANBOL NDAM of Fajul/Dibbar Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON HOSEA BARAU AYUBA late of Plateau State. Died on the 28TH Jan, 2022 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT AYUBA LAMI HOSEA of Omona Jengre, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DASHE NANFA NAPSHAT also known as DASHE NANFA late of Plateau State. Died on the 10TH Sept, 2021 at Gusau, Zamfara State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT STEPHEN NANRE NANFA & JOSHUA NANFA of COCIN Church Myamshiko L/North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON ADAMU USOJI late of Plateau State. Died on the 20TH June, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT USOJI LUCKY ADAMU of ECWA Church Agingi Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON RITA OGECHUKWU NDU (also known as RITA NDU) late of Anambra State. Died on the 7th October, 2021 at NAF Hosp, Jos. Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT PRINCESS ADAEZE NDU of No. 1 Yakubu Gowon Way Jos, Plateau State . Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON SAMUEL OBADIAH MOSES late of Bauchi State. Died on the 31st December, 2021 at Anambra State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ANDREW SAMAILA MUSA. of Angwan Rukuba Jos North LGA, Plateau State . Lawful brother of the said deceased.

Signed
(LADI A. MADAKI)
PROBATE REGISTRAR
PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS

Foreign News

Zelenskyy calls for international help

RUSSIAN forces have pounded the southern Ukrainian port of Odesa with missiles, killing one person, as Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on the international community to take immediate steps to end the Russian blockade of the country's ports in order to allow wheat shipments and prevent a global food crisis.

In Odesa, the major Black Sea port for exporting agricultural products, missiles hit a shopping centre and a depot, killing one person and injuring five others, Ukraine's armed forces said on Facebook on Monday. Video footage from the scene showed fire and rescue workers combing through piles of rubble, dousing still smoking wreckage.

European Council President Charles Michel visited Odesa on Monday, and his meeting with Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal was interrupted by a missile attack. Their talks continued in a bomb shelter, according to Shmyhal's official Twitter account.

Michel said he saw silos full of grain, wheat and



Zelenskyy

corn unable to be exported. Air raid sirens could be heard across several regions of Ukraine early on Tuesday, including Luhansk, Kharkiv and Dnipro.

Serhiy Haidai, the governor of Luhansk, said the region was attacked about two dozen times in the 24 hours prior to early Tuesday.

"During the day on May 9, the Russians fired en masse on all possible routes out of the region," he said.

Houses were destroyed in Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk and in the village of Shypilovo, where people remained trapped, there was an attack on an inspecting crew that wounded one person, Haidai added.

In the town of

Bogodukhov, northwest of Kharkiv, four people were killed and several homes were destroyed in Russian attacks on Monday, local media quoted Kharkiv officials as saying.

Ukraine's defence ministry said Russian forces backed by tanks and artillery were conducting "storming operations" at Mariupol's Azovstal plant, where hundreds of Ukrainian defenders have held out through months of siege.

Mariupol lies between the Crimean Peninsula, seized by Moscow in 2014, and parts of eastern Ukraine under the control of Russia-backed separatists. Full control of the city would allow Moscow to link the two areas.

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson has returned to his election pledges to tackle regional inequalities and maximise post-Brexit freedoms, hoping to win back voters in southern England who abandoned his party at local polls last week.

In the traditional Queen's Speech, read for the first time in 59 years by Prince Charles rather than Queen Elizabeth due to her mobility problems, Johnson said on Tuesday that his Conservative government would "deliver on the promises we made" in the 2019 election.

But there was little to comfort the millions of people struggling with higher fuel and food costs, with the

British government to tackle regional inequalities

government reiterating that it would "repair the public finances" rather than channel money to cushion the blow.

"Her Majesty's government's priority is to grow and strengthen the economy and help ease the cost of living for families. Her Majesty's government will level up opportunity in all parts of the country and support more people into work," Charles said, reading a text written by the government before assembled members and peers.

Charles, Queen Elizabeth's heir, was drafted in after Buckingham Palace said on Monday that the 96-year-old monarch was experiencing "episodic

they call the "real issues" and turn the page on scandals after months of reports of Covid-19 lockdown-busting gatherings at the prime minister's Downing Street office and residence.

After Johnson and his finance minister, Rishi Sunak, were handed fines for one such gathering, Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, stepped up the pressure when he pledged to resign if police found he had also broken the rules.

Neither Johnson nor Sunak have stepped down, and Downing Street is still awaiting the results of a police investigation into other gatherings.

Johnson is also under pressure to tackle a growing cost-of-living crisis, but the Queen's Speech offered no clues on any immediate actions the government might take to help people struggling to pay their bills.

The Bank of England said last week Britain risks a double-whammy of a recession and inflation above 10 percent.

Johnson was punished in last week's local elections, when voters in southern England abandoned his party over the scandals and the cost of living.

This prompted some in his party to urge Johnson to return to a more traditional Conservative agenda of tax cuts and preventing housing from encroaching on rural areas.

With his critics falling short of the numbers needed within the governing party to try to remove him, Johnson is hoping he can double down on an agenda he believes won him a large majority in the 2019 national election.

"From the moment I became prime minister, my mission has been to deliver for the British people," he said in the introduction to the agenda.

"Over the remainder of this Parliament, this government will work night and day to ensure we do just that."



Johnson

Japan decides Russia oil embargo on economy

JAPAN will decide the timing and method of a Russian oil embargo while considering the possible economic effects, its industry minister said on Tuesday, after Tokyo agreed on a ban with other Group of Seven nations over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Japan will decide the timing and method of a Russian oil embargo while considering the possible economic effects, its industry minister said on Tuesday, after Tokyo agreed on a ban with other Group of Seven nations over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"We would like to consider a method of phasing out over time in a way that minimises adverse effects on people's lives and business activities," Japanese industry minister Koichi Hagiuda told a news conference. "We will think about specific methods and timing for reducing or suspending oil imports, taking into account the actual situation," he said.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Monday that Japan will phase out Russian oil imports.

Hagiuda said Japan cannot immediately stop importing oil from Russia but will gradually move away from dependence on Russian energy while ensuring access to alternative supplies.

Asked about a possible acceleration of the restart of nuclear power plants, he said: "Given that it is a decarbonised

base-load power source at the practical stage, it is necessary to utilise it as an important power source."

But there is no change in the ministry's policy to proceed with any nuclear restarts only after winning the support of local communities, he said.

Globally, the United States will be indispensable for securing a stable energy supply, Hagiuda said.

"As an oil and gas producing country, the United States has a major role to play and should firmly establish its own system to increase production," he said.

There are plans to expand existing liquefied natural gas projects in the US that can increase output in a relatively short period and Japan is willing to contribute to those through public finance, he said.

mobility problems" and had reluctantly decided she could not attend.

Prince Charles, left, and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, centre, follow behind the Imperial State Crown in the House of Lords Chamber during the State Opening of Parliament.

The Queen's Speech set out 38 bills, including measures to revitalise Britain's high streets, a crackdown on illicit finance and make the City, London's financial district, more attractive to global investors after the country left the European Union.

In an introduction to the government's legislative programme, Johnson said: "This is a Queen's Speech to get our country back on track and ensure that we deliver on the promises we made at the start of this parliament."

Johnson and his government are keen to return the focus on what



Kishida

Foreign Commentary

How dangerous is the situation in North Korea?

Kim Jong-un is testing North Korea's weapons with renewed urgency, as South Korea prepares to inaugurate a new, hard-line president. After years of stalemate, following failed nuclear talks, tensions on the Korean peninsula are rising. JEAN MACKENZIE writes:



Jong-UN

Jae-In

"I thought about getting an axe, but I decided it would be too difficult to carry, so I settled for a knife."

Sitting in a dimly-lit cocktail bar, late one night, Jenn recounts her detailed escape plan. As a South Korean, living in Seoul, she knew exactly what she would do if the North attacked. First came the weapons, then two motorbikes: one for her, the other for her brother. Their parents would ride on the back. This way they could cross the city's river quickly, before the North Koreans bombed the bridges, and hopefully make it to the coast before the port was destroyed. One evening she and her brother sat and mapped their route, agreeing to tie ribbons to the trees should they be separated.

This was five years ago. At the time, North Korea was furiously testing missiles that could, in theory, deliver nuclear bombs to the United States, and its then President Donald Trump was threatening to respond with "fire and fury". Jenn admits she was more worried than most. But nonetheless, this was the closest many South Koreans felt they had come to war since fighting with North Korea ended almost 70 years ago.

Then something remarkable happened. South Korea's newly-elected president at the time, Moon Jae-in, convinced Mr Trump to meet Kim Jong-un. It was the first time a sitting US president had ever met the

leader of North Korea. A flurry of historic summits followed, sparking hope that the North might just agree to give up its nuclear weapons, and the two Koreas would make peace.

Excitement fizzed as President Moon, the son of North Korean refugees, arrived in the Capital Pyongyang and stepped out into a packed stadium, grasping the hand of his adversary. The audience didn't know what to do, recalls Prof Moon Chung-in, the president's advisor at the time. They had been told this man was their enemy, yet here he was on their soil, proposing peace. Suddenly, the 150,000 North Korean spectators erupted in raucous applause. "It was amazing to watch, it was a very moving moment for me," he says.

But as President Moon leaves office, the hopes of that year lie in tatters. When a nuclear deal between the United States and North Korea collapsed in 2019, so did talks between the Koreas. There has been a stalemate ever since. Meanwhile North Korea has continued to develop its weapons of mass destruction and is once again testing them with alarming frequency. Only this time, the pandemic and now the war in Ukraine mean the eyes of the world have been focused elsewhere.

Asked if the government failed, Prof Moon Chung-in is defensive. "No, I don't think so! Was there war?" He

reasons that for five years the Moon government kept the peace during one of the biggest crises in inter-Korean relations. It also showed what incentives would get North Korea to the negotiating

table. The problem, he believes, is that North Korean negotiators returned empty-handed, in what was a great embarrassment for the regime, and almost certainly a punishable offence.

President Moon tried everything he could to coax the North Koreans back to talks, but in doing so he has been accused of appeasing one of the world's most brutal dictators.



Kim Jong-un pictured in front of North Korea's largest known intercontinental ballistic missile

Feature

Succession and the nightmares of former rulers

Against the erroneous motion that the term ruler and leader are the same and can be used interchangeably, there is a thin but distinct difference between rulers and leaders. This distinction is reflected in several literatures but one of which will form the context of this expository discourse. Ayuba Yilgāk'ha, writes..

A Non-Governmental and non-profit organisation, Vision International Christian Ministries (VICM) attempted to distinguish between the two terms. It defined a ruler as someone who dictates the rules with the assumption that being the head means having absolute right and authority over others who have no choice but to follow and paraventure anyone act otherwise, the consequences for disobedience include death, imprisonment and/or physical harm. In this sense, rulers are associated with power drunk dictators who use instruments of power to exercise coercion or load it on their subjects.

Leaders, on the other hand, are those in position of authority who influence direction, guidance, motivation, empowerment, inspiration, encouragement in others to be the best they can be, putting their skills, potentials and abilities into proper use (VICM). This implies that leaders are catalyst for inspiration, motivation towards the realisation of a people's best potentials for the greater good of the total population. In other words, they are legitimate representative of people or institution who stir others towards the attainment of greatness both at micro and macro levels of living in a society.

In a democracy, people are more favourably disposed to leaders than any form of rulership. In anarchist doctrine, "rulers are undesirable" (Skyler, 2015). Despite the abhorrence of rulership in democracy and anarchism, rulers have stealthily sneaked there way into purposely democratic offices and are loading it on people in parts of the world, especially, Africa. In most African countries, elected leaders rule like emperors and dictators whose trade in stock is the use of deceit and brute force to administer their will on the people who elected them, forgetting that leadership is transient.

In this world, "Nothing", they say, "lasts forever." This takes us to the idea of succession which has to do with transition and transfer of powers and authority from one leadership or rulership to another. Leadership is a relay where power changes hand as time kicks. The word "former" this or "former" that is a product of time and the reality of the transiency of power.

History is agoged with catalogues of the rise and fall of emperors, tyrants, rulers and leaders of all kinds. Today we can only read about great, mighty or even infamous leaders of yesterday in annals of history.

Do you remember names like Emperor Nero, Alexander the great, King Herod. History has



documented rulers like Adolf Hitler of Germany, Charles xiv of France; Napoleon Bonaparte, also of France. Do you remember Mobutu Tseseko? What about Idi Amin of Uganda? Have you forgotten about Fidel Castro of Cuba? These names, just a sample of many others, shared one adjective in common: Former! They were former this or former that.

There is this song lyrics, "I still remember... I still remember...I still remember" that we had people like Abraham Lincoln, Tony Blair, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Olusegun Obasanjo, Jonah David Jang, all of them former this or former that. Tip tap tip tap tip tap, time is moving and moving very fast. Time usher in people into position of authority and usher them out in the same manner. This is part of the nightmares of rulers!

History is kind to leaders who transform people through the power of inspiration, motivation and modelling but harsh to rulers who deploy tyranny and rule their subjects with iron fist. If anyone thinks of himself or herself as a ruler, consider these lines from Lord Byron's Poem titled, "The Ocean". It says: "The armaments which thunderstrike the walls

Of rock-built cities, bidding nations quake,
And monarchs tremble in their capitals,
The oak leviathan, whose huge ribs make
Their clay creator the vain title take
Of lord of thee, and arbiter of war,—
These are thy toys, and, as the snowy flake,
They melt into thy yeast of waves, which mar
Alike the Armada's pride or spoils of Trafalgar.
Thy shores are empires, changed in all save thee:
Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what are they?
Thy waters washed them power while they were free,
And many a tyrant since; their shores obey
....."

In Nigeria, as 2023 approaches, out going leaders at various levels are already shopping for their successors and preparing handover notes. The fundamental question that must be placed before those on the saddle now is this: How do they want to be remembered or how do they want to see the constituencies they now govern managed when they are out of power?

One of the nightmares of an exiting good leader is succession contradictions. When a good leader is succeeded by a bad successor, the legacies of the former shall be put in reverse gear or the promises of the future stalled. This is always a

frustrating experience to behold by any former leader who is passionate about the next generation.

For rulers, those who have failed to be objective with power will remember too soon that their time is up. In no distant time, they shall be on the bad side of history with much regrets because they had the opportunity but betrayed it. History will come reminding them of their worst actions or inactions.

Another worse nightmare of a former ruler is the failure to get with energy and stress what he could have gotten by a word of command while in power. It is failing to have their way with people who were once their least aides or servants, and cannot do anything about it that often make them allergic!

Tyrants are reminded in the words of Chaplin which says, "As long as men die, liberty will never perish." Therefore, when you have the opportunity to lead, use it well because another might not come your way anymore. Also, when you want to be remembered for good, be good; when you want to be remembered for bad, the choice is entirely yours to make. The treatment you meted unto others today shall be meted unto you tomorrow even worse. That is Buddhist's law of Karma for you!

You may be President today,

tomorrow is another; You are a governor today, tomorrow it can be me; you might be a senator today; someone is waiting to take over in the next four (4) years. If you are a Chief Executive, retirement must come calling someday.

If today was yesterday's future; then, today must be tomorrow's yesterday. This is the verdict of nature dictated by restless but fair distributor of human fate: Time!

If the man on the saddle gets it right by being objective (not subjective), chances are that the best, even in succession, will emerge. African China featuring Efe in his song titled, "Mr. President" offered the following profound charge to those in position of authority whether as a leader or professional. It is for our listening pleasure and for deep reflection too:

"Make una lead us well
No let this nation to fall inside well
Mr. President
Lead us well
If you be governor
Govern us well
If you be senator
Senate am well
If you be police
Police well well, no dey take bribe." That is the message, doing the best you can to serve the common good while in power.

Let me conclude this piece with the following words by Distinguished Senator Shehu Sani who represented Kaduna Central in the Nigerian Senate between 2015 - 2019. He wrote:

"In some months ahead, the people that move about like Gods today would become ordinary people you will meet at the train stations, Airports, Mosques and Churches. They will be deserted by their aides, loyalists and hangers on. They will move without the crowd of security men that surrounds them. Their phones will no more be busy and they will start calling missed calls. They can be arrested so easily. They will meet those they disfavoured or persecuted. They can no more order and direct but request, beg or appeal. They will have no immunity and will watch their words and steps. They will harvest their crops." What a reminder and a warning signal to the political class especially those in position of authority in Nigeria who will have to face an election in 2023 with every possibility of winning or losing. It is already nightmare, especially, for those with despotic inclinations while in power.

Tomorrow shall always come if men are alive. Regimes come and go but the state remains. As recent as 1999 was Obasanjo in power; today is Buhari. New sherrifs are coming at all levels to replace those our laws exit!

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Sleeping positions that cause wrinkles

By **MARCI ROBIN**

"SLEEPING position can definitely have an impact on skin, but not for everyone, and the effects are variable from person to person," says Rachel Maiman, certified dermatologist, who says those effects can include acne and sweat-induced rashes from the way their skin folds, perspires, and gets compressed during sleep.

We spoke to dermatologists to find out which people are most likely to get wrinkles while they sleep, why, and how to keep those lines at bay without any sleepless nights.

Unfortunately, this is not a myth. The position you sleep in is definitely one of the reasons you may start seeing lines and wrinkles on your skin's surface — but it's only one factor among many.

"It won't single-handedly cause them, but these sleeping conditions can expedite and intensify wrinkles on the chest, neck, and face," explains dermatologist Deanne Mraz Robinson, any behaviour or position that continually folds or stretches the skin will create skin laxity over time. "Wrinkling from sleeping position will be more obvious on more lax skin, which is why you'll see it on an adult's chest but rarely on a child's."

In addition to wrinkles, sleeping on your side may also have an effect on other age-related skin changes, like more volume loss on the side you sleep on.

All three dermatologists we spoke to gave us the same bad news for side and stomach sleepers.



"As far as the skin-friendliest way to face, sleeping on your back with your head facing out and centre will definitely reduce the risk of developing sleep-related skin problems to the greatest degree," Dr. Maiman says.

Dr. Robinson also recommends lying on your back, though finding the perfect level between too flat and too propped up can be a challenge. "Elevating too high may cause your chin to drop and your neck to scrunch up, while being too flat may lead to waking up with puffy eyes from the accumulation of fluid and lymph in the upper body," she says.

Do certain types of pillows and pillowcases help?

Pillows are the ultimate frenemy. We rely on them for comfort, but they can betray

us — and not just regarding our skin.

"With age, our neck and body joints need increasingly more support, but too many pillows can exacerbate these problems." Humans evolved without pillows, she says, so, arguably, no pillows would be ideal — but between the aforementioned puffiness that can be caused by lying too flat and our desire for comfort and support, it's not a terribly appealing option.

If you struggle to sleep on your back but would like to give it the old college try, you may want to look into specialised pillows like one of the many cradling designs that keep you facing up while supporting your neck. We like the memory foam YourFacePillow, for which you can buy a specially shaped satin pillowcase.

What else can be done to help prevent sleep-induced lines and wrinkles?

Luckily, you can tweak your skin-care routine to help battle the impact of skin friction and folding while sleeping and treat the wrinkles that may result.

"Apply your retinol, and don't forget to spread it down on your neck and chest. This

will help keep the skin cells rejuvenated, soften fine lines and encourage collagen production," advises Dr. Robinson for nighttime. Applying a thick cream after your chosen serum because it will "sink into the spongy top layer of skin and fight the compression impact of folded skin."

If you want to go the extra mile while sleeping, Dr. Robinson suggests using a silicone pad on areas of concern. "They make these shaped for your neck, chest, and even face," she says. "They work by keeping skin hydrated and prevent skin from folding and creasing when you move throughout the night."

Drinking a big glass of water to help depuff and rehydrate.

"You can replenish fine lines and lost volume with a hyaluronic acid serum" — her current favourite is the Alastin HA Immerse Serum — "and gently pat a brightening eye cream around your orbital bone."

In the grand scheme of things, while it may be annoying that the position we feel the most natural and comfortable sleeping in can be a culprit in causing lines and wrinkles, you most definitely don't want to lose sleep over it. "Sleep is one of the most important factors in your overall health, including how your skin ages," says Dr. Robinson. "So, if avoiding compromising positions is cutting into your Zzzs, prioritise the sleep over the position."



THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Beauty bytes

The endless debate over women's make-up

By
JULIUS TOBA-JEGEDE

Make-up, the art of applying cosmetics to the face to look good, has been part of womenfolk from time.

It is generally believed that every woman had, at one time or the other, used one cosmetic or the other with powder, lipstick and eye pencil usually the most common.

Women have different reasons for applying make-up, but it is generally assumed that most do it to attract or impress the opposite sex.

Mr Odunlade Adebayo, an architect and quantity surveyor, for instance, believes that women's make-up deceives men.

Adebayo, while narrating his experience, said he met a lady online and took a deep interest in her because she was looking so beautiful with her make-up.

"But, the day I met her physically and saw her natural face, I was disappointed because she looked different from the pictures posted on



eyes that makes them glow and minimal lip colour, I think that's the perfect make-up look. If her lipstick is too bright, I'm afraid to get in there and really kiss her if the opportunity arises."

Mr Bolanle Aderopo, a pharmacist, complained that his wife always stains the bed

"Seduction, on the other hand, involves women who want to be noticeably more attractive. They tend to use make-up to be more confident, sociable, and assertive."

Mr Lifted Nwanuihe, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ace Clothing and styles, has a sharply different view of women's make-up.

"I see it as a form of expression and love it when my girlfriend wears it."

"I believe everyone should be free to express herself or himself in whatever way without restrictions. My girlfriend doesn't need to be natural always."

Mr Effiong Abasi, an accountant, also said that he loves it when a woman wears make-up.

"Make-up brings respect to a woman. It displays sign of maturity on the part of the woman and attracts men," Abasi said.

Mr Olayinka Peters, a lawyer,

said that make-up turns him on, whether applied well or not.

"Make-up is a turn on for me. It gives me the hint that this woman is conscious of being attractive," he said.

Mr Idris Akanbi, a technician, said he doesn't have a problem with make-up, but is usually uncomfortable with excessive application.

"The strength of a house lies with the foundation, so is it with the make-up of a woman. It starts from the foundation before the painting of whatever."

"Even if one doesn't know make-up at all, one should know if something is pleasing to the eye," he said.

For Mr Ikechukwu Offor, a spare parts trader in Mushin area of Lagos, noting is as galling as when his wife puts on make-up.

"My wife is fair and naturally beautiful. So, when she

applies her make-up, I don't really like it. The colours on her face put me off," he fumed.

Offor, however, accepts that it is her choice to apply make-up or leave her face to glow naturally.

Some make-up artists also spoke on the practice and how to apply it to get the right result.

"Some ladies do not have the skills or knowledge while some have but do not know how to apply it correctly."

"Before applying foundation, ladies have to moisturise their face and apply primer, put enough foundation to go round and blend with a beauty blender," she explained.

Omobolanle said that ladies should blend the foundation well into their skin to avoid breaking and smearing.

For the CEO of Pees Glam, Miss Precious Bolorundoro, some ladies do not have the patience to learn how to do it right.

"Some ladies rush to do their make-up and it might come out wrong especially when you're not a professional at it," she said. Bolorundoro also said that ladies should get the right product for their skin type.

The CEO of Budosky Signature, Miss Victoria Nwabudo, explained that make-up is all about passion and ladies should not expect to be good in something if they did not have passion for it.

"Most ladies get their make-up wrong because they don't have passion for it. Those that do, get it wrong because they haven't relaxed to learn the proper way to apply make-up products," she said.

Nwabudo advised ladies to clean their face with a face wipe to get a clean base for work and use concealers for highlights and contours.

"Ladies should apply primer to help the make-up last longer, apply foundation of their shade and use a spoolie brush to keep their eyebrows in shape," she said.

As the debate over the practice rages, analysts believe that make-up should be applied in moderation to avoid situations where it often boomerang, leading to unpleasant consequences.



social media."

According to him, women are wonderfully made and should be proud of who they are and not hide their facial flaws.

A civil servant, Mr Leke Ashafa, said, "I always feel bad for women that are so scared to have men see them without their face made up. They're prisoners to the mask."

"I like it when a girl doesn't wear any make-up at all. I know it sounds cliché, but it lets me know that she takes care of her skin and that she's confident in herself because she doesn't need to cover up her natural complexion."

"When a woman wears light sparkly shadow around her

sheet and pillows with her make-up.

"I love it when my wife puts make-up on; it makes her beautiful. However, I don't like it when she doesn't clean her make-up properly at night before going to sleep."

"She messes up the bed and pillow case. It really causes a big quarrel between us always," he said.

A teacher in one of the Lagos State Government schools, Mr Lanre Okeowo, said there were two primary reasons why women wear make-up.

According to him, it is either for camouflage or seduction.

"For camouflage, women, who are anxious and insecure, tend to use make-up to appear less noticeable."



Editorial

Insecurity: North Central also requires attention

The issue of insecurity is one that has virtually come to stay in Nigeria except something urgent and drastic is done to bring the situation under control.

Ever since the emergence of the dreaded Boko Haram sect more than two decades ago, Nigeria has not remained the same and things seem to be going worse by the day.

According to available records criminal activities of insurgents, bandits, armed robbers and the likes have led to the loss of an estimated 35,000 lives in the North East zone of Nigeria alone. Also, the violence has devastated communities leading to the displacement of over three million people and plunged millions more into extreme poverty.

It is in response to this that the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the establishment of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) which is saddled with the responsibility of coordinating rebuilding of the North East region. It is also to assess, harmonise and report on all intervention programs of the Federal Government and to commence the process of resettlement and rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their original homes or new communities and shift focus from humanitarian assistance to development and infrastructural projects such as reconstruction of houses, schools, etc destroyed by Boko Haram.

Although a step in the right direction, the worrisome part is that the issue of insecurity is one that is prevalent in virtually all the states of the federation as they battle one form of insecurity or the other hence the need establish commissions to take care of these areas.

Of utmost concern is Plateau State that has suffered years of crises and attacks by unknown gunmen, where thousands of people have been killed, driven out of their ancestral homes and nothing has been done this either resettle the people or give any form of assistance to help cushion the effects of the attacks.

It is on record that the South East had made a presentation to the House of Representatives for the establishment of a South East Development Commission which according to the presenter was to help in articulating specific interventions aimed at reintegrating the people of the South East zone who are mainly displaced persons from the North and other parts of the country whom he says form a great part of the worst affected and displaced persons.

Just recently, the Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) made an appeal to President Muhammadu Buhari to establish what is to be known as the Southern Kaduna Development Commission (SKDC) for reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons in the state. The group stated that the destruction of life and property, as well as the displacement of communities in Southern Kaduna by herdsmen is of similar proportion to the Boko Haram-ravaged North East. Therefore, a Southern Kaduna Development Commission is of paramount importance and should be supported by every well-meaning and peace-loving Nigerian.

What is, however, worrisome is the fact that demands by groups or otherwise across the country are not treated equally or given the same attention. We are aware that the North West had also come under attack as bandits at some point had taken over most states in the zone unleashing terror on the people and kidnapping several school children as well as some paramount rulers in the area which led to the government claming down on them through military actions which have now brought some relief to the area.

It is worthy to note that all the agitations, demands that government threats all component parts of the country equally. It is our firm believe that if government at all levels is doing what they ought to do from the Local Government to the state and federal level these agitations may not have even arisen in the first place.

To correct this therefore, government should also consider states in the North Central zone which have been badly affected by activities of insurgents and bandits particularly Plateau, Benue and Niger states in the provision of palliatives, emergency relief materials, renovation of houses and farmlands destroyed by these criminal elements. A military action in these states will go a long way in bringing activities of these hoodlums under control and avert a repeat of the recent attack in Kanam and Wase Local Government Areas.

PERMIT me space in your widely read newspaper, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** to express my worry over the unending strike of our tertiary institutions particular the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) who have extended the strike action for about twelve weeks.

A statement signed by ASUU President, Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke said this action became necessary to give government enough time to satisfactorily resolve all outstanding issues. This decisions came after its National Executive Council meeting held in Abuja.

It is really sad that the future of Nigerian children are being toyed with, making the future bleak for most young people. Most children are staying much at home than in school now. It is unfortunate that we are yet to get over the issue of closure of our higher

institutions incessantly.

After extensive deliberations, noting government's failure to live up to its responsibilities to speedily address all the issues raised in the 2020 Federal Government and ASUU Memorandum of Action within eight weeks roll-over strike period declared on the 14th March, 2022 another disturbing

Enough of the extension of strikes actions

extension has followed.

How long will our children in public institutions room on our streets without any thing doing? Sadly, a young master's degree student of the university here in Jos lost his life at quite an early age in a Mining pond because he felt staying idle during the strike period was not the best. In a bit to huzzle, he abruptly ended his life.

We appeal to the



government to grant the request of ASUU to enable our children go back to school. The lecturers asked the government to implement the memorandum in September 2020 on funding for the revitalization of public universities, other demands are earned academic allowances, renegotiation of the 2009 agreement and the deployment of the

university transparency and accountability solution among others.

The education of our children should not be used to play politics. We are not unmindful of the fact that most of the people at the corridors of power have their children in private schools and abroad. What then happens to the fate of the masses whose children are waiting endlessly?

Beji John, Jos.

Electorate shine your eyes and make the right choice of leaders

THE political atmosphere has gathered momentum thus giving rise to so many activities that will usher in new leaders into various political offices either by election or appointment. I deeply appreciate the role **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** plays in providing the platform for people to express their views.

The events surrounding politics is very tedious and require lots of finances and follower ship to achieve one's goal. This is the time that politicians spend a lot in campaigns and the preparations for the elections proper. This is the time that masses feel it's their turn to make money since they were not carried along as expected.

This is the time that salt, wrappers, rice and other items exchange hands. For those at the heart of it like the delegates, it's time to smile home with bulky pockets. Some people have openly said that if they don't maximize the

opportunity, they will have to wait for another four years without anything to show. This clearly shows that consciences of people will easily be bought with money and it will deprive many from the right sense of reasoning.

It is at this point that electorate make a lot of mistakes in the choice of their leaders because they have committed

themselves in unholy covenant that affects their choice. The politics of today is the period that possibly spends more that wins the heart of the people only few people watch out for credible personalities even if they don't have what it takes monetarily. Let's not becloud our thoughts with materialism.

This possibly has

compelled many political office holders to appoint people who assist them financially and otherwise during their electioneering campaigns not minding their intellectual capacity.

No wonder, some fumble when give appointments and cannot adequately protect the offices they occupy. This is a food for thought for every sensible person.

Doris Musa Jos

Causes of hold up should be checked

I wish to use the Nigeria standard Newspaper to observe the disturbing phenomenon of the hold up being witnessed within some major streets in Jos. The go slow really hampers a lot of schedules at such rush hours that most civil servants are heading to their homes after closing from work and may wish to purchase some few consumables for their families.

Vehicles with certain faults get grounded in

some cases while others whose vehicles over heat are thrown off balance. If one may truly ask, what are some of the causes that bring about what we are recently experiencing?

Federal Road Safety Commission should be more proactive to ensure that the roads are decongested for obvious reasons. The holdup could be a soft-target for hoodlums and miscreants to cause havoc on innocent commuters. Some persons

have been threatened at gun points to give out their valuables since there was no room for such persons to zoom off in the face of danger of that magnitude.

More personnel should be strategically positioned to address the anomaly. For the volunteers on some major streets, we salute your services to humanity as your labour of love will not go unrewarded. we need our roads to have free flow of traffic.

Christy Adams, Jos

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

Policies Nigeria needs to mitigate poverty

By FELIX ASHAKAH

POVERTY is a defining challenge in Nigeria. More than half of the Nigerian population is poor. It is a reflection of persistent disadvantages for particular segments of our society. Different factors ranging from unemployment, insecurity, inflation, and poor economic policies are responsible for poverty in Nigeria.

The poor and the middle class in Nigeria matter the most for economic growth and development. Economic policies focusing on the poor and the middle class have the potential of increasing employment, production, income, and consumption, and can subsequently lead to inclusive growth.

The poor in the society live on less than \$1.90 a day, according to the World Bank. The population of the poor in Nigeria is alarming. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 40.1 percent of Nigerians, which is about 83 million people, lived below the poverty line in 2019.

The World Bank reported that about seven million Nigerians would be plugged into poverty in 2021 following the prevalence of high commodities prices in the market. Today, the economic

realities in Nigeria show that the majority of Nigerians are poor and malnourished.

Economic policies have not favoured the majority in Nigeria. The poor and the middle class in Nigeria are suffering deprivations and inequalities caused by the government's poor economic policies. The sufferings of the majority have significant implications for growth and macroeconomic stability in the country.

The poor and the middle class in Nigeria are not getting the quality education required to contribute meaningfully to economic growth due to poor funding. The funding of the Nigerian education sector falls below the recommended international standard of 15-20 percent of the national budgeted expenditure by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Following poor budgetary allocation to the education sector in Nigeria, many primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions in both

rural and urban areas do not have the required facilities and teachers. Government economic policies that focus on education have the full potential of increasing the skills, knowledge, and abilities of the poor and the middle class, thereby resulting in economic growth.

The provision of quality education for the poor and the middle class may help to reduce the inequality of outcomes and of opportunities in Nigeria. Some of the educated poor Nigerians may find opportunities in the industries and political offices to earn higher salaries to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country.

The high unemployment rate in Nigeria is a contributing factor to poverty. According to the NBS, the unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2020 (Q4) was 33.3 percent, an increase from the 27.1 percent recorded in Q2 2020. The youth unemployment rate (15-34 years) was 42.5 percent in Q4 2020. This rate shows how deteriorated the labour situation is in Nigeria.

The health sector in Nigeria is worrisome. The rich and the political class do not use Nigerian hospitals because of their deteriorated state. Many poor Nigerians who cannot access and afford foreign hospital bills are dying in numbers.

Nigeria's government should focus on the health sector by making adequate funds available for the necessary facilities and employment of the right medical personnel. This will enable the poor and the middle class to access affordable health care services to boost their productive capacity towards higher economic growth.

In Nigeria, infrastructure deficiency has been a problem. Nigeria's government should as well make adequate infrastructure development policies for the provision of the necessary infrastructure. Addressing the infrastructural gap challenge through private and public participation will help to mitigate the sufferings of Nigerians.

The poor in the Northeast and Middle Belt states in Nigeria

cannot carry out adequate farming activities due to insecurity problems. They are still afraid of being raped or killed by terrorists. Nigeria's government must win the battle against insecurity to enable the farmers to carry out farming activities.

The Nigerian government must strive to regulate prices, thereby reducing inflation to a low single-digit. Many Nigerians are suffering from the impact of high inflation. Nigerians pay almost three times for the same quantity of goods and services they bought in 2014.

Nigeria's government should make economic policies that focus on the poor and the middle class to mitigate poverty, which is slowing down economic growth and development in Nigeria. Economic policies that focus on the reduction of poverty have the potential of increasing income, consumption, and production and subsequently lead to inclusive growth in Nigeria.

Felix Ashakah is economics lecturer at Western Delta University, Oghara

TERTIARY education in Nigeria is aloof and undismayed by the stony approach of the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) over the ongoing strike that has kept students at home for twelve weeks with ASUU announcing an extension of the strike by three months.

The government's inability to meet the terms of its agreement with the union since 2009 has birthed years of avoidable, undesired, and fruitless strikes in the past, even though it appears to be seen as a herculean task to meet the terms of such an agreement in the light of Nigeria's current economic reality that shows little or no interest in education, despite Nigeria's President or Vice-President (Dr Goodluck Jonathan and Professor Yemi Osinbajo) since 2007, two years before the agreement was reached, were former members of the union.

The outright reasons for these incessant strikes are clearly attributed to funding deficit and the lack of political will. Tertiary institutions globally with world-class reputations are less dependent on government funding except in socialist or communist societies.

Experts have opined that the Nigerian government at federal and state levels cannot fund education properly to meet global standards mainly because of the unavailability of required funds, corruption, and the lack of interest in tertiary education, research, and innovation.

This shows the need for higher education governance reforms to institutionalize a multi-source financing system in state and federal universities to enable them to compete globally and address their funding needs, even though this paradigm shift will come with a greater economic consequence on students, parents, and guardians.

Emotions must not be attached to the fact that tertiary education globally is increasingly becoming expensive, especially when there is little or no support from the government.

Adopting a multi-source financing system for higher institutions

By ALIKOR VICTOR

Universities in the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and other non-socialist advanced economies have a multi-sourced financial model that survives on tuition fees, entrepreneurial engagements, grants, and foreign and domestic donations.

They are self-managed with a greater sense of integrity and financial discipline. Network with universities alumni associations and support from the private sector are used to run these universities.

There should be a cost-sharing approach between the government, the universities, and the students (beneficiaries) to bear the economic responsibilities to galvanize funds to improve our universities.

A market-based fundraising model must be adopted to accommodate stakeholders' support in funding our institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. Assessing 2022 budgetary allocation of N593 billion (\$1.4 billion) for education representing 7.9 percent of the entire budget is way too low to address funding requirements for primary, post-primary, higher education, ministries, department, and agencies under the education sector

in Nigeria.

There are 49 federal-owned universities in Nigeria that depend mainly on federal subventions, remittance, and tuition for their management and running. Their inability and governance restrictions in devising innovative and sustainable means of fundraising are stalling the growth of these universities. Over-reliance and dependence on a few crumbs at the feet of a government that shows no interest in education is implausible.

There is a need to review the finance and governance model of Nigerian universities as their current funding needs cannot be met by the government. Market-related funding approach must be pursued, with better output and efficiency at a high cost.

University education in Nigeria if it has to improve in quality delivery, infrastructure, research, and development, cannot be gotten at the meagre sum universities accrue from government low subvention and tuition fees in higher institutions of learning.

The limited development witnessed in Nigerian universities is strongly related to the low level of funding and their unsustainable financial models. With more than 40 percent of Nigeria's population living below the poverty line of \$1.9 per day, we must accept that a vast

majority of Nigerians cannot have access to quality university education at a cheap fee.

The value and importance of research funding, grants, aid, and support for innovation cannot be overemphasized. The level of development of a nation has a relationship to the quality, approach, and system of its education at all levels.

Most researches in Nigeria are conducted to fulfil academic righteousness and promotion rather than for the purpose of identifying, solving, and proposing policies to improve the economy.

The strike embarked upon seems not to have an end in sight even though there are promises in the past and present to address the challenges bedeviling higher institutions in Nigeria.

The government and all stakeholders involved in the decision-making in universities must adopt a multi-sourced financial model to change the sad state of Nigerian universities. Education in Nigeria must not be politicized or relegated as it remains the livewire of any society with a serious commitment to achieving growth and development.

Alikor Victor is a development economist and policy expert

"There is a need to review the finance and governance model of Nigerian universities as their current funding needs cannot be met by the government. Market-related funding approach must be pursued, with better output and efficiency at a high cost. University education in Nigeria if it has to improve in quality delivery, infrastructure, research, and development, cannot be gotten at the meagre sum universities accrue from government low subvention and tuition fees in higher institutions of learning."

Change of Name					
SALISU I, formerly known as YAHAYA GARBA , now wish to be known and addressed as SALISU ILIYASU DANTATA All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CHIDIMMA I, formerly known as CHIDIMMA JOY UDEOGU , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. CHIDIMMA JOY ABOGU CLEMENT TOCHUKWU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	CHARITY I, formerly known as MISS CHARITY FESTUS , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS CHARITY MOSES ESSESSIEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	GOLER I, formerly known as EVERISTER NHAYTIDI JOHN now wish to be known and addressed as G O L E R EVERISTER MICHAEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	NYAM I, formerly known as NYAM ARIN now wish to be known and addressed as NYAM DENIS ARIN . Correct date of birth is 03/10/1997 not 03/10/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	BALA I, formerly known as VELNOE PAULINA JUMMAI now wish to be known and addressed as BALA PAULINA JUMMAI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
PASALI I, formerly known as YAHAYA MUHAMMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as PASALI YAHAYA AHMAD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CHRISTOPHER I, formerly known as CHRISTOPHER ONOJA OKEWU , now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTOPHER ONOJA AKOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	WAKMAN I, formerly known as WAKMAN MANJEL , now wish to be known and addressed as WAKMAN JOSALINE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	PIINEUE I, formerly known as AKPA FLORENCE NKEIRUKA, ISAAC PIINEUE now wish to be known and addressed as PIINEUE FLORENCE NKEIRUKA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	MARY I, formerly known as ELIAS BERITMWA MARY LAMLE , now wish to be known and addressed as MARY BERITMWA LAMLE All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	DANIEL I, formerly known as ATSEN, JOSEPH DANIEL , now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL,JOSEPH IGYEM . Correct date of birth is 13/11/1998 not 13/11/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ADERINTO I, formerly known as MISS SHEKARI IRENE , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ADERINTO IRENE SHEKARI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ADAK I, formerly known as MATTIAS DORIS JULIE , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAK ACHARAK DORIS JULIA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	USMAN I, formerly known as USMAN DAUDA SHEHU , now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN SHEHU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	SHAMBOR I, formerly known as TENPO DANIEL SUNDAY , now wish to be known and addressed as SHAMBOR SUNDAY DANIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	LADI I, formerly known as LADI SILAS GURUMDI , now wish to be known and addressed as LADI TARFUSA SILAS . Correct date of birth is 24/10/1970 not 26/10/1969. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	KURNAP I, formerly known as KURNAP VICTORIA LAR , now wish to be known and addressed as KURNAP VICTORIA JOHN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DENZAK I, formerly known as DANKAT SULE DADIP , now wish to be known and addressed as DENZAK DANGKAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	VOU I, formerly known as NVOU KWANG'A PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as VOU KWANG'A PAM All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	PAUL I, formerly known as KAVE NGUVEREN QUEEN , now wish to be known and addressed as PAUL NGUVEREN QUEEN All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ZELA I, formerly known as ZELA YAKUBU DAUDA , now wish to be known and addressed ZELA YAKUBU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OLOLA I, formerly known as MERCY OLUWATOYIN COLBY , now wish to be known and addressed as OLOLA MERCY TOYIN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MAREN I, formerly known as MERCY HARUNA MAREN , now wish to be known and addressed as MAREN BEATRICE HARUNA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ITODO I, formerly known as ITODO JESOPH, ITODO JOSEPH now wish to be known and addressed as ITODO PRECIOUS JOSEPH . Date of birth not 23rd January, 1991 is 23rd September, 1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OLUBOYO I, formerly known as OLUBOYO MIKE now wish to be known and addressed as OLUBOYO MICHAEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JOSHUA I, formerly known as JOSHUA YUSUFU MAIYANGA now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA YUSUFU SANTONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ABDULLAHI I, formerly known as AYUBA UMMI ALGAHANUNA (MISS) , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ABDULLAHI UMMI ALGAHANUNA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AYOOLA I, formerly known as AYOOLA ABOSEDE ODUNAYO now wish to be known and addressed as AYOOLA BOSE ODUNAYO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CHIMA I, formerly known as AZUH CHUKWUMA BENSON , now wish to be known and addressed as CHIMA AZUH BENSON All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
THOMAS I, formerly known as KOELOENGME DAVID DAMOUS , now wish to be known and addressed as THOMAS DAVID DAMOUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	LALU I, formerly known as GAYUS DAVID now wish to be known and addressed as LALU DAVID GAYUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MUNGA I, formerly known as MUNGA VERONICA now wish to be known and addressed as M U N G A V E R O N I C A SYLVANUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MUSA I, formerly known as MUSA AMINA , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA AMINA YUNUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OGHENEKOME I, formerly known as OGHENEKOME IVBIJARO now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OGHENEKOME OLABODE . All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 13/7/1975 not 7/10/1975. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ISIAKU I, formerly known as ISIAKU SHEHU USMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as ISIAKU USMAN MOHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
JOHN I, formerly known as JOHN PAM VICTORIA , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN KACHOLLOM VICTORIA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	VINCENT I, formerly known as TSOK VINCENT , now wish to be known and addressed as VINCENT ELISHA TSOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JAMES I, formerly known as JOSEPH CECILIA , now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES CECILIA JOSEPH . Correct date of birth is 27th May, 1975 not 1st January, 1940. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GUSAM I, formerly known as SEKYEN HOSEA , now wish to be known and addressed as GUSAM SEKYEN HOSEA All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DENNIS I, formerly known as SALOME MONDAY TANG'AN , now wish to be known and addressed as SALOME DENNIS DASEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ABUH I, formerly known as ADA SAMUEL ADESHIYAN , now wish to be known and addressed as ALICE ADA FLORENCE ABUH . All former documents remain valid. OLA Hospital and the general public to please take note.
DAKUNG I, formerly known as VREHGBEN NANBAM PLANGKAT , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKUNG NANBAM PLANGKAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	PYENKASHANG I, formerly known as AMOS PYENKASH , now wish to be known and addressed as PYENKASHANG AMOS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ONAJI I, formerly known as AIYEJINA QUEEN OMOKOSHI , now wish to be known and addressed as ONAJI QUEEN OMOKOSHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NGOZI I, formerly known as NGOZI PRECIOUS NJOKU , now wish to be known and addressed as N G O Z I P R E C I O U S IKECHUKWU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AMOS I, formerly known as ANDREW KOPTU NANBAM , now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS FREP'AN DIPILIP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JAMES I, formerly known as IYIWOSE DAVID ROSE RUTH , now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES RUTH BINDA . Correct date of birth 3rd April, 1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ABDULLAHI I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI AHMED and ABDULLAHI AHMED AHMED , now wish to be known and addressed as YAHAYA ABDULLAHI AHMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	EZEKIEL I, formerly known as CALEB CHRISTIANA , now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL CHRISTIANA DOMSHAK . Correct date of birth is August 10, 1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MAMTIP I, formerly known as MAMTIP PATIENCE DANIEL , now wish to be known and addressed as MAMTIP MANSUNG DURVEN . Correct date of birth 16/12/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	HENRY I, formerly known as BUENAP TUAMVLE , now wish to be known and addressed as HENRY BABA THEODORE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	TONJES I, formerly known as TONJEST TIMOTHY DAGWO , now wish to be known and addressed as TONJES TIMOTHY DAGWO . Correct date of birth is 1/10/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ALONGE I, formerly known as ALONGE BENJAMIN ADEBO IDOWU, ALONGE ADEBO BENJAMIN, ALONGE DR. BENJAMIN ADEBO IDOWU , now wish to be known and addressed as ALONGE BENJAMIN ADEBO IDOWU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
FELIX I, formerly known as REJOICE ASADAMURIMI , now wish to be known and addressed as FELIX REJOICE ASAMURIMI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	PETER I, formerly known as PETER WAMTING TSENLONG , now wish to be known and addressed as PETER SENLONG . All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 25/8/1985. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	PODAR I, formerly known as PODAR SIMDI DAREM , now wish to be known and addressed as PODAR SIMON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ZACHAEUS I, formerly known as ALFRED MONDAY DALEK , now wish to be known and addressed as ZACHAEUS JAMES MARAM . Correct date of birth is 17th April, 1960. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public	PAM I, formerly known as PAM MARKUS EZE , now wish to be known and addressed as PAM MARKUS IZA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JOSEPH I, formerly known as JOSEPH BLESSING OKOYE , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH BLESSING CHINEYE . Correct date of birth is 16/9/1989 not 16/7/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

News

We want capable president not zoning - Group

By WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

A political pressure group in Gombe, Northeast Nigeria, Hamza Almustapha Media Awareness (HALMA), has described the clamour for rotation of power to Southern Nigeria as a non issue for now.

According to the group, capability and capacity should be the watchword for Nigerians in choosing their next President in 2023.

Speaking during the group's awareness campaign in Gombe over the weekend, Gombe State Chairman of the group, Mohammed Habib said, the group was clamouring for a better candidate who can deliver irrespective of zone, region, state, tribe or religion.

He said, "the issue of zoning is not what we want now, all we want now is somebody who is capable and has the capacity to lead Nigeria irrespective of zone, region, state, tribe, religion or whatever background.

" We are clamouring for a better candidate that can deliver and we believe former chief security officer to late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, that is, Major Hamza Austapha, is that person that can deliver".

He said, Almustapha can take the country out of its current socioeconomic challenges especially in the area of security and economy.

According to him, Almustapha has a security background having



Almustapha

controlled security not only in Nigeria but two other countries.

He revealed that, as the brain behind the establishment of Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), Almustapha can revive the economy of the country for

the better.

He said, "On economy, he was the brain behind PTF, and it helped a lot in terms of education, infrastructure, roads and many other areas that PTF was involved in".

THE management of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Lokoja, has condoled the families of 15 persons who lost their lives during unfortunate boat mishap which occurred last week at Mai-Adua Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The National Inland Waterways Authority in a condolence message signed by its General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Jibril Darda'u expressed sadness over the incident.

The message reads in part: "We wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. We are greatly pained that this mishap occurred, despite all the measures the Authority has put in place to forestall such mishaps. Only recently, the Authority distributed life jackets and some patrol vessels to all our area offices across the country, to enhance surveillance and monitoring of activities on the waterways.

"We further wish to appeal to passengers and boat drivers to obey the rules and guidelines regulating

NIWA condoles families of boat mishap

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

passenger transportation.

The use of life jackets; no sailing at night; the use of standard boats and not overloading the boats are key guidelines for safe

passenger transportation. "As we condole with the government and people of Katsina State and in particular, the families of the deceased, we shall not relent on our efforts to curb these occurrences within our inland waterways".



Bello

APC chieftain defects to NNPP

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

DISSATISFIED with the ways things are going on in his party, a chieftain of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Nasarawa State and an aspirant for the House of Representative for Karu, Keffi and Kokona Federal Constituency Dr. Muhammad Kabeer Wakeel has formally announced his defection to

the New Nigeria people's party (NNPP) and picked its Senatorial nomination form.

In his resignation letter sent to his ward chairman and copied to the Local and State's chairmen of the APC, Wakeel attributed his action to the lack of organizational abilities from the leadership of the party as well as its tendencies of meting injustice to him and other

aspirants.

"From the ways things are going, I have the belief that the party is not prepared to ensure justice, fairness and even provider a level playing ground to its members including myself" he alleged.

Wakeel further observed that the situation is now becoming so chaotic instead of healthy competition in accordance with all democratic norms and values.

He stated that based on

that and many other reasons he has to shift his base and join a political party that is ready to offer him all the necessary opportunities to actualize his political aspirations and that is the NNPP

"Based on the poor nature of activities and uncoordinated state of affairs in the APC I have to shift my base to where I will be humbly accepted and treated with a high sense of decorum and justice to actualize my political dreams and

aspirations" he stressed.

The politician cum-estate developer believes that since politics is all about number and majority, he confidence that his teeming supporters would join him and vote for him in the senatorial election coming up soon.

Wakeel, however, stated that he has great respect for the National Chairman of the APC, Senator Abdullahi Adamu whom he regards as a father and wished him the best in his political journey.

Karu chair calls on stakeholders, party officials to unite

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Karu Local Government Area, Hon James Thomas has called on the APC

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja



Thomas

stakeholders of Aso/Kodape electoral ward to be united.

He made this known during an extended meeting with the APC stakeholders and party officials of Aso Kodape ward, on Sunday.

The Executive Chairman said the reason behind meeting was to remind the party officials about the forthcoming primary and general elections, and the need to prepare fully for it.

Thank you greatly for the support and prayers you have been giving to us, and I appeal to you to remained peaceful and united, He said.

The Karu local government Chairman used the meeting to thank the Nasarawa State Governor, His Excellency, Engineer Abdullahi Sule for the appointment of illustrious sons of Aso/Kodape ward into his cabinet, the gesture which a Chairman said must be reciprocated.



Mr. Chrysogonus Yilzak, Managing Director, PIPC (standing) making some remarks when he led Mr. Ian White and team from South Africa during a courtesy call on the Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong at the new Government House Little Rayfield, Jos. PHOTO: DANLADI DUK

PROBATE NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.
AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MBOHOK ELISHA GUTOM late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th May 2010. At JUTH Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MBOHOK GEOFFRE ELISHA late of COCIN LCC Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON ESTHER DAVID OHU late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th January 2022 at JUTH Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DANIEL DAVID OHU of No. 40 Jenta Adamu Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON OKOPA UNOGWU GABRIEL late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st Aug, 2020 at BHUTH, Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT UNOGWU MERCY GABRIEL OF St. Monica Catholic Church Gura Riyom Gyel Jos South LGA Plateau state . Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON BINVEN NANNA late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th January, 2021 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT BINVEN NIMVEN of warder, Barracks West of Minnes Jos, Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful Husband of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON WALI FRANCIS TAMBAYA late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th July 2021 at Qua'an -Pan LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT HANNATU FRANCIS WALI of St. Peter's Catholic Church Angwan Galadima Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON ELIZABETH AKUT late of Plateau state. Died on the 21st June, 2020 at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DAVID DOWSON AKUT OF Rantya State Lowcost Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON JUMMAI YEKSHIP ADAMU late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th March, 2022 at Tayin Pankshin LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ROTSHAK ADAMU YILCHIR of St. Anthony Catholic Church Tayin, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of th said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MARTHA DANIEL late of F.C.T. Died on the 4th June, 2020 at Abuja F.C.T.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ANNA SAMUEL KAMA of No. 10 Ramon New Abuja, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON PASTOR JOSEPH BANTU DAMULAK late of Plateau state. Died on the 19th Oct, 2019 at Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ALHERI JOSEPH BANTU of COCIN RCC. Chip Pankshin LGA, Plateau State . Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON ANTHONY JULIANA late of Nasarawa State died on the 24th June 2021 at Auta Balaifi Nassarawa State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT JAMES KEFAS CHULLU lateauof New Layout Jebu Bassa, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased State.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON INSPR. JOEL JOSEPH late of Plateau state. Died on the 30th October, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DESTINY JOEL JOSEPH & PIUS SAMUEL JOKYES of COCIN CCII Dakai Panyam Mangu LGA, Plateau State . Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Tyokyaa David Denen Abary late of kaduna State. Died on the 17th Dec., 2020 at Kaduna State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT T Y O K Y A A A B A R Y PHILOMENA TERKUMBUR of No. 281A Aheri, Jos Noth LGA. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON GWANDU HELEN GARBA late of Kaduna State. Died on the 13th January 2022 at St. Gerard's Hospital Kaduna State..	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DAVID ILIYA & AHMED ABDULKADIR GWANDU .of Plot 7/9/Kagarko Street Sabon Tasha Kaduna State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON ELIZABETH ITODO late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th March 2022 at JUTH Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ITODO PIUS ODEH Zone 3 No.5 Gwaran Dok Abattoir Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON RIMDAN ISHAKU late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th March, 2022 at Good Shepherd Hosp, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT RIMDAN JAMIN PONTIM, CHALYA GAVEN KIMDAN & JEMIMAH BYENCIT RIMDAN of Opp. INEC office Miango road Jos South LGA, Plateau State. . Lawful widow/son/daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON GARBA MAICHIBI late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd July 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT JUMMAI GARBA MAICHIBI & MONDAY GARBA MAICHIBI of Jenta Mangoro Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MAJU KARNI LIYUS late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st October, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MAJU CHRIS CORNELIUS of COCIN CC Butura Vet Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON AMOS MIENLEK KOPLANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th January, 2022 at Shendam, Sehndam LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT KOPLANG INNOCENT AMOS of COCIN Church Gwotkat Piapung Mikang LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON NJA LOHJUL TYEM late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th March 2002 at Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT TYEM GODSWILL LOHJUL of Kufang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON YAKSAT CHRISTIANA ADA late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th January 2022 at BHUTH, Plateau state.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT MAKLEK YAKSAT of St. Joseph Block Industry Rukuba Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DANLAMI JOHN BAWA late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th December, 2021 at General Hospital Pankshin	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT NANLEP DANLAMI BAWA of Holy Cross Catholic Church Pankshin, LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DARIM USENI late of Plateau late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th February, 2022 at Vom Christian Hospital Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT USAINI VICTOR DARIM of Holy Trinity Catholic Church Kakuruk, Barkin Ladi LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON JEROME CHUKWUNWIKI UMOLU late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd February 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT OPANNE JOYCE UMOLU & MICHAEL CHUWUMA UMOLU 117 IIBERTY Blvd, Jos South LGA Plateau State, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON INSP. EDWIN UJAH late of Plateau State died on the 7th October 2021 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT UJAH GABRIEL AGBO & EDWIN JANET UJAH . of Tudun Wada Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DAVOU DANBOYI BAJUME late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th August, 2018 at Hoss Riyom LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT BITRUS DANBOYI BAJUME & ABIGAIL DANBOYI BAJUME of R.C.M. Church Hoss Riyom LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON J A ' A F A R U Z A K A R I MOHAMMED also known as JA'AFARU MOHAMMED late of Plateau State. Died on 4th January 2022 at Pankshin LGA Plateau State..	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT RAMATU JA'AFARU of No.5 Forest Camp Bauchi Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<p style="text-align: center;">Signed (LADI .A. MADAKI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</p>	

Change of Name

MUHAMMED I, formerly known as YUSUF MUHAMMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD SANI YUSUF All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NAANMOEN I, formerly known as DAWAL SIMON , now wish to be known and addressed as NAANMOEN SIMON MOENDAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH I, IKECHUKWU MAXWELL CHIBUIKE , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 6th September, 2004 not 6th September, 2001. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to take note	ZAKARIYYA I, formerly known as HUSSAINI ZAKARIYYA HASSAN now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKARIYYA, USAINI ADAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	IZEVBIGIE I, formerly known as IZEVBIGIE OSAROBO MATHEW now wish to be known and addressed as IZEVBIGIE MATHEW . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	AKITI I, formerly known as ATIKI JOSEPH JAMES now wish to be known and addressed as AKITI JOSEPH JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
AGU I, formerly known as IDUMA RUTH NGWUTA , now wish to be known and addressed as AGU RUTH NNEOMA All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GIFT I, formerly known as ONYINYE GIFT IKEBUDU , now wish to be known and addressed as GIFT ONYINYE UDEMEZUE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	MEK I, formerly known as MEK, SIMON DAGAH, MEK SIMON PRINCE, SIMON MEK DAGAH and MEK SIMON , now wish to be known and addressed as MEK, SIMON DAGAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	MUHAMMAD I, formerly known as MOHAMMED HASHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD HASHIM ABDULLAHI . My date of birth was wrongly captured as 15/11/1968 instead of 15/11/1970. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	GBADEJOKO I, formerly known as GBADEJOKO RIDWAN TEMITAYO , now wish to be known and addressed as GBADEJOKO RIDWANLLAH ONAOPEPO . All former documents remain valid. NECO, WAEC and the general public should please take note.	MUHAMMAD I, formerly known as MUHAMMED IBRAHIM IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. NECO, WAEC and the general public should please take note.

What is Nigeria's priority?



By FRANCISCA ADIDI

THERE is no doubt to the fact that every Nigerian knows that the polity is heated given the fact that the 2023 elections are at the corner and politicians are forming caucus and negotiations are going on in order to bring in good results and to also belong to the credible or profitable platforms.

Nigerians are also aware that the too many problems of Nigeria are glaring. But the leadership is pretending not to see nor is doing enough to find any solutions to ending or reducing them.

The problem started since the previous administration who could not solve it. This present government came and promised

to end corruption and other lingering problems, yet neither the corruption nor the security problem Boko Haram nor banditry have reduced. Rather, the country has become too corrupt that only God will intervene.

It seems that the only language that is understood in Nigeria today is the language of politics. This is because politicians have taken so much and have overshadowed the polity that our leaders do not think of any development both physical and human but only themselves.

In most states, salaries of workers are not paid, while so many infrastructural developments are left undone with bad roads, hospitals unequipped, education neglected, just to mention but few. Yet our leaders complain of lack of funds to fix these sectors.

Surprisingly, today, politicians are buying forms for political offices with millions of Naira, where are all these monies coming from? What is Nigerians priority? Politicians are buying nomination forms with huge sums of money while our children are home waiting for ASUU strike to end. All these actions are proof that to our politicians, politics is a business rather than rendering

service and representation.

Nigerians have reason to ask our politicians how they all got this money to buy nomination forms while so many problems are left unresolved. This is because politicians are promoting class distinction and the use of power, money and position to usurp the various political offices of the nation.

Today, very few poor politicians can win elections in Nigeria. Unless if the poor will write one day and rise against the opinion of the rich, thus very good candidate may never win elections. Our type of politics is driven by money which is in the hands of other people who may not have the qualities but only have the money to buy the power. Meanwhile, Nigerian universities are closed down. Nigerians did not see the strike coming, with some seeing it as unwarranted, given that Universities have been on and off from ASUU strike and the 2020 Covid-19 shutdown of the country for more than three months.

Nigerians also think that both ASUU and Federal Government are wrong on this occasion judging by the disposition both displayed in allowing another strike. Also, Nigerian students



are tired of this unending lingering issues between ASUU and the federal government.

The question is, why can't the parties be considerate to the feelings of weary students and their families and the damage the incessant strikes have done on the University system? Why is ASUU not tired with the frequent strikes and disruption of academic activities? And also, why is the federal government so obstinate and unyielding to the demands, of ASUU on ensuring quality education?

We have more of private hospitals, than good government hospitals. The prices of petroleum products is on the increase. Many Nigerians are homeless because of the too many attacks on communities by bandits.

Today, the country is regarded as Africa's country with the highest unemployment rate. And as a means of surviving, many unemployed adolescents have turned to internet fraud while huge sum of money is in the bags

of many politicians.

Nigerai's economy situations is deteriorating every day with the purchasing and selling situation depressing as a result of inflation which is one of the country's great issue.

Nigeria's political leaders have not helped to improve the country's situation for they have a history of engaging in corrupt practices.

It is unfortunate that those who seek to govern Nigeria are made to cough out so much money to purchase forms just to signpost their original intention as persons who see only objective would be to hits recoup their huge investments and to further impotent the citizenly.

Nigeria's priority should be that her citizens live in peace and are comfortable irrespective of where they live.

Adequate measures should be made to ensure that our youth are well placed in all sector of life.

Nigeria's unchecked population



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

NIGERIA, the most populous black country in the world with the large population that should have been an advantage to the country, in terms of labour work force, military strength and as well as large market economic advantage is nowhere there.

Countries like China, India and Brazil have over the years maximize the advantage of their population to enable them achieve their development

However, considering that China and India are the most populous countries in Asia, Brazil in South America and Russia in Europe, they have continued to witnessed rapid development every day.

The question is then why is Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa not taking the advantage of her population for a faster growing economy, instead South Africa is taking the comparative economic advantage in the African continent?

Notwithstanding, there is a need for an accurate, reliable and acceptable population census in Nigeria that would enable the county to have a reliable figure of her citizens, not estimated figures that have been in use for a very long time.

It is on record that the last time Nigeria conducted her population census was in 2006, Nigeria is over due for another census,

considering the growing population every day.

Every year, government at all levels spend a lot of money on other capital projects without taken note of her population data that should be very significant, if really they want to achieve their set goals and objectives of human and structural development.

However the population of a country can only be ascertained, if the proper measures are taken to have a head count of it citizens. It is believed that from the last census conducted, many things have happened over the period of time.

Gladly, the National Population Commission(NPC), has begun with the Enumeration Area Demarcation (EAD), exercise last year 2021 to kick the process.

Nevertheless, population census is not only the total headcount, but also to obtain other information about the country's social demographic and economic data to ascertain the standard of livelihood of the citizens. This information would help to plan population by their labour force, market situation whether employed, unemployed, birth rate, death etc.

Recently, a report by the World Population revealed that Nigeria's overall population would reach about 401.31 million by the year 2050, while another report from the Census Bureau of the United States revealed that by the year 2047, Nigeria's population would surpass that of the United States, thereby making it the third most populated country globally.

Again, the National

Development Plan(NDP), has estimated that Nigeria's population currently stands at 200 million, which signifies 42.2% increment from the last census in 2006, while the result of the last population census in 2006 shows 140 million people been the total population

The rising concern of Nigerian citizens on a daily basis is that, the government of the day does not take note of the population growth, undernourishment, malnutrition, starvation and the worst is the insurgency, banditry, farmers herder clashes, communal clashes that have bedevilled the country for a long period of time, without much result achieve.

Now that the country is preparing for another election in 2023 to elect another crop of leaders to oversee the affairs of the country for another four years there is the need to ascertain the total population size of the citizens, with the NPC's preparation to conduct another population census next year 2023.

It is expected that census should be conducted after ten years like in the case of Nigeria, the World Bank recently reports that more than 45% of Nigeria population are extremely living in abject poverty, unemployment has skyrocketed as one third of the population is jobless, while food inflation has accounted for about 70%.

On this note, the Nigerian government will have to strike a balance between its population growth to sustain the

development growth of the country. And this can only be done when there are accurate data of the country that would enable them manage the resources of the country side by side with the population size.

Government cannot plan without knowing her population size and resources to be used for development.

To this end, the issue to conduct population census next year is at the floor of the National Assembly, which some members have kicked against, because of the security threats in the country, while others were for the census to be conducted.

It was suggested that the way NPC conducted the last enumeration area demarcation successful in all 774 local government areas in the country with extensive field workers across the country, with no single life loss is imperative for the conduct of the exercise.

The result of the population size that would be obtained from the population census would help the new leaders to chat a new course for the development of Nigeria.

Adequate measures should be put to ensure that security should be provided for the NPC workers during the census exercise to enable them get the actual population size number which would serve as a working document for the next government in 2023.

Nigeria has to key into the global best practice in censuing her population for the betterment and future of the country.

"On this note, Nigeria government would have to strike a balance between its population growth to sustain the development growth of the country. And this can only be done when there are accurate data of the country that would enable them manage the resources of the country side by side with the population size".

By JIDAUNA DARING

WITH the emergent of a Student Union Government (SUG) as association of students in our various institutions of learning such as Universities, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and others, the significance of this union cannot be underestimated since it is concerned with student's rights and welfare.

Since such unions are mainly to protect the interests of students, they should as well ensure a riot free environment to enable the students concentrate on their studies at all times. This is because no effective learning can take place under a chaotic atmosphere as far as learning is concerned in education anywhere in the society.

While it is also the duty of the union to perhaps always chart a course for mutual understanding among the students, lecturers and management of these higher institutions. They are also supposed to adhere strictly to the laid down rules and regulations of the schools because they are expected to serve as partners in progress with the school authority.

However, the recently sworn-in executive officials of SUG at the Assistant Works Superintendent (AWS) in Jos, the Plateau State capital, was a clear example of students' active participation in campus politics.

Such Union EXCO should therefore embrace transparency and accountability as their watch word, since they were elected and sworn-in to improve the overall condition of their fellow students, this is because the responsibility of the students has been conferred on the Union, because they represent them and their interest.

In this regard, the inauguration of AWS set 39 SUG as alluded above has ushered in an exco that would pilot the affairs of the student's union of the school for the next two years.

However, the newly sworn-in officials have been charged to exhibit high level of commitment while discharging their duties.

Principal of AWS, Mr. Zoemnaan Felix Daboet gave the charge during the inauguration of the SUG executive officials (EXCO), held at the school hall in Jos, last Wednesday.

Mr. Daboet said that the student unionism is an age long tradition, adding that it is also a platform for students to harness and articulate their common goals for presentation to management.

He maintained that AWS is equally an institution in a class of itself, stressing that the school programmes are designed only to take care of the middle man-power. The principal further said that its general activities can hardly be distinguished from those in other conventional institutions.

The principal also in his

remarks stated in strong terms that the union leadership is not, and cannot be a parallel management. He then advised them to submit themselves to the constituted authority and also ensure that they practice unionism within the laid down rules, as management would not hesitate to sanction any erring official/member.

Mr. Daboet told the students that the primary reason why

expressed happiness and thanked God Almighty for making the epoch event a huge success.

Comrade Yohanna assured that students of the EXCO commitment and readiness to carry all its members along while discharging their respective duties. He called on all its members to rally round the new EXCO with useful advice. "Let us all unite and

As AWS swears in new SUG leadership



they were all admitted should remain paramount in their minds. He urged them to take their studies seriously, and also gave the new exco the needed support at all times.

Earlier in his brief remarks, Electoral Committee (ELCOM) Chairman, John Solomon Abwo thanked the management of the school for the support, and also appreciated the students for finding them worthy to serve in their capacity as ELCOM. He commended the students for conducting themselves peacefully before, during and after the election.

In his handing over speech, the outgoing SUG President, Comrade Joseph Dakop thanked the management and the students for the wonderful support accorded to SUG set 38 during their tenure and challenged the students to always adhere strictly to the rules and regulations of the school.

The newly sworn-in SUG president, Comrade Pam Christopher Yohanna while delivering his acceptance speech

work together as a team or family so as to enable us achieve our goals", Yohanna stated.

The SUG president said that they would not encourage or tolerate any action of its members that is capable of creating disunity among them or fail to take responsibilities seriously. He pointed out that if the needed support and cooperation is given, nobody would regret gaining admission into the school.

In a vote of thanks, vice principal of the school Engr. Lamben Dafom Nuhu applauded the efforts of Plateau State Ministry of Works for sustaining and keeping the spirit of the school alive and urged the SUG new Exco to work as a team with the management so as to move the school forward.

The newly inaugurated officials include; Pam Christopher Yohanna as President, Benson Okafor V.P, Dominic James Dabol; Sec Gen,- Dabagal Dakan; Assist Sec, Taofeck Ganiyu; Treasurer, Pam Daylop; Financial Secretary, Davou Jang; Auditor, Nuhu H. Zubairu; Director of Social and Daniel



IMAGES

PRESIDENT OF PSN PAYS COURTESY ON GOVERNOR LALONG

The President, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Prof. Cyril Usifoh yesterday led his team to pay courtesy call on the Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong at Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos



PSN State Chapter Chairperson, Pharm Kaneng Pam (right) presenting the hosting right given to Plateau to Governor Simon Bako Lalong



Governor Lalong shaking hands with the President, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria



A cross section of members of the PSN President's entourage



A cross section of members of the PSN committee Plateau State 2022



President, PSN, Prof. Cyril Usifoh (middle) putting heads together with the coordinator of the Conference to be hosted by Plateau, Pharm Buenyen (right) and State Chairperson, Pharm. Kaneng Pam



Governor Lalong (left) presenting souvenir to the PSN President, Prof. Cyril Usifoh



L - R: Mr. Chrysogonus Yilzak, Managing Director, PIPC, Dr. Makut Simon Macham, DOPPA and the Governor's Personal Physician, Dr. Benjamin



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (right) with Prof. Noel Wannang during the PSN visit on Governor

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Odd World

'My husband does food shopping himself'

A woman left people in stitches after sharing her husband's hilarious attempt at doing the food shopping by himself - as he quickly realised he was out of his depth.

Most households and families will have one adult that takes care of the food shopping more often than the other.

And because they tackle it every week, they're a pro at finding everything their family needs in no time at all - without getting lost down the pet food aisle when they don't have any pets.

But what happens when they can't make it to the shops and have to rely on their other half to pick up the slack?

Well, it's usually a disaster, as one woman on has discovered after her husband tried braving the supermarket on his own and immediately found himself way out of his depth.

posting anonymously the woman revealed her husband had ventured out to the shops to pick up some essentials by himself, but failed miserably in his quest to be more

independent as he had to call his wife every few minutes for advice on what products he needed to buy.

The woman shared a picture of her call log showing four incoming calls lasting no more than 17 seconds, with each call spaced less than five minutes apart.

She captioned the image:

"My husband went to pick up a few groceries alone. I got a call from him for advice every few minutes."

The picture proved relatable for many people in the comments of the Reddit post, as there were hundreds of messages from people who have found themselves in similar situations when it comes to braving the food shop.

One person wrote: "I do most of the grocery shopping for the house, but my wife makes the list. I have definitely had to call multiple times. I've now gotten into the habit of making one call at the end for all the items I'm confused about, whether the instructions are unclear, they're sold out, etc."

While another said: "Yeah, us married people

do that when usually one is the designated grocery shopper and we're sent instead!"

"This is me, only I'm the wife. My husband does the shopping, so I'm lost in a grocery store with questions about heavy whipping cream versus regular whipping cream", a third commented.

And while some poked fun at the husband's inability to complete the food shopping without his wife's help, others thought it was "sweet" that he was dedicated to communicating and getting things right.

Someone said: "Better than being with somebody who doesn't communicate, I think it's sweet."

As someone else added: "Hey give him some credit. Apparently, this is not something he is good at, but he is at least trying."

We use your sign-up to provide content in ways you've consented to and to improve our understanding of you. This may include adverts from us and 3rd parties based on our understanding. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Source The Mirror



Lamentations of the weak

I woke up a few days ago thinking of many people in Nigeria who have not eaten food perhaps for some days now. After all, I was recently made to understand that Nigeria presently tops the list of nine African countries with the highest cost of white bread. This is followed by South Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, Ghana, Mauritius, Egypt, Morocco and Kenya. But again, I stand to be corrected, had our successive leaders managed our resources well, none of these nations would have gotten closer to us in terms of systematic development and prosperity. Aside the rising cost of bread, it takes an extra sacrifice to buy many other commodities in our markets today.

I was also deep in thoughts about those who are presently sick but cannot effort to go to hospital for treatment due to lack of resources. Come to think of this with a sober reflection, since the advent of this democratic dispensation, our leaders who vowed to transform our country for the better are almost failing us. Most of them promised us heaven on earth even as we detested broken promises but the indicators of Human Development Index are not at all palatable.

Today, our narratives are that most hospitals in this country are becoming but visiting clinics. In our rural areas, the debilitating condition of most healthcare facilities constantly make tears freely flow out of our eyes. Beyond this pragmatic dilemma, I am equally thinking of many innocent citizens in kidnappers den for months and years forgotten by our leaders who are by constitutional provisions anticipated to protect us. As I write, I am aware of many innocent Nigerians held hostage in bushes begging for their lives to no avail. Many unlucky ones have been killed following the inability of their loved ones to raise ransom for payments.

A few days ago, many citizens of this country became so traumatized after hoodlums who kidnaped commuters along Abuja-Kaduna in a passenger train decided to display their victims' pictures calling on the Federal Government to do the needful if their relations intend to see them alive again. The video was so heart-touching considering the fact that even toddlers were not spared from this horrendous and nasty experience of video marketing for bargain. It is so pitiful knowing too well that all my life, I have never imagined that one day, human beings would be bargained for in such an agonizing and dehumanizing manner.

Today, many citizens of this country are perishing in afflictions, while for others, their hearts have failed them. No doubt, the wicked has risen against the church even as many are yet to decode these happenings. Our political leaders are playing politics with human lives while innocent souls are in a vulnerable situation left at the mercy of these unrepentant criminals and terrorists.

Thus, it takes much more courage to survive in this country than any other place in this world. There is no justice and

equity in the land even as our leaders continue to fumble without success in navigate us out of the present socio-economic and political dull-drum. Many within the political class are consistently manipulating us and the entire system to ensure that we continue to be subservient to their intrigues and administrative ingenuity without any revolt. The point however is; how can a nation be happy when some of its citizens have been chased out of their ancestral homes and are refugees in their fatherland? How can we be happy seeing our children staying at home as all universities remain closed for only God knows how long? Why should we be happy knowing too well that the resources of this country are not used consistently for the benefit of all?

What kind of a nation is this that in the midst of this calamity we have found ourselves in, speaking to power is a crime? Why must we continue to remain silent when all the odds are overwhelming us? Thus, I see nothing wrong with the constructive criticism offered by the Bishop of the Diocese of Sokoto, Rev. Fr. Mathew Hassan Kukah who recently spoke truth to power over the worsting situations in this country. I hold in high esteem Fr. Matthew Kukah who moved by the pains and trauma of the citizenry had to chastise the powers that be in such an appreciable manner.

Left in the middle of the ocean with no other place to go, many of our younger ones have equally lost hope of a better tomorrow. As it is, more than ten million children of this country are out of school mostly for no fault of theirs. Unfortunately, these same Almajiri children and other vulnerable ones roaming our streets are amongst those who have continued to give us sleepless nights. They are the ones who have joined forces with the derailed Boko Haram sect causing unbearable havoc in almost all the regions of this country.

Knowing too well that these increasing number of out of school children will not be in the best interest of our nation, our institutions have continued to be under lock and key. Many of these undergraduate students are becoming vulnerable and easy recruits for evil-doers and drug peddlers even as most of them have been knocked-off by challenges of life and do not think of a brighter tomorrow. This life has certainly been unfair to many innocent citizens of this country who for no fault of theirs have continued to wallow in abject poverty. This is definitely not the kind of Nigeria our founding fathers prayed and or dreamt of.

However, no matter how high a stone is thrown up; it must certainly come down someday. Therefore, whether the devil likes it or not, it is settled in heaven and very soon, the Egyptians we see, we shall see them no more. We must however be wise enough to play our part with all sincerity of purpose and responsibility towards opening a new chapter for this country.

Feature

COCIN Nassarawa Gwong, Jos: Celebrating God's faithfulness

Come this Sunday, 15th May 2022, the Church of Christ in Nations, (COCIN) Nassarawa Gwong will expectantly be celebrating its 50th Golden Jubilee in grand style. Established in 1972, the church which started as a prayer house with the help of God has expanded to what it is today following successive Men of God's sincere commitment and sacrifice which the church has been privileged to have, Bulus Gambo and Jennifer Yarima, writes.

TAGGED "Victory Sanctuary" COCIN Nassarawa Gwong was established with the sole aim of creating a convenient worship center and also reach out to as many lost souls as possible with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. When the Church under the auspices of Sudan United Mission, (SUM) was first established in Wase in 1904 by the legendary, Dr Karl Kumn, it did not take many decades for it to proliferate across the nooks and crannies of the region. Basically, it was the desire of Dr. Karl Kumn and his cohorts that they within the shortest possible time ensure all villages and areas both within and beyond the Middle Belt region hear and bear witnesses to the wonderful works of our savior and redeemer Jesus Christ, and this they were all sincerely committed to.

Against all odds, these men of God took the bull by the horn defeating any and every obstacle which stood on their way to ensuring that the people were not left in darkness. Under the harsh tropical weather, these Christian missionaries never for once relented in the service of the Lord. Decades after they left the scene, their successors who had been well nurtured in the word of God continued to propagate the gospel even beyond targeted areas. Some decades later, COCIN as a body of Christ found its roots beyond Wase into the present day Bauchi, Plateau and Borno States.

For COCIN Nassarawa Gwong Jos situated in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, the present popular Ekan Primary School Chwel-Nyap is a fundamental historical link with the establishment of COCIN LCC Nassarawa Gwong Jos. This is because; the primary school served as a nucleus for the establishment of the present COCIN Church Nassarawa in 1971. It all started in 1970 when some members of Chwel-Nyap Women Fellowship decided to move their once-a-week prayer meeting to the school to reduce the distance for some of their members who had to trek from



Rev. Mohzo, COCIN President

places like Rikkos, Nabor and environs for their usual meetings. With the passage of time, the leadership of Chwel-Nyap Church found a piece of land to relocate the school to the present Chwel-Nyap Primary school and had initially offered to give the Women Fellowship the piece of land for a token free.

Instead, the church council decided to open a branch of Chwel-Nyap Church for full Sunday Services. Da Choji Bot Budung was appointed the pioneer leader of the Church while Yakubu Dung was the pioneer secretary. Mrs. Asabe Yakubu Dung was the pioneer women leader. Some of the pioneer members of the church include the families of Pozoh Jang Babu Zoyong, Da Chungnun Sambo, Mallam Tanko Yawus, Peter Chingle, Dauda Tawur, Da

Laurence Shom, Pozoh Danshetu Sanda. Da Choji Bot led as a quasi-Pastor (Mai Bishara) for about a year and subsequently gave way to Pozoh Jang Babu Zoyong to continue with what is today regarded as the success story of COCIN Nassarawa Gwong.

The full Sunday worship started with about 50 people including men, women and children who used one of the two classrooms. It did not however take a long time for the number of worshippers to outgrow the classroom especially when the Christians including soldiers resident in the area joined the Church. This led to the wall in-between the classrooms being pulled down the leadership saw the need to increase the width and length to accommodate increasing population.



Rev. Gwam, COCIN Nassarawa Gwong, Jos

In about two years, the parent church at Chwel-Nyap decided to move to its present permanent site leaving the old building for the Church. During the period, those who served as quasi-pastor (Mai Bishara) gave themselves for the work of evangelism as well as carried on with their secular jobs. However, things began to change with time as the successors of Pozoh Jang Babu Zoyong were trained as Catechists. Da Sale Gyang Pam was the first Catechist to be posted to COCIN Nassarawa Gwong. The church continue to grow spiritually and numerically. It was during his tenure that the foundation of the present auditorium was laid.

Da Haruna Boksong took over from Da Sale Gyang Pam. He was initially posted to Nassarawa Gwong on a mission to resolve a disagreement between the church elders (as he was known to be good at that from past experience). After resolving the issue, he headed the church for three years (1983-1986). During this period Da Boksong went ahead with the building project and completed it in 1984. He also has to his credit, the nurturing of the Church's Sabon Rai Don Kowa (New Life for All) group to a sound footing leading to its recognition as "Zone Two". The Church elders who worked with Da Boksong included Da Geoffrey Bok and Pastor Joseph Philip Dashi, who built on the exemplary character of their devoted and hardworking predecessors.

The completion of the building of new church auditorium came

with rapid development of the church as manifested by the increasing membership of the church over the period. As a result of this, Rev. John Nash Pam was posted to take over and work with Da Boksong. He was the first ordained Reverend to lead the church. The church had at all times in its evolution run with the spirit of furthering the spread of the word of Jesus Christ at heart. The Pioneer quasi-pastors and their successors did not find things easy at the initial stages but that did not deter them from achieving their objectives because they were disciplined and served in their various roles in the church wholeheartedly and in obedience with their set guidelines.

Attaining 50 years this year, the church has growth with remarkable testimonies to share both within the church, its mission fields, sub-group leadership, followership and the entire church expansion project. Today and to God's glory, the unity of purpose and collaborative efforts by the congregation has consistently helped in no small measure towards aiding the people overcome contemporary challenges. As COCIN Nassarawa Gwong celebrates its 50th anniversary, both the President Church of Christ in Nations, (COCIN) Rev. Dr. Amos Mohzo, leading Revered Cletus Gwan, the pastor, elders, various sub-groups and the entire congregation must be commended over their tireless efforts towards keeping the flag of our Lord Jesus Christ flying. Happy celebrations to all.

"Da Haruna Boksong took over from Da Sale Gyang Pam. He was initially posted to Nassarawa Gwong on a mission to resolve a disagreement between the church elders (as he was known to be good at that from past experience). After resolving the issue, he headed the church for three years (1983-1986). During this period Da Boksong went ahead with the building project and completed it in 1984. He also has to his credit, the nurturing of the Church's Sabon Rai Don Kowa (New Life for All) group to a sound footing leading to its recognition as "Zone Two". The Church elders who worked with Da Boksong included Da Geoffrey Bok and Pastor Joseph Philip Dashi, who built on the exemplary character of their devoted and hardworking predecessors."



Drums for Lalong @ 59

THE corridors of power was agog last week with drums of celebrations to mark the birthday of Governor Simon Bako Lalong who clocked 59 on May 5th 2022.

It wasn't a moment for lavish celebrations in view of the challenges being faced in the state and country but there was clinking of wine glasses to mark the day as his family members, close associates and personal aides celebrated the 'First Man'.

Good will messages from many notable dignitaries including President Mohammadu Buhari, members of Parliament at the state and National levels, the Progressives Governors Forum, and other groups and individuals all wished the celebrant well describing him as a man with a strong desire for fostering peace and unity of the nation especially with his role as Chairman Northern Governors Forum and in his state.

Governor Lalong who said he was so humbled by the gesture appreciated God for the gift of life which he said is paramount to all the achievements he has done in his lifetime. He prayed for wisdom to continue to lead the state and nation in the many areas of assignment he finds himself.

He dedicated his birthday to the state praying for more peace and unity among citizens and more developmental strides to be recorded, and also to two young star-golfers who died in an accident while returning from a golf kitty at the Rhino Golf Course in Jos, shortly after the May 2022 Sallah.

Unity Iftar 2022

As the Muslim Ummah rounded up their 2022 Ramadan fast, activities at Plateau Government House Little Rayfield heightened with an Iftar dinner and breaking of fast at the instance of the Governor.

The dinner tagged 'Unity' fast' was held on Tuesday April 28, 2022 a few days to Sallah at the Banquet Hall, Government House Jos. Government played host to both

Christians and Moslems for the breaking of fast. The dinner brought together both Christian and Moslem leaders at government circles, the traditional institutions, social and religious sectors.

This is not the first time Governor Lalong is spearheading such ventures where he uses as a platform to advance his message on interreligious tolerance and need for peaceful living among different faiths. His peace strides is among the cardinal policy thrusts of his rescue administration.

Prof. Danladi Atu, the Secretary to the Government, said the welcome address at the fast-breaking-dinner saying the Iftar, which is at the instance of the governor, was solely a gesture to promote unity and peaceful coexistence among the citizens of Plateau State.

He said the Governor had tagged the meal 'unity meal' that's why the dinner was also used as a forum to invite guests cutting across different divides to partake in the significant gathering. He called for continued prayers for the state to keep it afloat to advance seeds of development.

The Governor, on his part, challenged all leaders and faithfuls of the two prominent faiths and religions of Christianity and Islam to be practical about the teachings of their faith by showing love to others and living in peace.



News

Lalong assures of hosting PSN Conference

PLATEAU Governor Simon Bako Lakong has assured the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) of his support towards hosting their 2022 conference tagged "Tin City 2022".

The Conference which is to be held in the state in November is expected to attract over 5000 delegates, said PSN President Prof Cyril Osifo as he led PSN Executives and stakeholders on a visit to Government House Jos yesterday.

The PSN president said aside coming to intimate the Governor of their upcoming National Conference 2022 which Plateau was given the hosting rights to host in November 2022 the visit is also to appreciate the Governor for creating an enabling environment for pharmacists to work.

Osifo said: "You have continued to display an uncommon leadership attributes for peace which has affected many including our society making pharmacist to strive" even as he went further to congratulate Plateau for winning the hosting rights of the conference after a keenly contested process.

The PSN President also assured the Governor that the state will benefit

By PALANG KASMI

immensely from the forum as it will be a chance for the Government to showcase itself while there will be activities like awareness health walk, among others for the benefit of citizens.

In her remarks, Chairperson of PSM Plateau State, Pharmacist Kaneng Pam, said they are glad to host the conference recalling that the last time the state hosted the conference was 27 years ago in 1985.

Pam said they are expecting over 5000 delegates in Plateau for the conference which will be great economic boost to the state and the hospitality industry and equally a great opportunity to debunk negative rumours peddled outside that the state is a no-go area due to insecurity challenges.

She used the forum to do the symbolic presentation of the hosting rights baton and banner, and decorated the Governor with the conference regalia ahead of the November event.

In his remarks while responding, Governor Lalong welcomed the Pharmaceutical experts to the state saying the PSN should be rest assured of

the state's hospitality as they come for the November bound conference.

While presenting a gift symbolising an artistic artifact of the state's tourism potentials to the PSN President, Lalong said the people of the state will be eager to welcome and receive them.

He commended the pharmacists for their work in the health sector and also in the socio-economic development of the state

Plateau State Association USA swears-in new executive

FOLLOWING the recently concluded elections in March, the newly elected officials of the Plateau State Association USA, Inc. (PSA-USA, Inc) were sworn-in on Monday, May 2, 2022. A statement made by the Publicity

A young and new breed politician in Bauchi Arfat Aminu Dan Maliki, has declared his intention to contest for the Bauchi Central Constituency seat in the Bauchi State House of Assembly.

Arfat who made the declaration yesterday in Bauchi told the party executives that he decided to run for the office because he is not satisfied with the performance of past lawmakers, especially in Bauchi's central constituency since the

Arfat declares intention to contest Bauchi central constituency

From
Abbas Shehu Gungura,
Bauchi

transition to civil rule in 1999.

According to him, legislative work is a serious business that requires vibrant and intellectual persons, particularly the youth to make laws for the good of the state.

He said he is contesting under the platform of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in view of his belief in its manifestos.

The young aspirant claimed that he has been giving back to his constituency through community service adding that he needs a higher platform to do more and better the lives of his people.

"I am contesting the Bauchi central constituency seat, not because of any personal interest, but to serve the people."

"So many people have won elections in the past, but sadly, they have not done enough to change the narratives in the Bauchi central constituency."

"I have started holding consultations with critical stakeholders in the state and have accepted their advice and guidance. There is no person that can be successful without consulting with those ahead of him people who can support and mentor you" he concluded.



Biden

Sports

By TOM MASTON

Ballon d'Or 2022

Will the Champions League final decide the winner?

FOR all the controversy and criticism it generates, the Ballon d'Or remains the most important individual award in world football, and the race to claim the 2022 prize is well and truly on.

GOAL is tracking the race for the most coveted individual award in men's football after Lionel Messi took home the prize for the seventh time in 2021.

France Football announced in March that the rules for Ballon d'Or voting have changed, with the key one being that the award will be based on performances over a single season, rather than a calendar year.

That means performances at the 2022 World Cup, which is set to kick-off in November, will not be considered this year, and instead will be judged when voting for the 2023 Ballon d'Or gets under way.

The importance placed on trophies (aka 'Jorginho's Law') has also been scaled back, meaning the prize *should* reflect the best footballers from each season, rather than those who lift the most silverware.

With all that in mind, and with defending champion Lionel Messi in the hunt for an eighth Golden Ball, who holds the most power in this year's Ballon d'Or battle as it enters its final months?

Erling Haaland (Borussia Dortmund)

In 2021-22: 36 goals, nine assists.

Haaland likely has just one more match in a Dortmund shirt to come before he leaves Signal Iduna Park so expect him to try and go out with a bang this coming weekend.

Harry Kane (Tottenham)

In 2021-22: 34 goals, 10 assists.

Though he did not add to his own goal or assist tallies against Liverpool, Kane played his part in Tottenham's crucial goal at Anfield on Saturday, as the England captain again showcased his creative capabilities.

Son Heung-min (Tottenham)

In 2021-22: 25 goals, nine assists.

Son is back in the top 20 after forcing himself into the Premier League Golden Boot race in recent weeks, and if his goals fire Tottenham back into the Champions League, then he has a real shot at making the shortlist.

Riyad Mahrez (Manchester City)

In 2021-22: 29 goals, 12 assists.

Mahrez looked set to be Man City's hero at Santiago Bernabeu when he curled a shot past Thibaut Courtois



Benzema

with 17 minutes left on the clock, only for Real Madrid to launch their incredible comeback in the final moments.

Christopher Nkunku (RB Leipzig)

In 2021-22: 34 goals, 20 assists.

There will be no European final for Nkunku to catch the eye of Ballon d'Or voters in after Leipzig came up short in their Europa League semi-final against Rangers.

The France winger did, however, add four more goals to his season's tally over the past seven days, and could still end the campaign with a DFB-Pokal winner's medal.

Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool)

In 2021-22: Four goals, one assist, 31 clean sheets. Won Carabao Cup.

Van Dijk has now reached the Champions League final on three occasions in the past five years, which when put in the context of him missing almost a full year with a serious knee injury just speaks to the impact he has on this Liverpool team.

Thibaut Courtois (Real Madrid)

In 2021-22: 20 clean sheets. Won La Liga & Supercopa de Espana.

While he may not garner the same

attention as his team-mates at the other end of the pitch, Courtois has been key to Madrid reaching the Champions League final, as well as their dominance in La Liga.

In the European knockout stages alone he has saved a penalty from Lionel Messi in the last 16, pulled off a string of stunning stops in both legs against Chelsea, and got just enough toe on Jack Grealish's shot to edge it around the post just before Los Blancos launched their incredible comeback against Man City.

Thiago Alcantara (Liverpool)

In 2021-22: Two goals, four assists. Won Carabao Cup.

Thiago had one of his worst halves of the season in the opening 45 minutes against Villarreal, but he - like his Liverpool team-mates - recovered after the break as he returned to pulling the strings in the Reds' midfield.

Luka Modric (Real Madrid)

In 2021-22: Six goals, 11 assists. Won La Liga & Supercopa de Espana.

Modric was among the star names who were withdrawn during the closing stages of Madrid's dramatic Champions League semi-final win, as Carlo Ancelotti trusted his young



Mane

guns to turn the tie around.

That should not, though, dampen expectations around Modric heading into the final considering the level of his performances over the course of the campaign.

Kylian Mbappe (Paris Saint-Germain)

In 2021-22: 44 goals, 29 assists. Won Ligue 1 & UEFA Nations League.

Mbappe continues to add to his outrageous goal involvement numbers as PSG's season winds down in France - the question now is whether he will be leaving his homeland this summer.

Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich)

In 2021-22: 55 goals, 11 assists. Won Bundesliga & DFL-Supercup.

After being on track for much of the campaign, a slow finish to the season for Lewandowski means he is set to miss out on breaking his own record for the most goals in a single Bundesliga season, with the focus around the Poland star now on whether he will sign a new contract at the Allianz Arena.

Sadio Mane (Liverpool)

In 2021-22: 27 goals, five assists. Won Africa Cup of Nations & Carabao Cup.

The campaign backing Mane to contend for the Ballon d'Or in 2022 is gathering momentum, with the Senegal star netting the winning goal on the night against Villarreal as Liverpool progressed to the

Champions League final.

France Football have been keen to remove the emphasis on trophies won to their voters, but if Mane backs up his Africa Cup of Nations success with three or four club trophies, can he be denied the ultimate individual honour?

Mohamed Salah (Liverpool)

In 2021-22: 32 goals, 19 assists. Won Carabao Cup.

The newly crowned FWA Footballer of the Year is not producing the same match-winning displays that he was in the first half of the season, but as the Ballon d'Or moves to being a season-long prize, it must be hoped that those displays by the Egyptian are remembered, particularly if other Liverpool players step up in their upcoming cup finals.

Karim Benzema (Real Madrid)

In 2021-22: 46 goals, 14 assists. Won La Liga, UEFA Nations League & Supercopa de Espana.

Even if the headlines went to some of his team-mates, it was still Benzema that scored the winning goal for Real Madrid in their Champions League semi-final victory over Man City.

The France striker also provided an assist for Rodrygo on the night, and it now seems nailed on that he will claim football's ultimate individual honour, even if Los Blancos do come up short in Paris.



Salah

Sports

Mbappe planning to leave PSG

REAL Madrid suffered a 1-0 defeat against Atletico Madrid on Sunday in La Liga. The result was only of academic interest, as manager Carlo Ancelotti's men have already won the league.

Meanwhile, Jerome Rothen has said that Kylian Mbappe plans to leave Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at the end of the season. Elsewhere, Los Blancos have suffered a setback in their pursuit of a Monaco midfielder.

Kylian Mbappe is planning to leave PSG this summer, according to French football pundit Jerome Rothen. The Frenchman is in the final two months of his contract with the Ligue 1 giants. He has not committed himself to the Parisians yet, giving rise to speculations about his future. Real Madrid are eager to take him to the Santiago Bernabeu.

Los Blancos failed to secure Mbappe's signature last summer when their colossal bids of over €150 million were turned down by the French side. However, the Parisians remain in the hunt for the 23-year-old, who wants to leave the Parc des Princes this year.

Real Madrid are planning to sign Mbappe on a Bosman move ahead of the new season. Speaking recently, as relayed by Marca, Rothen said that the Frenchman is now driven by the sporting project rather than money.

"Mbappe has remained open to the possibility of an extension, so PSG could offer him something substantial, but money isn't his priority, it's the sporting project. He wants these answers, and he is waiting for them. He doesn't have them."

"His plan, if nothing changes at PSG, is to leave.



Mbappe

I hope that the PSG leaders are aware of that. What is certain, and the fans should know this, is that PSG means a lot to him and he does have strong connections to the club," Rothen said.

It remains to be seen if Madrid are able to lure him to the Bernabeu this season, especially if they win the UEFA Champions League. They face Liverpool in Paris on May 28 in the final.

Real Madrid have been dealt a blow in their quest to sign Aurelien Tchouameni. According to French journalist Julien Maynard, Liverpool are leading the race for the Monaco midfielder.

The 22-year-old has emerged as one of the most promising young midfielders in Europe at the moment. Los Blancos are monitoring the player with interest as they look to find an able successor to Casemiro.

The Brazilian has displayed signs of regression this season, so Ancelotti could be tempted to bring in a

replacement this summer. Tchouameni looks tailor-made for the role but is also generating interest from clubs around Europe. However, the Reds who are leading the race for his signature, with PSG also keeping a watchful eye on the Frenchman.

The Italian full-back has caught the eye with his performances for AC Milan recently, forcing Los Blancos to take note. Ancelotti could be in the market for a right-back this summer amid the continued struggles of Dani Ceballos.

The Italian manager is eager to address the position ahead of the new season and could be tempted to target his countryman. Despite not being at his best in the current campaign, Calabria has still registered two goals and three assists in 31 games. However, the 25-year-old, contracted till 2025, is an indispensable part of the Rossoneri's team so prising him away won't be easy.

Liverpool legend Michael Owen has given his verdict for the upcoming North London Derby between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.

The two sides are embroiled in a top-four race with the Gunners currently sitting in fourth and boasting a four-point advantage over Spurs.

With just three games of the Premier League season remaining, Antonio Conte's side will know that anything but a win is likely to see Arsenal cement fourth spot.

Michael Owen has spoken of his excitement ahead of the encounter, which will surely have huge implications for the top-four race.

Tottenham Hotspur drew with Liverpool on May 7 handing the initiative to Arsenal. Owen alluded to this, telling BetVictor:

"I've been looking forward to this one for weeks. Spurs may have dropped points at the weekend, but it was an impressive draw at Anfield. You can see what Conte is building, and they aren't far away from being a very good side."

Arsenal made the most of Tottenham's 1-1 draw with

Man City to sign Dortmund striker for £51.2m

MANCHESTER City have reached an agreement to sign Norway striker Erling Haaland from Borussia Dortmund. Haaland, 21, will join in July after City activated a 60m euro (£51.2m) release clause in his contract.

The deal ends the club's hunt for a successor to their all-time top scorer Sergio Aguero, who joined Barcelona on a free transfer last summer.

"We can confirm that we have reached an agreement in principle for the transfer of striker Erling Haaland," City said.

"The transfer remains subject to the club finalising terms with the player."

Haaland has scored 85 goals in 88 appearances for Dortmund since joining from

Owen delivers his prediction for North London derby

Liverpool, beating Leeds United 2-1 the following day.

Owen has spoken of the importance that victory had in what is a closely-fought top-four race:

"For Arsenal, it wasn't a classic performance, but the win over Leeds was vital in extending their lead over Spurs. Nketiah was in amongst the goals again, he looks a natural finisher."

The 2001 Ballon d'Or winner seems to be on the fence with both sides in good form at the later end of what has been a pulsating season:

"Even a draw would be a good result for Arsenal here. I think that's what we will see. I'm leaning towards 1-1."

Tottenham know that their clash with the Gunners is a must-win game.

A draw means Spurs will need to win both their remaining games whilst requiring Arteta's men to lose one of their last

two remaining fixtures.

The north London derby has been hostile over the years, with dramatic moments summing up what has been a hotly-contested rivalry. But this may be the most important derby contest in recent memory given how close both sides are to redemption.

Both London rivals have been in freefall in recent years, with the Gunners having dealt with a difficult time post-Arsene Wenger. If they finish in the top-four, it'll be the first time they have qualified for the Champions League since 2016.

Meanwhile, Spurs' consistent changes in the managerial hotseat have led them to no real success.

Mauricio Pochettino has had the most success in recent years, taking the Lilywhites to the Champions League final in 2019 where they were defeated by Liverpool.

All eyes are on what promises to be a tantalizing north London derby on May 12.



Haaland

Red Bull Salzburg in January 2020.

La Liga giants Real Madrid and Barcelona also spoke to Haaland about a potential deal, but he opted for a move to Etihad Stadium.

Speaking earlier on Tuesday, Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola said he could not discuss the incoming signing for legal reasons.

"Everybody knows the situation. I shouldn't talk because I don't like to talk about the future or next season," he said.

When asked what impact a new number nine would have on the Premier League champions, Guardiola said: "New players always helps to be a stronger team. But not one defender or striker will solve our defensive or scoring problems."

"The club always has to have a vision for the future. The decisions the club makes I am aware and supportive of 100%."

The transfer would be one of the biggest of the summer. Sports agent Mino Raiola had been involved in the

discussions prior to his death, with associates taking the process on to its conclusion.

"He's a generational talent" – Why signing Haaland is huge for Manchester City

Even though City are within touching distance of a second successive Premier League title achieved without an orthodox centre-forward, Guardiola has always stressed his desire to have one.

City tried hard to get Harry Kane from Tottenham last summer but Spurs chairman Daniel Levy refused to sell.

And, with Kane having two years left on his contract, Haaland is an easier deal to conclude given his release clause.

He has scored 92 league goals in 121 appearances for Molde, Red Bull Salzburg and Dortmund and last year became the youngest player to reach 20 Champions League goals.

Haaland's father Alf-Inge played for City between 2000 and 2003 in a career that also saw him represent Leeds and Nottingham Forest.

Liverpool fans react to Mane could join Bayern Munich

LIVERPOOL fans are unsurprisingly not happy that Sadio Mane has emerged as a summer transfer target for Bayern Munich.

Reports in Germany

claim that Bayern's sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic met Mane's representatives in Majorca last Friday to discuss a potential move.

The news has caused shock among Reds officials

and supporters alike, with Mane having played an instrumental role under Jurgen Klopp since signing from Southampton in 2016.

'Sadio Mané leaving for Bayern would deeply hurt me,' one fan tweeted on Monday.

'If Sadio Mane leaves for Bayern I will actually cry,' echoed another.

'Don't do this to me man,' a third said. 'I'm gonna plaster myself on the runway if Mane tries going Bayern. Not gonna happen.'

Mane will enter the final year of his contract at Anfield this summer and so far no significant discussions have taken place about extending his stay.

Mohamed Salah is in the same position, but Liverpool have made considerably more effort to offer the Egyptian a new deal.



Mane

Sports



Emma Raducanu has only played two senior tournaments in the UK, at Nottingham and Wimbledon last year

Raducanu start Wimbledon preparations

Emma Raducanu is set to make her first appearance in front of a British crowd since winning the US Open at the Birmingham Classic next month.

BBC SPORT said that, the 19-year-old, who won the Grand Slam title in New York as a qualifier last September, plans to start her Wimbledon preparations at the grass tournament.

The WTA 250 event starts on 11 June.

Raducanu, ranked 12th in the world, has not played in a competitive tournament on British soil since her run to the Wimbledon fourth

round last summer.

"It will be great to get back on to the grass and relive some wonderful memories from last year, where the backing of the British fans was fantastic," she said.

Raducanu is currently focusing on the European clay-court swing and plays Canada's Bianca Andreescu - another teenage US Open champion after her 2019 win - in the Italian Open first round on Tuesday.

She is without a full-time coach after recently splitting with German Torben Beltz and is working with Iain Bates, the Lawn Tennis Association's head of women's tennis, in

Rome.

Asked how she is finding travelling without a full-time coach, Raducanu said: "I'd describe myself as a loner.

"I do like being on my own, but of course I love being in groups as well. I can easily and very happily spend a lot of time on my own. I think it's something that is off court as well as on court.

"For the past year I'd say I've had a lot of people around me a lot and very often.

"To be kind of on my own is interesting because I'm finding out a lot about myself, understanding what I need and what I don't need."

British Masters: Ramsay suffers 'biggest kick in teeth'

Richie Ramsay says missing out on the British Masters title after a last-hole double bogey is "probably the biggest kick in the teeth" of his golf career.

BBC SPORT revealed that, the 38-year-old finished two shots behind winner Thorbjorn Olesen in joint third along with compatriot Connor Syme at The Belfry.

It would have been Ramsay's first title since 2015.

"I did everything right bar one shot and it was the one shot that killed me," he said.

With Sebastian Soderberg in the clubhouse on nine under par, Ramsay had looked set for victory when he birdied the 17th to reach 10 under, but the Scot found the water in front of

the green with his approach to the 18th to finish a stroke behind the Swede.

Denmark's Olesen, who had started the day with a three-shot lead but was four over par after 16 holes, would then finish eagle-birdie for the second day in succession to snatch the title.

"It was just a horrible yardage and I didn't fully commit as I was aiming to ride it on the wind and I just duffed it," Ramsay explained. "I executed so many shots under pressure. It was just that last one - probably thought too much about it.

"I played really steady, mentally was very, very good. But, ultimately, you don't get the job done and that's what matters. It's probably the biggest kick in the teeth you are going to get in my career."

While victory shot Olesen up 203 places to 173 in the world

rankings, Ramsay had to be content with a more modest shift of 64 places to 324.

Syme, who made a hat-trick of birdies from the 15th hole at The Belfry, is up 45 places to 284, with Robert MacIntyre still the highest-placed Scot despite dropping six places to 79th after finishing in joint 36th place, six shots behind his compatriots.

Alcaraz beats Zverev to take Madrid Open title

Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz completed a magical week with victory over defending champion Alexander Zverev in the Madrid Open final.

BBC SPORT said that, the 19-year-old, who had beaten Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic in his previous two matches, swept aside the German second seed 6-3 6-1.

It is Alcaraz's second Masters 1000 crown after Miami last month and his fourth title of the year.

He is set to rise to sixth in the world before the French Open later in May.

"This tournament is special for me because it's a tournament I came and watched when I was seven or eight," he said.

Alcaraz was in determined form from the start against Zverev, whose semi-final against Greek fourth seed

Defending champion Phil Mickelson and 15-time major winner Tiger Woods have been named in the 156-man field for the US PGA Championship in Oklahoma.

BBC SPORT said that, Woods returned to competitive golf at the Masters in April, 14 months after suffering life-threatening injuries in a car crash.

Mickelson, who has been on a break from golf after criticising Saudi Arabia's regime, last played in February.

Golf's second major of the year takes place from 19-22 May.

Mickelson, 51, became golf's oldest major champion when he won at Kiawah Island's Ocean Course in 2021.

However, he lost multiple sponsors and saw his

Mickelson, Woods named in 156-man field

reputation tarnished after he sought to use involvement with a Saudi Arabian-backed golf super league to gain leverage over the PGA Tour.

The fallout saw him miss the Masters for the first time in 28 years. Mickelson's participation would see him face the media for the first time in months and, while he has been named as a provisional starter, he could still pull out at the last minute.

Woods, 46, who nearly lost his right leg in the 2021 car crash, made the cut at Augusta after opening with a round of 71 and eventually

finished 47th.

Woods has already outlined plans to play The Open at St Andrews in July and, while his participation in Oklahoma will be dependent on his physical shape, he has recently played a practice round on the course.

World number one Scottie Scheffler, who won the Masters last month, and former US PGA champions Rory McIlroy, Justin Thomas, Brooks Koepka and Collin Morikawa are also among those set to compete.



Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods have won 21 major championships between them

Italian Open: Wawrinka wins, Osaka withdraws

Injury-hit former Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka says the love of the fans is what keeps him going after he earned a first ATP Tour win in 15 months.

BBC SPORT said that,

Wawrinka, 37, fought back from a set and a break down to beat American Reilly Opelka at the Italian Open. The Swiss, now ranked 361st, was playing only his

second tour match since March 2021 after a foot injury.

"The support is the main reason why I'm still playing and came back," Wawrinka said after his 3-6 7-5 6-2 win in Rome.

British number two Dan Evans continued his winless run in the main draw at the Masters 1,000 event after a 7-6 (7-2) 6-2 defeat by Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili.

Evans, 31, has now lost all five of his first-round matches on the clay in the Italian capital.

Meanwhile, four-time major champion Naomi Osaka has pulled out of the event because of an injury.

"Unfortunately I'm going to have to withdraw from Rome as the injury which I picked up last week in Madrid hasn't healed yet," said the Japanese player, who is now ranked 38th in the world.

"It's an Achilles injury, so I need to be careful especially in advance of Roland Garros."

The French Open starts at Roland Garros on 22 May.

Osaka, 24, withdrew from the clay-court Grand Slam last year following the controversy over her refusal to speak to the media at the tournament, revealing she had "suffered long bouts of depression" since winning her first Grand Slam title in 2018.

Since taking a break from the sport last year, she has won 12 of her 16 matches this season.



Stan Wawrinka has won the Australian Open (2014), French Open (2015) and US Open (2016) titles



Richie Ramsay was left disappointed at the 18th green



Quest



writer

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

FRAGMENT

"No mention, however, is made of an upper age limit for voting! Though senility is subjective, I dare to say that above a certain age, senior citizens be exempted from the rigors of voting. Additionally, they are unlikely to be in touch with current world trends and requirements of their country. They may still be in the analogue era while the world has moved on to digital age. In this case, development of the country would be compromised as being analogue is no longer relevant in all spheres of life including governance. Eligible voters should therefore".

PROF. JOSIAH MUTIHIR

This Voter eligibility question

SCANNING through the constitution for eligibility to vote in the Nigerian elections seems to be very deficient. This deficiency makes one to wonder if this is indeed the correct thing in a developing country where development is hampered by ignorance, illiteracy, religious bigotry and the like. Where eligibility is not enforced by law, it negates national development.

The right to vote has changed over the years in modern democracies the world over. Before the 2nd world war, the minimum age at voting was 21 years or more. This was reduced by Czechoslovakia to 18 years which was soon followed by many countries of the world.

Nigerian constitution set its lower arbitrary voting age at 18 years. The Nigerian electoral act, 2010 holds in section 12(2) that a person shall be qualified to register as voter if such a person has attained the age of 18 years. Section 117(2) of the 1999 Constitution provides that every citizen of Nigeria who has attained the age of 18, residing in Nigeria at the time of registration of voters for the purposes of election to any legislative house, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election.

The argument in this debate is that if a 16-year old young person in Nigeria can be fully employed in industrial and commercial activities, and then pays tax to government. It then makes sense to extend the voting rights to him or her. The aim of this brief being to canvas and advocate some reasons for extending the voting rights to 16- and 17-year olds.

The Nigerian Labour Act section 60(2) also allows young persons



Mahmood

over the age of sixteen to be employed for night duties in industrial activities providing 24-hour services. Thus, reasons for extending the voting right to 16- and 17-year olds, are that they are legally employable, collect wages and pay tax to the nation.

No mention, however, is made of an upper age limit for voting! Though senility is subjective, I dare to say that above a certain age, senior citizens be exempted from the rigors of voting. Additionally, they are unlikely to be in touch with current world trends and requirements of their country. They may still be in the analogue era while the world has moved on to digital age. In this

case, development of the country would be compromised as being analogue is no longer relevant in all spheres of life including governance. Eligible voters should therefore:

Be in the appropriate age-group of 16 to 80 years of age and resident in Nigeria for at least 6 months prior to the said election(s) and has a valid Nigerian identity.

Tax is the compulsory contribution to state revenue, levied by government on workers' income, or business profits; or monies added to some goods (VAT), services or transactions. Payment of these levies signify commitment to the

land or state. All prospective voters should be responsible enough to pay tax if they feel obliged to vote for a President, Governor, member of Senate, member of House of representatives, members of State House of Assembly or even a local government Chairman or Councilor. It is inappropriate to vote when you have no commitment whatsoever to the land. Evidence of tax payment since the last election should be presented along with the voter's card to be allowed to vote. This will eliminate persons that are imported to vote and thereafter disappear to where they came from.

Prospective voters should also be literate, at least formal education as from senior secondary school. There is wisdom in all persons whether literate or non-literate. But the art of governance and dividends of democracy dictate that a literate person is more likely to comprehend and understand what he is voting for. It is expected that voters vote for individuals who have clearly presented their manifestos with details of what they intend to achieve if elected to office. Anything outside literacy to understand this is a ticket for voting along religious, ethnic, party or other lines. Only literate persons can independently 'vote' without interference by anyone purported to be assisting them in voting. During such assistance, the voter's opinion and wishes may be taken away by the helper.

It is true that every individual has some form of mental disorder, but there are some that are incapacitated by the disorder. Only a sane persons should be in a right frame of mind to vote. Why must an insane person vote for me to get into an elective position?

This group of persons is assumed to have income to fend for themselves, particularly the youth. Desperate un-employed youth are the ones easily recruited to perpetuate violence, ballot box snatching, participate in vote-buying and other ills plaguing the voting process. A hungry youth can go to any length to get money to feed for that day. This is harmful to the electoral process.

The World Bank defines extreme poverty as those living on less than \$1.90 (about N874 or less than N1,000) per day. It

also observed that because of the general increase in food prices between June 2020 and June 2021, the population of Nigerians living below the poverty line increased from 40.1 to 42.8%. (November 2021).

Extreme poverty, also referred to as 'deep poverty', 'abject poverty', 'absolute poverty', 'destitution' or 'penury', is the most severe type of poverty. It is captured by the United Nations as 'a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services (UN 1995 Report of the World summit for Social Development). Nigerians living below the poverty line should not vote as they are highly gullible to politicians who use food or materials to coerce them to vote for them. The poor in all communities are gullible during every election time. Desperate political office holders go down so low to distribute mundane but necessary things to disadvantaged voters like salt, Maggie cubes, rice, beans, palm-oil, and the like. This being a vote buying using non-cash means. Only the poor and downtrodden can exchange their mandate to vote for these types of things. The truth being that they truly cannot afford these things. Surprisingly, this is the only time these things are brought to them; and when the voting process is over, their ability to develop the capacity to afford the things is again stolen or taken away from them by those elected to power. They are given no jobs; favorable, enabling or conducive environments are not created for them to work to earn a living even in private work including subsistence farming to say the least.

Until provisions are made for those challenged by sight, that is the brail form of writing and reading, those who cannot see for now should be excluded from voting. Where there is assistance by someone else gives room for some form of rigging. The ticked box is most likely going to be that of the persons assisting the physically challenged person.

Mutihir is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Jos.

"The right to vote has changed over the years in modern democracies the world over. Before the 2nd world war, the minimum age at voting was 21 years or more. This was reduced by Czechoslovakia to 18 years which was soon followed by many countries of the world. Nigerian constitution set its lower arbitrary voting age at 18 years. The Nigerian electoral act, 2010 holds in section 12(2) that a person shall be qualified to register as voter if such a person has attained the age of 18 years. Section 117(2) of the 1999 Constitution provides that every citizen of Nigeria who has attained the age of 18, residing in Nigeria at the time of registration of voters for the purposes of election to any legislative house, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election."