

# Quit assisting in malpractice

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**C**OMMUTERS in Plateau State are lamenting over the increase in transport fare by commercial drivers. They point out that the increase had brought untold hardship to them and stunted growth to their various businesses.

As a result, a 'save our soul' message has been sent to government of Plateau State under the leadership of Governor Lalong to assist and call to order those perpetrators

# High transport fare makes life unbearable

By **LONGWEN TONGKAM**

in other to lighten their burden.

Our correspondent went round the city sampling

opinions of commuters and some drivers at various motor parks in Jos. They expressed dismay that the increase in transport fare had an

adverse effect on all aspects of life. Most businesses cannot break even which makes life a drag.

Speaking to Mrs. Grace

**-Jos residents**

Samuel and Joyce Jacob, respectively, they lamented that the increase in transport fare from Jos Bukuru and Jos to Building Materials

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## Explosion rocks Sabon Gari area of Kano

**A**N explosion has been reported in the Sabon Gari area of Kano State on Tuesday.

Kano State Commissioner of Police, CP Sama'ila Dikko, who confirmed the incident, said it was a gas cylinder explosion.

It wasn't a bomb blast. It's a gas cylinder explosion. The seller's shop is on the ground floor of the building, where the school is located.

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President Muhammadu Buhari (middle) signing the Anti-money Laundering Bills into law last week at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, handed by ICPC Chairman, Prof. Bolaji Owasanye, EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa, Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, CoS, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, SGF, Boss Mustapha and the President of Senate, Sen. Ahmed Lawal.

Photos: State House Press, Abuja.

## Nigerians must show interfaith love, tolerance -NGF



Governor Lalong

By **PALANG KASMI**

**G**overnors of the 19 Northern States have condemned the murder of Deborah Samuel, a student of Shehu Shagari College of Education Sokoto who was killed on allegation of blasphemy.

The Governors have also called on citizens of the region and Nigerians to continue to show love, tolerance and respect for one another irrespective of faith, ethnicity or other affiliations.

Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Plateau

State, Simon Bako Lalong disclosed the position of the governors in a statement stating that they were concerned about the development which is clearly an extra-judicial measure of addressing perceived infraction.

According to the

Chairman, any attempt to adopt self-help in addressing grievances whether religious or otherwise, will only lead to further chaos that could threaten law and order as well as the general peace and security of the society.

The governors

commiserated with the family of the victim and called on security agencies to be allowed to thoroughly investigate the matter and ensure that the law takes its full course on anyone found wanting.

"We the Northern Governors also appeal for

calm following reports of the hijack of a peaceful protest which later turned violent and led to the imposition of a curfew in Sokoto metropolis".

"We extend the support and commiserations of our Forum to Governor Aminu

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**Plateau Specialists Hospital unions interrupt hospital activities** Turn to page 2

**NCAA cautions pilots, airlines over hazardous weather** Turn to page 2

News

# High transport fare makes life unbearable

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is affecting the well being of families as many have not been able to make ends meet or break even in businesses.

They further stressed that it was N140-150 from Jos to Bukuru, Building Materials Market. As it is now, it is N250 from Jos to Bukuru and N150 from Jos to Building Materials respectively.

Also speaking, a business man, John Amos also lamented over the increase in transport fare from Jos to Mangu and Pankshin which used to be N400-N500 from Jos to Mangu and N650 to N700 from Jos to Pankshin. It is now N700 from Jos to Mangu and N1, 0 0 0 from Jos to Pankshin respectively.

According to them, the premium motor spirit known as petrol is now available in most major marketing filling stations, selling the product at the controlled price of N160-N162 per litre, but they wonder why the commercial drivers have refused to revert the transport fare back to the former.

However, they enumerated some effects of the increase in the transport fare to include increase in food price,

**-Jos residents**

building materials, clothing materials among many others. They stressed that, it has had a negative impact on vulnerable households who are finding it hard to survive.

Speaking to some cross section of drivers on the exorbitant transportation cost on their part, they were lamenting over rise in price of spare parts and maintenance materials such as engine oil, plugs filters among others.

These and many manmade reasons are making life unbearable. They forget that what goes around comes around, some commuters pointed out.

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So, when the cylinder exploded, it brought down the building and the pupils got injured. There wasn't a bomb blast", Dikko said.

Kano State Governor, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, has called for calm in the area.

Ganduje in a statement

## NCAA cautions pilots, airlines over hazardous weather

THE Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has advised pilots and airline operators, to exercise caution over aviation hazardous weather during the rain season.

This warning was contained in an Advisory Circular (AC) with reference no AC: NCAA-AEROMET - 3 3 initiated by the Directorate of Aerodrome and Airspace Standards (DAAS) addressed to all pilots and airline operators and signed by the Director

## Explosion rocks Sabon Gari area of Kano

issued by Commissioner for Information, Mohammad Garba, said the incident happened at an animal feed store, opposite a school, along Aba Road in Sabon Gari community.

Garba said while the damage is yet to be ascertained, an investigation has since commenced to determine the cause, impact, and measures to be taken.

He assured that the

government would keep the public abreast of any development of the explosion and warned Kano residents to desist from spreading unsubstantiated news.



Siriki

General, Capt. Musa Nuhu.

The AC is coming on the advent of the Seasonal

Climate Prediction (SCP) released for the year 2022 by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET).

NIMET had predicted early/late March as the commencement of rain season across the Southern states, while April/May and June, 2022 is the onset of rain season in Central and Northern parts of Nigeria.

Rain season, at outset, is usually characterised with severe thunderstorms and many other hazardous weather phenomena, such as severe turbulence, microburst, low level wind shear events that could affect the safety of flight operations. Hence, the need for all stakeholders to perform their roles as stated below, in order to ensure safety of flight operations.

First is that Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) may temporarily close the airspace when hazardous weather conditions such as severe thunderstorm, squall lines microburst or level wind-shear are forecast by NIMET.

On the other hand, enumerated below are series of responsibilities for Pilots and Flight Crew/Operators: First is that Flight Crews/Operators and ATCs shall ensure strict adherence to aerodrome operating minima.

It stipulated that pilots shall exercise maximum restraint whenever adverse weather is observed or forecast by NIMET.

Pilots/Flight Crew Members, according to NCAA, shall obtain adequate departure, en-route and destination weather information and briefing from NIMET Aerodrome Meteorological Stations prior to flight operations.

In view of the above, NCAA further warned that operators are required to play a key role in ensuring adequate measures are put in place to lessen the effects of the attendant flight delays and cancellations on their passengers occasioned by hazardous severe weather during the rain season in accordance with Nig. CARs, Part 19.

While the authority urges all passengers to exercise patience and understanding during this period as their safety is of utmost importance, stakeholders should ensure strict compliance to safety regulations as violations would be viewed seriously", the regulator stated.

## Sokoto college murder: Police declare suspects wanted

THE Sokoto Police Command has declared fleeing suspects, captured in viral video killing a 200-level Home Economics student of the Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto, wanted for culpable homicide.

The deceased, Deborah Samuel Yakubu, was gruesomely murdered Thursday on campus, by some of her classmates, over alleged blasphemous statement made on the class WhatsApp group against Prophet Mohammed.

The Police in a statement issued by the spokesperson of the Sokoto Command, ASP Sanusi Abubakar, explained that those arrested at the scene of the incident while dispersing the mob, had been charged to court and remanded in prison.

The Sokoto State Command

under the able leadership of the Commissioner of Police, CP Kamaldeen Okunlola, has declared the suspects spotted on the viral video wanted.

"The Command is using these mediums to reiterate its commitment towards apprehending the suspects. The Command has already deployed intelligence and is on the lookout for the suspects.

"Members of the public are enjoined to cooperate with the police and report any mere identification to the command or any security outfit in their domain.

"The Command can be reached through its emergency number 07068848035."

Meanwhile, the Police have denied a report that it identified Deborah's suspected killer as a foreigner. ASP Sanusi Abubakar, in an

earlier statement described the report as fake news.

"The attention of Sokoto State Command was drawn to an online publication in NEWSLEAK by one Segun Adegbite, on 14th May, 2022. He alleged that a top police source told Peoples Gazette that Sokoto Police Command has categorised one of the suspects during the incident at Shagari College of Education as a foreign intruder from Niger Republic who came in illegally to perpetrate the act.

"The Command is therefore, using this medium to reaffirm that the above fabricated publication which claimed its sources from the Command is falsehood and cannot be substantiated. The Command did not issue any

statement or sign press release in that regard.

"The above publication is an act by some mischief makers trying to create chaos in the minds of law abiding citizens and to destabilise the existing peaceful atmosphere restored as a result of Thursday incident.

"The Command is using this medium to appeal to all media outlets and members of the public to be advocates of peace and should not instigate unverified stories.

"Consequent upon the foregoing, investigation into the incident is ongoing and the Nigeria Police Force will be decisive in its action and in accordance with the extant laws and provisions of the constitution on that incident", the statement read in part.

## Plateau Specialists Hospital unions interrupt hospital activities

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

In the early hours of Tuesday morning, the activities of the Plateau State Specialist Hospital (PSSH), was put on hold as the Joint Action Committee Union, (JAC), locked up the main entrance gate of the hospital.

The Union comprises the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives, (NANNM), Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria (MHWUN), Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of

Nigeria (AMLSN) and Association of Hospital and Allied Pharmacists (AHAP). Members of the various unions all came out to protest the non-payment of their Covid-19 allowances.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in an interview with the Chairman of JAC, Mr. Ezekiel Mallmang, revealed that the unions have intimidated the management of the hospital on several occasions on the issue of their allowances of Covid-19 but they kept promising them

since last year 2021 that they would soon receive alert of the money.

Mallmang said that even on Monday, they promised them that they would receive their Covid-19 allowance before the close of work. But up till Tuesday morning, they have not seen any alert. So they have resorted to the only option, to protest by locking the main entrance gate of the hospital.

The JAC added that they learned that the Covid-19 allowance was paid into the account of the hospital by Plateau State government last year 2021.

While at the gate, the Plateau State government sent delegates through the office of Head of Civil Service.

Agreement was reached between management, unions and delegates that the Covid-19 allowances payment would commence today Wednesday May 18, 2022 through table payment.

It was also gathered that the intervention from the

state government calmed the situation and members have resumed work in their various departments. And the delegation that the union that in the event of non-compliance from the management, they should not hesitate to call them.

According to Mallmang, "Aside from the Covid-19 issue, there are other issues that have not been attended to. They include medical autonomy, (being a tertiary institution of the state, it is yet to implement it), discrepancy in the payment of staff salaries and lack of cleaning agents to keep the hospital environment clean.

Investigation revealed that, at a point there was no detergent to wash the hospital linens at the Laundry Service Units.

In a brief chat with the Chief Medical Director of the Hospital (CMD), Dr. Philemon Golwa, his reaction to the scene observed was that it was a misunderstanding between the unions and management. He said that the matter has been resolved and work has resumed in the hospital.

**Nigerians must show interfaith love, tolerance -NG**

Cont'd from Page 1

Tambuwal of Sokoto State over the incident as well as praise his proactive efforts to restore normalcy and also assure him of our solidarity and prayers in dealing with the matter as well as ensuring that all necessary measures are taken to forestall future occurrence in any part of the region and nation at large".

"Our forum also reminds citizens of the region and Nigerians of the need to continue to show love, tolerance and respect for one another irrespective of faith, ethnicity or other affiliations", said the Northern Governors Chairman.



Dr. Golwa



## Business & Economy

# Urgent need to reposition NIPOST

**NIPOST is one of the nation's core industry which needs to be urgently upgraded to be more productive. This Nigeria's E-commerce industry has the capacity of tripling its current performance if it is well managed and given necessary attention. DAKUKU PETER writes.**

WHEN this is done it will help reposition the industry to be more competitive; activate growth in the nation's economy, create businesses, employment as well as attract more investment opportunities.

Nigeria's Postal Service (NIPOST) is one of the nation's core industry that needs to be urgently upgraded to be more productive, efficient and customer responsive just like its peers in other countries. This is because it has great potentials and needs to be stimulated for more growth, promote globalization and facilitate the rise of e-commerce in Nigeria.

It is important to state that postal services are a critical part of every economy globally and their roles are crucial to economies of nations. There is not one family in any nation that isn't affected directly or indirectly by the services their postal agency renders.

While the emergence of modern digital technology and information system is needed to drive positive change in organisations, it is important that Nigerian government support its postal service by investing more in digital technology usage to curb the consistent loss of customer's parcels, violation of mail items and delays.

Adoption of the use of modern technologies system (such as GPS, block-chain, IoT, machine learning, etc) will help facilitate tracking of parcels and boost traceability. With the help of anti-theft GPS, near real-time locations of parcels can be received as well as separation of parcels in transit.

This would also help boost extra security measures to avoid loss of parcels belonging to customers. If at the time of collecting parcels from a customer a real time information is sent to the customer after first scan, it will be almost impossible for the agency to deny responsibility of loss of parcels.

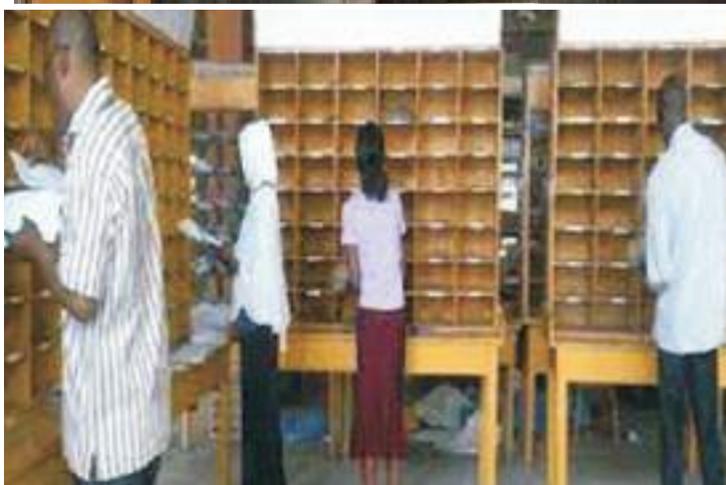
Blockchain technology, which is another modern digital system, can also be used to monitor, distribute, move and trace parcels as well as update records and performance. The use of internet-of-things (IoT) sensors can also be used to determine the amount of space a cargo occupies as well as calculate shipment cost upfront unlike what is obtainable at the Parcel Processing centre at Ikeja.

The act of Nigerian Postal Service using manual outdated processes are unsustainable and this is responsible for decline in customers and mail volumes. This has made the Nigerian Postal Service unattractive and less competitive when compared with its competitors in the private sector e.g. FedEx, DHL, 3rd party agents, to mention a few.

Though we have post offices in all nooks and crannies of Nigeria giving it an advantage over other players in terms of spread, regrettably it has not been able to leverage this as strength.

While Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) generated a total of N19.7 billion in 2018 (N7bn from its core operations and N12.7bn from electronic stamp duty), it is sad to note that the agency's performance has further spiralled downwards since 2018.

It is also interesting to note that in June 2021, Nigerian Senate passed



the NIPOST repeal and re-enactment bill, which had restricted the agency to only postal operations in the country, it has not been able to capitalise on the advantage in our population (more than 200m people) as well as the growth of e-commerce industry due to the recent pandemic to grow.

Nigeria's e-commerce market was estimated at approximately \$12 billion and this also has not reflected on the performance of the Nigerian Postal Service. In addition, revenue in Nigeria's e-commerce market is projected to reach \$8.5 billion in 2022 and its revenue is expected to show an annual growth rate (CAGR 2022-2025) of 13.86 percent, resulting in a projected market volume of \$12.58 billion by 2025.

The poor performance of the agency is partly responsible for why aggrieved operators of National Mail Route Delivery Service (NMRDS) few months ago urged the Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami to take drastic action over the failure of the NIPOST to redeem the liability to their members in the last eight months or face legal tussle.

While the seven-day ultimatum issued then by the Counsel to the NMRDS, Wole Abidakin bothered on failure of NIPOST to pay the N200 million owed the operators, the tax deductions effected on the operators' account for the past

five years by NIPOST were not remitted to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

They claimed this had hindered the operators from accessing their tax clearance over the years and has made it difficult for their clients to survive in addition to restricting them from bidding for jobs in other organisations.

The petition was also sent to the Postmaster General of NIPOST then, Ismail Adebayo Adewusi.

These challenges facing Nigerian Postal Service can be partly traced to lack of attention from government, poor management systems, lack of use of modern digital technology system as well as lack of trained experts to drive the needed change.

This neglect might be responsible for why in the 2022 proposed budget of N160.593 billion, the Nigerian Communications Satellite (NIGCOMSAT) and National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) got N5.440 billion and N46.533 billion in capital votes, the ministry had N85.231 billion, while NIPOST was allocated nothing.

Other factors responsible for NIPOST poor performance are low level of investment, vast but obsolete infrastructure and facilities;



**Adegbuyi Bisi, NIPOST boss**

dysfunctional internal system, unredeemed pension payments, untrained and poorly motivated workforce, etc. has made the agency unattractive, unreliable and unsustainable.

There has been an outcry of customers using NIPOST services to send parcels abroad that resulted in complains of lost and un-remitted parcels, which resulted in a loss of revenue, downtime and reputation on the part of the agency.

In a developed nation the agency will be slammed with heavy compensation charges and sometimes might result in total shut down. Nigerian Postal Service needs to urgently build back its lost credibility and reputation from customers.

To also make Nigerian Postal Service to perform better it needs to introduce well robust insurance scheme where mails can be insured against risks such as theft, vandalism and loss in the event of any of these risks occurring. There needs to be appropriate compensation paid to customers.

It also needs to hire professionals in the areas of digital technology, business management, sales,

supply chain management and logistics experts to reposition the agency to be more competitive, productive and profitable.

This is because the advent of COVID-19 pandemic opened more business opportunities for the agency as personal and consumer freight that would have been moved by travellers during trips are now routed solely via logistics and courier agents – and this looks like it has come to stay. This has made stakeholders to realise the importance of seamless urban movement of goods and service thereby increasing the e-commerce market.

Also, while the growth of e-commerce businesses has led to rising demand in managing deliveries. Therefore, providing better services will increase competition and so restructuring policies will open the market, attract new investors, birth more small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as make it business friendly.

Finally, the sector needs to also be given the needed attention in its areas of challenges such as infrastructural deficits, stale policies, insecurity, high corruption rate, inadequate platform to receive customers feedback, closing knowledge and skills gap, etc



# Business & Economy

## Economist urges FG to focus more on agriculture

AN economist, Tope Fasua has urged the Federal Government to put more effort in the agriculture sector to address the global food crisis caused by the Russian Ukrainian war. Fasua said this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja recently it will recall that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said the Sub-Saharan African Region needs a careful policy response to address the challenges of the new economic shock caused by the war in Ukraine. He, however, said that the African continent had been faced with an economic crisis long before the global crisis caused by COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. Fasua said that before COVID-19, we were not doing wonderfully well, particularly in Nigeria. The economist explained that some countries in Africa were growing at a seven or eight per cent rate, adding that the entire growth trajectory of African nations was in question. "The shock is not that new, it may be a little more enhanced than it used to be but it is not particularly a new shock. "Now, they are talking about Russia and Ukraine and how African countries depend on these two countries for food, grains in this instance, wheat for bread. "In a country like Nigeria, a bit of wheat is grown here but if you look at the terrain, the topography from North to South, perhaps we can grow anything in this country. "What you cannot grow in the North, you can grow in the South. " Fasua, a 2019 Nigeria Presidential candidate, said that Nigeria had used perhaps 30 per cent or less of its arable land, so the question was what was being done with the rest. "Nigeria is a largely agricultural country, yet 62 years after independence we cannot do better than grow rice. "We are also not growing the crops properly and we are not even growing enough numbers of crops, diversify across the board, not even the ones we need. " "So, one place to start is to do more in agriculture and bring some science into agriculture, and recognise our luck, capability, capacity that we have inbuilt and go for it. "We should also add value and stop exporting just raw things that are not giving us enough dollars for the kind of things we need for the rest of the world. " Fasua stressed the need for Africa to be in charge of its own growth and development narrative, adding that the teaching of economics must change as it pertained to Africa.



**Abubakar**

According to him, we do not have to tow the lines of people who perhaps do not care, why do we not care for ourselves by ourselves. He said that African countries should be growing at a double digit rate, especially a country like Nigeria. Fasua said this was because robust growth rates and inflation at high levels were witnessed in the population of African countries.

"So, how do you cover for inflation plus population growth. Your economic growth every year must be higher than the combination of inflation and population growth and devaluation of your currency. "We have no choice but to target 15 per cent to 20 per cent," he said. (NAN)

## FCT-IRS unveils electronic tax clearance to check forgery

The Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCT-IRS) has unveiled an Electronic Tax Clearance Certificate (E-TCC) to checkmate activities of fraudsters who could forge such document. Acting Executive Chairman of the Service, Mr Haruna Abdullahi, disclosed this during his engagement with the members of the House Committee on Public Accounts at the National Assembly on Monday in Abuja. Abdullahi explained that the E-TCC had fortified the process thereby making it difficult for anyone to forge such document because of the introduction of QR CODE. He said this effort would help the Service not to be short-changed as well as boost revenue for the FCT. The Chairman stated that the E-TCC was a document issued by the Tax Authority to certify that

an individual or a business was in compliant with the appropriate requirements as stated by law within a stipulated period of time usually for the three preceding years. Quoting Section 85 of the Personal Income Tax Act 2011 as amended, Abdullahi said: "whenever the relevant tax authority is of opinion that tax assessed on the income of a person for the three years immediately preceding the current year of assessment has been fully paid. "Or that no tax is due on income or that the person is not liable to be taxed for any of those three years, it shall issue a tax clearance certificate to the person within two weeks of demand for the certificate by that person or give reasons for the denial." According to him, while issuing a tax clearance certificate, due diligence must be carried out to

BARELY a week after the intervention that fixed aviation fuel at N480/litre, Jet-A1 scarcity has hit local airlines causing multiple flights delay. Investigations revealed that more than half of scheduled flights were delayed for hours yesterday. The operating carriers have also warned the travelling public to brace up for massive disruptions in the days ahead.

The National Assembly, last week, summoned airline operators, oil marketers, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to a roundtable over soaring cost of jet fuel for which the operators threatened to shut down local air transport services.

At the end of the meeting, an agreement was reached to reduce jet fuel from N700 to N480/litre, with fuel marketers demonised as the cause of surging cost.

But since the intervention, marketers have allegedly started rationing supplies and

## Flight disruption looms as fuel scarcity worsens



**Sirika**

cutting off sale on credit to local carriers, causing an average of two hours delay on most flights.

Spokesperson of the Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON), Prof. Biora Okonkwo, said the

delays would worsen due to growing scarcity of aviation fuel.

He said: "The scarcity is impacting negatively on seamless conduct of air transport operations and would lead to flight rescheduling and or cancellations."

He, however, assured that the association and its members were working hard and in alliance with product marketers, government and relevant stakeholders to ensure availability and proper pricing of aviation fuel in the country.

He added: "While pleading for understanding of the flying public in the face of this reality, we also promise to do all that is necessary, and within our powers, to restore normal flight schedules as soon as possible."

work to ensure smooth operation of the service.

"We will support you in whatever way to generate more revenue in the FCT, try to have record of all the people resident in Abuja, the data is important, ask for bank statement to know the actual tax to collect.

"We will support FCT-IRS and help the Service to bring more people to the tax net," he noted.

## Oil rises on EU's Russian oil ban

Oil hit its highest in seven weeks on Tuesday, supported by the European Union's ongoing push for a ban on Russian oil imports that would tighten supply.

This is as investors focused on higher demand from an easing of China's COVID lock-downs.

EU foreign ministers failed on Monday in their effort to pressure Hungary to lift its veto on the proposed oil embargo.

But some diplomats now point to a May 30-31 summit as the moment for agreement on a phased ban on Russian oil.

Brent crude rose as high as \$115.14, its highest since March 28, and by 0815 GMT was up 46 cents, or 0.4 per cent, to \$114.70.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude slid 26 cents, or 0.2 per cent, to \$113.94.

"Oil prices have remained near multi-week highs this week, supported by surging gasoline and distillate prices in the U.S. and fears around an EU ban on Russian oil imports remaining in play," said Jeffrey Halley, analyst at brokerage OANDA.

Crude has surged in 2022, with Brent hitting \$139, its highest since 2008, in early March as

Russia's invasion of Ukraine exacerbated supply concerns.

Oil also gained support on Tuesday from hopes of demand recovery in China as it looks to ease COVID restrictions that have hurt its economy.

Shanghai on Tuesday achieved the long-awaited milestone of three consecutive days with no new COVID-19 cases outside quarantine zones and set out on Monday its clearest timetable yet for exiting a lockdown now in its seventh week.

Further supporting prices was the "intensifying geopolitical tension" between the EU and Russia as Sweden and Finland seek to join NATO, CMC Markets analyst Tina Teng said.

Also in focus are potential further declines in the U.S. fuel inventories.

Weekly inventory reports are expected to show a rise in crude stocks and declines in inventories of distillates and gasoline.

The first report, from the American Petroleum Institute is due at 2030 GMT. (Reuters/NAN)



**Gbajabamila**



## CAC: Haven of investors for better economy

**The new leadership of Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) under Alhaji Garba Abubakar has turned the commission into a centre of excellence and beehive of activities in the last two years, particularly from January 2020 with its series of ongoing innovations, initiatives and reforms. ABUBAKAR YUSUF writes.**

THIS was evidenced from the roll calls of stakeholders to the commission ranging from corporate bodies, organisations, professional bodies, non governmental organizations both local and international bodies as well as countries with a view not limited to under studying its activities, but commendations, applause and appraisal that had stabilized the hub of investors and investments into Nigeria before, during and post COVID.

The recent surge of representatives of countries, organizations and bodies to the commission had become a departure from the previous norm, but with the glaring determination of the current leadership to bring to par its activities in line with international best global practices with newly digitized operational template.

The Award of Excellence conferred on the leadership of the commission in January, 2022 for exemplary leadership by a recognized tabloid "News Direct" not only spurred it to do more, but became an in road and exodus of more local and international bodies into the country, through identification with the successes recorded by the commission, two years at the saddle of the current dispensation.

The ongoing reforms, comparative analysis of actors and drivers of the Nigerian economy, among many other giant strides of government agencies, stands out the Corporate Affairs Commission as one of the outstanding government agency, that had laid a solid foundation for a thriving economy post COVID.

These among many other new policies that included but not limited to digitization of its processes that had reduced to the barest minimum human interference, fraud, and other fraud related activities in the commission.

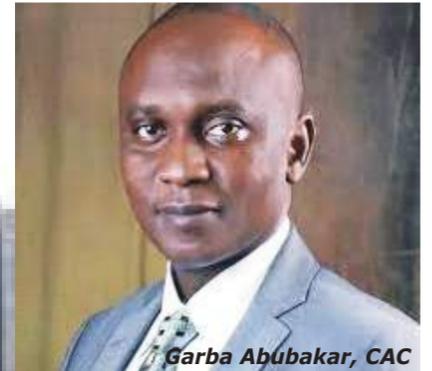
The introduction of Company and Allied Matters CAMA 2020 in its new operations with strict compliance, electronic signature, with issuance of certificate with QR code made its functions a cynosure of foreign attention and had attracted multiple investments and investors, along with the new insolvency regulations.

Further to these, the introduction of sole or one man ownership, amalgamation of incorporated trustees with similar line of business and objectives, along with persons with significant controls among many other milestones and inventions put in place to ensure ease of doing businesses, became the attraction of both local and international communities.

With the new innovations and inventions that had encouraged



CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION



Garba Abubakar, CAC

investments and investors along with protecting their investments with the new policies, it became seamless bringing on board business conglomerates aftermath of the global pandemic of COVID-19 and its effects.

The commission's enabling environment that paved way for the influx of Foreign Direct Investment FDI with modest rules attracted the international communities which included the World Bank, UK Dept of Treasury, and Canadian high commission in Nigeria among many others.

According to the World Bank in a message through the Bureau of Public Service Reforms BPSR congratulated the commission for standing out as "centre of excellence" and validated star performer among government agencies.

The compliance on quarterly basis as well as NIS ISO 9001-2015 certification by Standard Organization of Nigeria SON and its submission to "Self Assessment Tool" SAT was a point of departure and emboldened by the World Bank, Ibrahim Arabi of BPSR stated.

Also the UK Dept of Treasury led by Allison Kelly its representative lauded the commission for seamless policy that will combat incessant terrorism financing across the country.

The Canadian High Commission applause the ease of doing businesses occasioned by the ongoing reforms in the commission and restored the confidence of the international communities.

According to Delphina Ocuaye,

the Canadian counselor expressed satisfaction that the new policy in CAC will fast track the treatment of visa application from Nigeria, encouraged partnerships, legal discussions through confirmation of civil documents.

He expressed happiness on the digitized platform, huge interest from the country through investments, business interest, permanent residency, scholarships and others at the introduction of the new policies.

It gave concessions to Nigerians with the high intellect and was ranked second (2) among nations enjoying permanent residency in Canada.

In Nigeria, the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry ACCI sought for collaboration and membership of the body at the point of registration/incorporation of business entities, though optional at the initial stage, but subsequently be made mandatory as applicable in developed countries during its visit.

The body stated by this new policies, it had ensured ease of intervention in financial transactions, inclusive consultation and post registration monitoring and partnering.

It will also enable the body ensured tax base companies, compliance to its provisions, along with tracing and tracking of annual reports. The Chairman, Al-Mujtaba Abubakar maintained.

On its part, The Abuja Enterprise Agency AEA expressed satisfaction with the policies and programs of the new commission, as it was encouraged by the free 250,000 business registration post COVID across 36 states and the FCT.

Shehu Abdulsamad, said it adopted the 50% waiver to enable them replicate its program through registration of 2000 free business conglomerates, and described the agency as the best and most visited as it stand out among fourteen (14) agencies present at one stop shop located within

Abuja.

The Lagos Business School commended the commission for promoting discipline, sanity and hard work during a courtesy call.

The Executive Director, Education stated that the ongoing reforms had ensured building of effective, efficient directors in the public service.

Also the new Nigerian Data Protection Bureau, Chief Executive Officer, Dr Vincent Olatunji during a visit stressed the need to take data security at top priority for economic growth, stating that CAC as a Data reservoir, described the agency's website as 'top notch' hence the need to ensure its protection.

The CSO's and NGO's were also not left out in the quest to identify with the success story recorded in the last two years by the commission among many others.

The Registrar General promised to continue to support the CSO's and NGO's in its quest for self regulation.

**"The commission's enabling environment that paved way for the influx of Foreign Direct Investment FDI with modest rules attracted the international communities which included the World Bank, UK Dept of Treasury, and Canadian High Commission in Nigeria among many others. According to the World Bank in a message through the Bureau of Public Service Reforms BPSR congratulated the commission for standing out as "centre of excellence" and validated star performer among government agencies".**

## Politics

### PDP Chairman happy with progress of party

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Chairman of the People Democratic Party (PDP) in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State Hon. Aliyu Babayo has expressed his satisfaction with what he described as the remarkable progress the party is now recording in the area and the state as a whole.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi on the influx of various aspirants wishing to actualize their political dreams and aspirations under the auspices of the party, the chairman stated that it is a clear indication that the party's acceptance is waxing stronger.

"The mass influx of people into the party who are wishing to contest for various political positions under its platform is a clear indication that the party has now become a beautiful bride that is loved and admired by all," he stated.

Babayo who is a onetime Councillor in the former Keffi local government then assured that the party under his leadership would ensure that it continues to provide a level playing field to all those contesting under its



Ayu

platform in the spirit of fairness and justice which it stands for.

He then advised the people of the state and Nigerians as a whole to see the PDP as the better alternative that would take the state and the country to the promised land in view of the inability of the present All Progressive Congress (APC) led administration to take Nigeria out of the woods in the areas of economy, security and otherwise.

"The people of the state and indeed Nigerians should look for solutions to fixing the country through the election of PDP so as to allow the country regain its lost hope and glory," he stressed.

While commending the teeming PDP supporters for their resilience and commitment towards the growth and stability of the party, he urged them to endeavour to maintain the spirit in order to regain power in the state.

A Governorship aspirant under the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Nasarawa State Mr. Labaran Maku has stated that his great passion and determination is to bring about meaningful transformation that would enhance the prosperity, peace and development of the state informed his decision to make himself available for the contest.

Addressing delegates in Keffi Local Government Area of the state where he went to seek their votes, Maku who was the immediate past National Secretary of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) which he recently dumped and joined the (PDP) stated that he was prevailed upon by some key prominent people in the state including the Wazirin Keffi Hon. Isa Badamasi Dahiru to take the decision he took.

Maku who expressed the delight that he has all the requisite experience, pedigree, passion to give the state the best in terms of governance it elected, said that his previous working experience started a class teacher, headmaster, students, union leader, journalist, Information Commissioner, Deputy Governor, Junior and senior Minister have adequately groomed and prepared him adequately to have the capacity of governing Nasarawa State.

The Governorship hopeful who was overwhelmed by the support he received from the delegates in Keffi local government urged them to endeavour to keep their support with a view to enable

### Maku: Contesting due to passion to bring development

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI Keffi

him win to emerge the flag bearer of the party in the state a situation he believed that would serve as an impetus for the party to produce him as the next Governor of the state.

"You should endeavor to keep your words by giving me the votes to bear the party's ticket as this would serve as a step forward towards our victory as PDP for the general betterment of the State" he assured.

Maku who lamented that the present All Progressives Congress (APC) led administration in the state has failed woefully to enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of the people as there was nothing quite significant to touch their lives positively coupled with the collapse or mere absence of infrastructure and basic social amenities a situation he pledged to remedy and even move forward if elected as the next Governor of the state in 2023.

He recalled with nostalgia that during the late Premier of the defunct Northern Nigeria he gave emphasis to Agriculture and cattle rearing being the source of socio-economic well being and development of the people which he also said if elected apart from infrastructural development and the provision of basic social amenities to the people emphasis would also be

Maku pledged to lead the state with the spirit of equity, fairness and justice to all irrespective of whatever their differences are adding that he would strive to build an all-embracing administration whereby all the people would be carried along in the scheme of things.

In his speech the campaign co-ordinator of Labaran Maku, Hon. Isa Badamasi Dahiru and the Wazirin Keffi stated that they decided to draft him to the race based on their believe and conviction that he has the capacity and experience to lead the state to greatness if elected.

The former member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly therefore advised the people of the state to see the election of Maku as yet another opportunity at their door-step to take the state to the path of peace, unity, and prosperity given his passion and commitment to move the state forward.

In their various remarks the Campaign youth leader and an elder Alhaji Safiyanu Keana stressed the need for the delegates from Keffi local government to sustain their support to the project which they said would yield fruits at the end of the day.

Earlier in his welcome speech, the chairman of the party in the area Hon Aliyu Babayo assured that the party under his leadership would continue to provide a level playing ground to all the aspirants contesting for all the political offices in the spirit of justice and fairness.

### Time's ripe for North Central to produce president - Saraki

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

PEOPLES Democratic Party (PDP) presidential aspirant, Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki has declared that it is ripe now for North Central Nigeria to produce the next president come 2023 general elections.

Saraki explained that it is unfortunate and undemocratic for the zone not to have produced president since the return of democracy in Nigeria.

The presidential hopeful

who made the declaration in Lokoja on Sunday while wooing PDP delegates to vote for him at the primaries, said that he has all it takes to flag the party's ticket and win overwhelming at the polls.

Besides, Saraki assured that he will tackle the rising insecurity in the country headlong if given the mandate.

"I will arrive in the office with a well-thought-out plan of my own; I will implement my plans with courage and conviction; and I will work

every single day as if it would be my last," Saraki stated, in an impressive speech that drew applause from his audience.

"I will be the bridge between the young and the old. I will be the bridge between the private sector and the public sector. I will be the bridge between Muslims and Christians. I will be the bridge between North and the South. Because I am the Nigerian for all Nigerians," he stated.

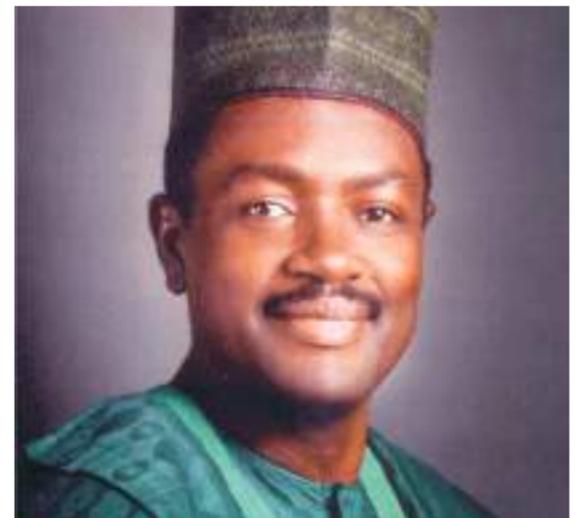
The former Governor of Kwara State urged those who were still doubtful of his capabilities to give him a chance to prove them wrong.

"I can do it. My portfolio of experience at the executive level, and at the highest legislative institution of our country, makes me a unique asset in democratic leadership at a time that calls for consensus building, for cooperation and for compromise.

"I know how business works. I know how government functions. And I know how the legislature operates. This diverse experience stands me out. And I will bring the experience to bear in getting the most critical constituencies behind the tough decisions that we must take if Nigeria must survive," he stated. He observed that Nigeria's

journey to greatness was retarded because of leadership challenge over time saying he was the leader to turn things around.

"We never lacked ideas in this country. We all seem to know what needs to be done. What we have missed is leadership; the ability to rally everyone and everything around agreed priorities, to set measurable targets, to be uncompromising in achieving results, and to accept no excuse or justification for failure. This critical vacuum is what I intend to fill."



Maku

### Agah expresses appreciation to people of Jos North

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE member representing Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency in the National Assembly Hon. Musa Agah Avia in continuation of his Thank You Tour in Jos North LGA has appreciated the good people of the area for their unflinching support which led to his victory in the February, 26th 2022 Bye-Election.

A statement Saturday by his media directorate said Hon. Agah who was represented by his

Hon. Hwelleng Gyang and the campaign directorate, assured the people that their plight will be considered due to the significant role they played in the election.

Hon. Hwelleng informed party faithfuls there present that the Hon. Member had an urgent meeting to attend to which clashed with the time slated for the tour, thus, his inability to be in the entourage.

He however, emphasized that the tour was in fulfilment of the team's promise to come back to

appreciation or the goodwill enjoyed from them and also called on the people to remain calm as they await dividends of democracy from the servant of the masses.

He then solicited for prayers for Hon. Agah to succeed.

The party leaders in their separate responses appreciated the member for coming and expressed confidence in the member's ability to change the political narratives in the constituency for the interest of the masses.



Saraki

Politics

# NGO moves to halt Jonathan's presidential ambition

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

A non-governmental group and a political group, "Rights for All International" has asked a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja to, among others stop ex-president Goodluck Jonathan from participating as a candidate in the 2023 presidential election.

The organization also told the court to restrain the All Progressives Congress (APC) from presenting Jonathan as its candidate and to bar the Independent National Electoral Commission from accepting him as the candidate of the party for the election.

These were among the reliefs being sought in a fresh suit marked PHC/ABJ/CS 662/2022 filed by RAI through its lawyer Okeke Nnamdi.

The APC and INEC were listed as defendants alongside Jonathan in the suit which processes were obtained by journalists in Abuja.

The plaintiffs are contending that having taken the oath of office of the president twice, Jonathan was no longer qualified under the constitution to stand for



Jonathan

election as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

The organization stated in a supporting affidavit that the first defendant (Jonathan) had been twice elected to the office of the president and held the office on two previous occasions.

The plaintiff wants the court to declare that having regards

to the clear, unambiguous and express provisions, spirit and tenor of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Fourth Alteration Act No16) which provide a new subsection (3) to section 137 of the constitution the 1<sup>st</sup> defendant is not qualified to contest any presidential election in Nigeria.

AS the date for the presidential primary election draws nearer, the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential aspirant, Yahaya Bello has expressed confidence that they would win the primary.

Speaking through his campaign coordinator, Hagsat Abiola Costello while submitting his nomination form at the International Conference Centre, Abuja recently. Bello urged Nigerians to keep a date with destiny on May 29, 2023, stressing that he would be the next president.

Abiola Costello said, "I have come on behalf of our candidate to submit the expression of interest and I want to express my congratulations to all Nigerians.

Today we have taken another step in the journey to restore hope to Nigerians by submitting the presidential application of Governor Yahaya Bello.

"With this form, we express our sincere assurance that with Yahaya Bello's candidacy, we have the opportunity to

# Bello confident of win in primaries

From ABBAS SHEHU Gungura, Bauchi

restore to the Nigerian people security; unity and progress towards prosperity.

On several candidates, we welcome every candidate to the race and we want to encourage all Nigerians to keep the faith.

"Governor Yahaya Bello did not start this effort this month

nor this year. He has canvassed the whole country and he has signaled to the Nigerian people his capacity of competence.

While former vice President Atiku Abubakar who from the initial stage did not partake in the consensus issue, described the outcome as not nationalistic as he does not believe in sectional politics.



Bello

# Tambuwal woos Kogi PDP delegates

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), Presidential Aspirant, Alhaji Aminu Waziri Tambuwal has advised national delegates from Kogi State to ensure that

they vote for a credible candidate that can deliver the party during the general elections come 2023.

Tambuwal who gave the advice in Lokoja while addressing Kogi PDP delegates, said that he has all it takes to facilitate overwhelming victory for the party.

The presidential aspirant promised that if given the mandate he will focus on security of lives and property of citizens as well as ensuring that the Ajaokuta steel project holds key to the nation's economic and technological development, adding that the process toward achieving its reality must be by a President with the required political and other pedigrees.

He said apart from being an accomplished legal practitioner, his political experience which saw him emerge as Speaker House of Representatives and now, a governor, his educational qualifications and International connection had put him on a higher advantage to make the project a reality. The aspirant, who described Kogi state as a mini Nigeria with rich human and mineral resources, said he would use his adequate knowledge of the state, its social, economic and political atmosphere would enable him to fix the state and the country at large in accordance with the peoples' aims and objectives.

He called on the delegates from

the state to "shine their eyes" to choose him in the residential election during the national convention and cap it up by electing him to ensure good governance that would enable him rebuild the country.

He said he would be a president that has the welfare of the workers and love of Nigerians at heart in the execution of projects with direct bearing on their social and economic life.

Tambuwal, who is the Governor of Sokoto state, said his administration did not owe workers salary, adding that pension was being paid as well.

In their comments, the two former Governors of Kogi State, Capt Idris Wada and Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, described Tambuwal as capable of leading Nigeria to the promised land, in view of him enviable the track records in political and other spheres of life.

In his vote of thanks, the Chairman, Tambuwal Campaign Council, Sen. Tunde Ogbeha, described Tambuwal as having that ticket that can win the forthcoming presidential election in the country.

"He is competent with adequate capacity and intellectually equipped to lead Nigeria in the next political dispensation. He is a bridge between the youth and the old," Ogbeha said.

# NSSG assures on road construction

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Nasarawa State' Government has assured that it would soon undertake the construction of Garaku-Dari road in Kokona Local Government area of the state as well as Riri connecting to Keffi as part of efforts to open up the communities for easy movement and enhance their socio-economic activities.

Governor Abdullahi Sule gave the assurance while speaking during the annual Gwandara Development Education and Cultural Association (GWADECA) held in Garaku headquarters of Kokona Local Government area.

He stated that since both the road construction and the appointment of the permanent secretary were highly significant to the socio-economic and political development of the people in the area, the state government would not rest on its oars towards ensuring

that it delivers its promise to them for them to continue to hold the government in high esteem, reliable and responsible.

"Since all the projects were of high significance, the state government would ensure that it deliver them to enable the people access the means of improving their socio-economic activities he assured.

Governor Sule who was elated with the resolve of Gwandara nation to unite themselves and promote their socio-cultural activities and ensure peaceful co-existence with all their neighbours, tasked them not to do away with their cultural heritage so as to live great legacies to their upcoming generation.

While commending the Gwandara nation for the support and co-operation to his administration, the governor assured that his leadership would continue to carry all along irrespective of all differences, provide an enabling environment for meaningful socio-economic

activities to thrive and build a just and egalitarian society for all to benefit.

In his remarks, the chairman of the occasion and present Speaker of the Niger State House of Assembly Hon Bawa Abdullahi Wuse stressed the need for the Gwandara community to bring out more innovations that would promote their unity, peaceful co-existence and socio-economic development and expressed his delight with the successful staging of the cultural activities and called for its sustenance with view a good legacies to the younger generations.

Also in his message, the Sardauna Gwandara Senator Umaru Tanko Almakura expressed gratitude for the Gwandara nation for according their cultural heritage with a high significance an action he believed would continue to sustain their values and greatness.

Almakura who was represented by the immediate past chairman of GWADECA Alhaji Musa Dangana and chairman of the state's civil service commission assured of his continued support and co-operation to the success of activities of the association and then tasked them on the need to continue to promote their unity and peaceful co-existences with all communities in order to build a better society for all and sundry.

The Royal Father of the day who is also the Emir of Karshi Professor Muhammad Sani Bako in his vote of thanked all those that have contributed in one way or the other toward the success of the event and assured of their continued fatherly support to the success of the future event and the promotion of peaceful co-existence amongst the Gwadara nation and their neighbours.

Earlier in his welcome address the GWADECA chairman in the state Dr. John

D. W. Mamman, stated that when he assumed office on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at Kwandare assured that he will strive to sustain the cultural values and practices of their people, especially by staging cultural festivals such as the one that took place in Garaku, Headquarters of kokona Local Government Area.

He explained that the cultural festival was intended to remind them as Gwandara race, of their heritage and historical migration record from Kano many years ago and it is to further unite them as well as strengthen their relationship with their neighbours here, where the Almighty God has destined to be their second home.

Mamman however admonished the people that As "a people, we might have our political, Religious and other differences but we should not allow whatever sentiments to hinder our unity, development and well-being.

# SEC 44 tasked on policies to strengthen LG

By DUMAH RANDONG

PARTICIPANTS of the Senior Executive Course 44 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, NIPSS, have been tasked to come up with workable and impactful policies that would strengthen the third tier of government in Nigeria as they are closest to the people at the grassroot, so should be strengthened and made a useful delivery tool for development.

Governor Lalong gave the challenge when the Study Group 4 of the Senior Executive Course 44 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies lead by Professor Tunji Alaopa paid him a visit at Government House, Rayfield.

Represented by his Deputy,

Professor Sonni Tyoden, Lalong said experience has shown that management of Local Government leaves much to be desired as the autonomy granted was only in theory but in practice was a different ball game hoping that participants will develop a robust policy that would serve as a guide to government to strengthen governance at the grassroot.

Earlier, Leader of the Study Group of the Senior Executive Course 44 NIPSS, Prof Tunji Alaopa explained that the Theme of this year was "Strengthening Local Governance in Nigeria: Challenges, Options and Opportunities," was carefully selected by the Presidency as a demonstration of its commitment to secure a more workable and developmental

governance model.

Prof Alaopa said they will work to ensure state institutions such as Local Governments in Nigeria was strengthened to have strong decentralized framework to organize people better for development.

The group, he highlighted will in the course of their research work, find answers to the issue of Local Government autonomy which was critical to the restructuring of Nigeria.

He expressed happiness over the topic given them and said they will in course of their study, visit critical agencies and interact with the view to getting output that would benefit not only the Federal Government but the states as well.



Sule

# IMAGES (Repeat)

## NIGERIAN GOVERNORS FORUM CHAIR IN JOS, RECEIVED BY LALONG

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently at his official residence, received the Chairman, Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF) and Governor of Ekiti State, Dr. John Fayemi Kayode who came to commiserate with Plateau State over the recent bandits attack in Kanam and Wase LGAs



Dr. Fayemi Kayode, NGF Chairman (right) being received by the Chief of Staff Government House, Hon. Noel Dongjur



NGF Chairman, Dr. John Fayemi Kayode (standing) extending the Forum's condolences and donation of N50million while Governor Lalong listens



Governor Lalong and Governor Kayode (right) during the visit



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (standing) responding on behalf of himself, state and the people



L - R: Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner of Information, Dr. Makut Simon Macham, Director of Press and Public Affairs and Hon. Philip Dan Hirkop, Commissioner, Higher Education



L - R: Hon. Jude Dakur, Commissioner, Solid Mineral, Hon. Jerry Sauni Werr, Commissioner, Special Duties, Hon. Elizabeth Wapmuk, Commissioner, Secondary Education and Barr. Samuel Kwamkur, Adviser on Job Creation



A cross section of members of the State Executive Council



Governor Lalong, NGF Chairman, Dr. Fayemi Kayode in a group photograph with those that accompanied him

Photos: DANLADI DUK

## Politics

# Politics of zoning

**The argument of zoning at its best gives a cause of inclusion, fair play, inclusiveness and belief in a better organised Nigeria. But recent experience has shown that zoning is now a response to nepotism, irregular preferment in jobs and promotions, in short, those who argue for zoning see the Skewed and screwed appointment policy, preferment policy, sectional development and consequent neglect of the other parts. Now what is the basis of the argument? In fact it says that only when your tribesman is in control only then will your people have a fair share of the cake. PATRICK COLE writes.**

NO one argues that the skewed appointment policy may be responsible for the failure of the economic policy.

Moreover the argument supposes that no failures under a zoning regime is possible in Nigeria, no leadership can exist because all leaders are constructed to help their area. When a President says that he is the president of all Nigeria no one believes him. More pressure is put on the leader to remember that his position is temporary and his people will lose more if he were too vast fairly.

Nothing encourages corruption more than the argument that the leader must help their own people. Very few are unfairly of ethnic groups, if you don't help us who will? Most leaders arrive in office with an ethnic agenda and not necessarily an economic plan to help his area. A real genius with leadership ability will never be able to lead well if he has to meet the aspirations of his zone. Even within his zone, there will be many that will argue that he is against certain groups in the zone. Zoning may be alright for parts of Nigeria which have a large single ethnic group.

It may not be alright for Rivers State where it's a multiplicity of ethnic groups- Ogoni, Abua, Ndoni, Ikwerre, Andoni, Okirika, Ahoada, Ekpeya. Matters become worse when you can divide Rivers into Riverine and Upland. Rivers state has since 1993 had 3 upland Governors- Odili, Amaechi and Wike. The potential to execute upland and River dictatory was not pursued by Odili and Amaechi. Wike came to power but on pouring petrol into this potential fire of the division between Upland and Riverine, he shamelessly exploited this division. Riverine people feel like second class citizens in Rivers. These are sentiments clearly stated and felt and exploited by everyone. Even if these are misguided feelings, it is the duty of the Government to douse these fiery sentiments and explain in speech and action that this is not so.

The Upland argument is that the riverine people had a field day between 1967 and 1999. They claimed that originally at the outset of Rivers State in 1967 the Judiciary, the Civil Service, and the Government itself was completely dominated by the Riverine peoples. That Peter Odili was elected as a response to correct what obviously was a recognized perception of predominated Riverine excessive powers in Judiciary, Business, Bureaucracy, etc.

Odili was a fair Governor and championed inclusiveness, good governance and even development. Since the first day of Governor Wike's ascension, every Riverine subject has felt unrepresented and fearful. Nearly every head of departments at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology is dominated by non-riverine people.

There is a University of Agriculture in Ikwerre. There is the Law School in Ikwerre Land; there is a college of Education in Ogoni, there is not one tertiary institution in any riverine territory. Business is booming in the



Adamu



Ayu

non-Riverine states: for the rest it is poverty, occultism and abject distress.

I know that issues like these get misunderstood. That I should raise it would suggest that I am for zoning. Let's go deeper, a dynamic leader like Wike could have done wonders for Rivers State but he came to office on the agenda that is unfortunate, belief in turn by turn Government may lead to frustration and an iron shackle barring progress. What I would prefer is a Governor who has a development plan that has been explained to the people and seen by the people as a fair plan for all.

In case I have not made my case clear, it is this; let's choose leaders with a plan of what they can do and a cohesive policy. So long as our politics is to encourage division (and that is really what zoning does), the benefits of good government, progress, inclusivity and harmony will always elude us. Presidency must rotate if not the Ibo might continue to suffer the injustice of their massacre in the North in 1966.

The argument of diversity and inclusiveness: the North has monopolised the Presidency/Head of Government since 1956 with the exception of OBJ whose Presidency was based on the principle of zoning to compensate for Abiola's earlier electoral victory and eventual murder.

After OBJ, power was to go to the North, if certain aspects of federalism is based on equality, for example, the equality of all states recognized by equal state representation in the Senate.

Should the Presidency be different? Zoning it is argued, works in Switzerland but does not work in Latvia? Zoning has never

been a feature of US federalism. First Southern President in the US- Jimmy Carter.

What has been the effect of the North always clinging to the Presidency? Proponents of zoning argue that appointments seemed to be in their favour so also are power points in the administration- Customs, NPA, Military, Security, Prisons. Now the Northern appointments are moving in the economic mainstay and life of Nigeria NNPC, Central Bank and a slew of quagos- Petroleum trust fund, Petroleum Equalization Fund, Education Trust Fund, Pension Fund, NSTIF, Mortgage Bank etc. but are these opinions true? Can they be justified?

The drop in education in the North is palpable yet positions are filled in ministries from the North. Should WAEC entrance qualification be different from state to state, because qualifications for the Army, Navy, and Air Force etc. are lower for Northerners than for Southerners, yet the former on employment are put on a faster track than the others.

Is this true or a mere perception, which is intensified when one is in Abuja? The Southerners on the other hand, are never willing to accept their own prejudices viz every Northerner they have seen are the meguards, money changers, butchers and suya sellers, occasionally a yoghurt or milk seller or itinerant tailor.

By 1970 many Northerners had good degrees from good universities- (again the Southerners would beg to differ) he got into the university as a special care, how do I know the same preferential treatment was not given them in the final year exams? I demurred, but the perception continued so strongly that the Federal Government sought through education to reduce tribal tension and begin near and breed the authentic Nigerian. The Federal

Government in the 1970s set up unity schools where students from different parts were sent off to.

Those who oppose zoning claim that it is against democracy which is the rule of the majority. If the majority of Nigerians are from the North why should they be denied the right to be President? (Is the Prime Ministership of the UK zoned to the Oxbridge graduates? Over 50% of the UK are from Ox bridge) (AG, Iait Brivain is not a federation, is this really an argument, an objection. How does the Prime Minister of the UK emerge from both parties?)

Why do we need a leader of Nigeria not a leader of the North ruling over the South and North? Perception is all important in politics, if some sizable groups feel that they would never be President, to that extent is their ministership of the Nigeria project questionable.

Students from different parts were sent off to school so as to ensure enforced meeting of up and coming Nigerian class. After secondary school, universities were encouraged to accept students from outside the catchment area location of the university, at the National Youth Service Corp one year program, again working in this scheme of producing true Nigerians, the Government encouraged the Youth Corpers to train in states other than their own original states: thereby learning new culture, and creating a better rounded Nigerian.

Moreover, during the civil war, Nigerian Soldiers had been posted around, especially in the East where a large number of senior officers married local women out of love and circumstances. After all the officers considered themselves Nigerian officers not Ibo, Yoruba or Hausa officers.

Even the perception that the Northern officers were given

preferential treatment could not be erase from the minds of Northern officers, who constantly in private conversations noted how Northern officers flew past them upward of the officer ranks despite earlier qualification training and excellent record and reports that fried up the files.

Too often they complained that when a Chief of Army, Navy, Air Force is chosen, a relatively junior officer is chosen necessitating the mass retirement of all officers senior to the incoming Chief in that arm of the military. Non-Northern officers complained of the insecurity of their tenors to no avail.

The Northern officers were seemingly more modest, less flamboyant. If the officer was not his shortcoming is usually traced to his Southern wife or to some other tryst that he had with a Southern woman- pushy, flashy, get rich quick women- impatient for their man's success. (In a closed society nothing is stronger than rumors, there is no society more closed than military: their rumors take on the strength, the fervor, the authenticity of the Holy Grail, Bible or the Quran or the commentaries.)

Need for healthy competition and answers to the fears of the Northerner if the Southerners and vice versa, to ignore doing so smacks of arrogance- why should I waste my time explaining that Southern or Northern view of each other is wrong, childish. (Try not to explain a suspicion to your wife on the grounds that such suspicion is childish and watch what will happen to your house, family, laviness, friends.)

The Southerner and Northerner need to constantly reassure one another of their devotion and their love. Even so there are two other toxins in the life of the Nigerian- a. religion b. Middle Belt who to the Northern is a mongrel, not a pure breed and does not deserve the time and attention of the super Northern purebred.

This veneer, and that is all it is breaking down when into the Northern toxicity you now add a highly indescribable none academically provable- the Hausa-Fulani. Where in God's name do you include a Middle Belter in that categorisation? Democracy is clear as to race, geography, freedom to elect, equality and tolerance.

That freedom includes freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom not to be jailed or arrested when you have broken no law, freedom of worship and assembly. (It is of course true that the father of democracy- the US failed in all the above instances; jailed people because of the color of their skin, jailed people they did not like, failed to give any American the right to live and do whatever his ability could get him, sold slaves and deprived them of all the elements of democracy). They built institutions, supported robust guard rails to maintain democracy.

## News

## NDE trains 130 women on vocational trade

From **AMEDU JOSEPH**  
Lokoja

THE National Directorate of Employment (NDE), has commenced one week training for unemployed women in Kogi on natural organic products, beads on cloths, perfumery, tie and dye, make up and event decoration.

The Director-General of NDE, Mallam Abubakar Nuhu Fikpo while speaking at the flag-off ceremony held at the Lugard Beach Hall in Lokoja, last weekend, said that the programme is in pursuant of the federal government's mission to design and implement job creation schemes that would reduce poverty, enhance wealth and employment generation as well as promotion of attitudinal change in Nigeria.

The Director General who was represented by the Kogi State Coordinator of NDE, Mallam Abubakar Zakari, commended Governor Yahaya Bello for his continued task of providing enabling and secured environment in the state which he said had facilitated the smooth operations of the NDE job creation Programmes in Kogi.

The Director-General hinted that the federal



**Fikpo**

government is unrelented in tackling the monster called unemployment in Nigeria so as to reduce to the barest minimum, the alarming poverty and sufferings associated with the disease.

He described women as mothers and pillars of their respective families and so deserved equal opportunities like their male counterparts.

Fikpo vowed that the federal government will continue to work towards the realisation of the NDE's vision; "Jobs for All".

Earlier, the Head of Women Employment Branch of the NDE, Mrs Ochimana Ilebaye had

congratulated the womenfolk for the privilege given them to develop themselves towards becoming self-reliant.

According to her "no women, no nation, so, they should not be left out of the scheme of things in their immediate communities"

Ilebaye reminded women across the state of the need to shun all forms of social vices and embrace labour with its dignity.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mrs Rahmat Salih Laminde praised the federal government in its aggressive way to lift millions of Nigerians out of poverty.

THE Zonal Controller, West African Examination Council (WAEC) Sofela Bisi has cautioned examiners to shun participating in examination malpractice.

Briefing supervisors ahead of the commencement of West African Senior School Certificate Examinations in Minna, Niger State capital, the zonal controller said any officer caught in the act will face the full wrath of the law to serve as deterrent to others.

He lamented that some supervisors initiate malpractice in schools they are posted to, adding that anyone found wanting will be penalized and the school deregistered.

## Quit assisting in malpractice -WAEC

From **MATHEW JWANTU,**  
Minna.

"Some supervisors request for money from students to allow them cheat or sell examination questions. Our exams are to measure standards and not to negotiate and sell our questions".

Sofela urged Principals of schools in Niger State to ensure they participate fully in monitoring examination in their schools. He added that it will afford them the

opportunity to have first hand information of the things perpetuated in their schools by some supervisors.

"Be on ground to monitor to see what some of them do as some collect money from students".

"I appeal to you to only give us people who value hard work over money".

The Principals should only ensure that people with integrity are the ones to be recommended for supervision not those who value money over hard work.

## Constituency passes confidence vote on Abdullahi

From **MOHAMMED**  
**ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

THE people of Umaisha/Ugya Constituency in Toto Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, where the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Hon. Ibrahim Balarabe Abdullahi comes from have passed a vote of confidence on their representative thus making the coast clear for him to recontest his position come 2023.

This, according to the people was based on his purposeful representation in the state's law making body and the need for him to do more for the betterment of the people in the consistency.

Our man observed that various political and interest groups comprise of Youths,



**Abdullahi**

women and elders as well as stakeholders from the Speaker's immediate

constituency have continued to troop into the residence of the State Number Three Citizen and their representative to show solidarity and acknowledge his good representation.

As Speaker Balarabe Abdullahi played host to the groups one after the other. Their message was simple, to acknowledged the giant strides of the Speaker both at the legislative chamber and at the constituency level, and to re-assured him of their total loyalty and support beyond 2023 by passing a vote of confidence on him and Governor Abdullahi Sule.

The Speaker there after took time to pay homage to his Paramount Ruler the Ohimege Opanda HRH Alhaji Usman Abdullahi as well as visit stakeholders of his immediate constituency where he held close door sessions with them.

He then appreciated his people for the support they gave him so far and re-assured them that he will continue to be a good servant of his people just as he harped on peace, unity and the need for the people to remain committed to government policies and programmes for more democratic gains.

Abdullahi equally reminded his people that it is election period and they should strategize ahead of the party primaries to go as one united body to deliver all candidates that they will at the end of the day agree to vote for in all the elective positions.

## More defendants added weight in Emeziele case

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

A Federal High Court sitting in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has joined the opposition People Democratic Party (PDP) as third Defendant in a suit filed by the Governor Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Godwin Emeziele, against the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, and the Independent National

Electorate Commission (INEC).

The other defendant joined in the suit were John A Martins, Olu Kunle Edun, who file for themselves and on behalf of members of 'save Nigeria, Our Father Land'.

The trial judge, Justice A.R Mohammed, however, ordered accelerated hearing of the suit and directed parties to ensure they file and serve necessary

processes within the abridged time.

The two defendants who are 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Defendant respectively said they sought to join the suit on behalf of "all well meaning and democracy loving Nigerians, except those who may be opposed to it".

The applicants who are legal practioners and also

## FG orders security agencies to monitor political actors

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG,**  
Abuja

THE Federal Government has ordered the security agencies to monitor and profile key political actors a head of the 2023 general elections.

The security adviser to the President, Babagana Monguno who disclosed this in Abuja explained that the federal government was concerned about the growing uncertainty heralding the conduct of party primaries for 2023 elections.

He was speaking at a meeting of the inter-agency consultative committee on election security organized by the Independent National Electorate Commission (INEC) during the meeting, the electoral body expressed concern over the security

situation in the country and its impact on the electoral process.

According to Monguno, this became necessary in view of the unabated spate of violence that threatened the upcoming off-cycle gubernatorial elections in Ekiti and Osun State, arising from internal party wrangling, increasing acrimony and bickering among other political actors as well as the inability of various contending political blocks to amicably resolve differences in line with democratic tenets.

He said, the disturbing development had already culminated to intense power play capable of heightening unnecessary political tension



**Monguno**

across the country continuing Monguno said, "more worrisome is the unguarded utterances of some highly respected individuals and groups which more often than not, amplify divisive narratives to the detriment of national security and stability.



**Emefiele**

News

Religious protests banned in Kaduna

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

THE Kaduna State government, in consultation with security agencies under the umbrella of the Kaduna State Security Council has placed a ban on protests related to religious activity throughout the state with immediate effect.

A state security update, signed by Samuel Aruwan, Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State has said this prohibition becomes imperative in view of moves by some unpatriotic elements to organize series of for-and-against protests related to a security development in one of the northern Nigerian States.

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai who has been briefed of the development has charged security agencies to ensure strict enforcement of this ban against any form of religious protest in the state.

The Governor also charged religious leaders, community leaders and



El-Rufai

traditional rulers throughout the state to complement the efforts of government and security agencies towards the maintenance of peace and stability.

Security agencies have thus resolved that any attempt by individuals or groups to disrupt the peace and stability of the state, by way of religious protests, will not be

condoned. Such protests will be promptly halted, and conveners prosecuted.

Citizens are implored to remain calm as they go about their lawful pursuits, and to immediately report any such activity or security concern to the Kaduna State Security Operations Room, on 0903400060 and 08170189999.

DSS denies pushing for tenure elongation for Buhari

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja

THE Department of State Services (DSS) had denied pushing for tenure elongation for President Muhammadu Buhari.

It would be recalled that a report had claimed the secret Police said, the 2023 general election might not hold due to insecurity.

But the Department of State Services in a statement by its spoke's man Peter Afunanya said, the report was "false and

fabricated to malign the service and mislead the populace"

In the said report, the service was accused of informing participants at its April 6 brainstorming session with CSOs/NGOs that the 2023 general election might not hold due to insecurity. The report further stated that the session was a ruse to sell tenure elongation to the public.

The statement stressed that "the DSS disassociates it self from the publication and categorically states that the information is false and obviously fabricated to malign and mislead the populace"

According to the DSS, the statement by "the presidency reiterating its definite stance to hand over power to a new president on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 has vindicated the service" and counter the elongation report.

NUC approves new courses for AUN

From GYANG PAM, Yola

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved the B.Sc and M.Sc degree programmes for American University of Nigeria (AUN).

The programmes are scheduled from the 2021/2022 Academic Session and in addition to Computer Science, Software Engineering and Information System which was being offered at the Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate and professional credentialing levels.

Daniel Okereke, Director Marketing and

Communications disclosed this in a release on Monday courses to be introduced include a hybrid option for existing post graduate professional Masters in Information and communication Sciences, (MCIS) and Masters in Telecommunications and Wireless Technologies, (MTWT).

This according to Okereke will make it possible for candidates to choose to study for any of these professional master's

programme on a regular or on a hybrid mode.

The NUC letter for the approval was signed by the Director for Academic Planning for and on behalf of the Executive Secretary Dr. N.B. Salisu President of the AUN Dr. Margee Ensign has described these approvals as a vote of confidence in the university's academic standards.

Margee described AUN as the leading institution in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa in information technology and computing.



Journalists as fall guys

JOURNALISM and journalists are constantly exposed to dangers and threats to their lives in the course of carrying out their statutory responsibilities of gathering news for dissemination. Like soldiers who are always at the forefront in the battle grounds, newsmen do not shy away from situations because of the need to be the eyes and the ears of the rest of the society. Sometimes they get caught up in the cross fire that is often ignited by certain sentiments that have nothing to do with them.

This was the case recently in Namu, Qua'an Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State, when journalists were attacked and the Hummer bus of the Plateau Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists was torched. Thank God, no live was lost. But this attack, which is one of the many involving journalists, was unnecessary and unwarranted. The attack occurred when the Senator representing the Southern Zone of Plateau in the National Assembly, Nora Daduut, had gone to commission an ICT hub she built. The facility is meant to ease the sufferings of eligible students from the area who in the past had to travel long distances to write JAMB and other ICT based examinations.

But why the attack on journalists? The thesis for me is simple. People have hidden agendas and they seek out opportunities to vent their pent up anger albeit wrongly on anyone or anything they find. What for instance was the correlation between the arrest of criminals, gun runners and the commissioning of an ICT hub? Are we to assume that those who committed the dastardly acts support criminality and the activities of these perverts? Or how else could we explain the attempt by hoodlums to force the Senator who was not responsible in the first place for the arrest, to order for the release of the criminals?

We must note that crime and criminality has thrived in that axis for quite some time now. Hardly a week

passes by without one form of criminality being committed in that community. It is either a robbery on the highway or a kidnapping. Indeed, the area has become a hotbed for the activities of bandits.

It is a known fact that the Pandam Wildlife Park has provided a sanctuary for these criminals because of the ungoverned space found there. The park which is a sanctuary for some rare species of plants and animals have been desecrated and left to rot. Criminals has thus taken advantage of the lack of government presence to inflict pain and suffering on the society.

Government must, as a matter of urgency, turn around the Park to serve the purpose for which it was meant for. As a matter of fact, in this era when the resources available to the state government is so lean, concerted efforts should be made to ensure the Park becomes a revenue yielding resource. Its natural ambience, coupled with the location on the border between Plateau and Nasarawa,

**“ On the other hand, communities need to understand the functions of journalists. They must know that journalists are neutral people whose responsibility is reporting events objectively. They neither take sides nor get involved in activities that do not concern them. Their fundamental tasks is reporting the truth about events and nothing more. They therefore, deserve protection not humiliation. ”**

places it at an advantage to provide tourists the needed escape to recharge their batteries. Not only that, the Park when properly managed could become a hub for scholarship not only because of the rare species found there but because of the serene atmosphere that would encourage creativity.

On the other hand, communities need to understand the functions of journalists. They must know that journalists are neutral people whose responsibility is reporting events objectively. They neither take sides nor get involved in activities that do not concern them. Their fundamental tasks is reporting the truth about events and nothing more. They therefore, deserve protection not humiliation. Communities must make it their responsibility to help these set of people so as to make our society better.

The security agencies on the other hand, must do everything humanly possible to help these set of people do their jobs. They must be protected as the fourth estate of the realm. It is not often easy bridging the gap between the people and those who are in power. The ability to balance is in itself a very big task not to talk about worrying about one's safety. Besides the resort to self-help in whatever situation too is manifestly wrong and should be condemned and discouraged. No society develops where the law of the land is disregarded and held with disdain. Ways must be sought therefore, to protect and not molest those that render these essential services on behalf of the people.

What this means also is that those who indulge in criminal activities must at all times be punished and brought to justice. That would not only serve as deterrent but will also reassure people that whoever errs would not be allowed to go scot free.

Also government must ensure that it plays its part by doing the needful. Providing conditions for industry to thrive would no doubt help in stemming the slide to criminality.

## News

### Lalong eulogises Dogonyaro at memorial

By PALANG KASMI

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong has joined the family of General Joshua Dogonyaro in eulogising the Late Lt. Gen Joshua Dogonyaro, a year after his demise, saying his legacies will be fondly remembered.

Lalong made the remarks during a Memorial Thanksgiving Service in memory of the Late General Sunday, at the Church Of Christ In Nations (COCIN) Headquarters Church, Behind Central Bank, Jos Plateau State.

Lt. Gen. Dogonyaro was Nigeria's former General Officer Commanding 3 Armoured Division Jos and ECOMOG Commander and had died in May 2021 due to ill-health.

Gov. Lalong represented by Commissioner for higher Education, Hon. Dan Philip Hirkop urged the family to remain strong, courageous and imbibe the great attributes of their Late father.

He described the late Dogonyaro as a gallant soldier who made the country proud adding that with God on their side, it shall be well with the family.

Rev. Moses Chagumi, a Pastor at COCIN Headquarters Church who presented a sermon took his reading from Second kings 12 and challenged the

congregation to be honest, stand for the truth in all their endeavours in the society because dishonesty destroys relationships.

Chagumi admonished Christians to follow the Biblical example of honest people and not dishonest ones to avoid repercussions stressing that it is the major challenge that is causing the decay and corruption faced in leadership and some facets of life in the country.

While describing dishonesty as a willful diversion of truth Chagumi said: "God desires honest people who are the kind of people a wife or husband will like to have and what Nigerians need in

government, the Judiciary, places of work, businesses, schools and society".

Wife of the Late General, Mrs Esther Dogonyaro in her remarks during the service said they are happy to express their profound gratitude to God for spearheading their lives since the demise of their father.

She appreciated the tremendous support the family has been receiving from government, friends, the church, and well wishers which has kept them going through their grieving moments.

The event was attended by Government Officials, members of the Nigerian Army, Traditional rulers, well wishers and family of the Late General.



Lalong

### Police Service commission confirms promotion of officers

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Police Service Commission rose from its 15th Plenary Meeting recently in Abuja with the confirmation of acting DIG John Ogonnaya Amadi as a substantive Deputy Inspector General of Police, approved the appointment of Zama Bala Senchi as a Deputy Inspector General of Police and promoted eight Commissioners of Police to Assistant Inspectors General of Police. The Commission also approved the promotion of 23 Deputy Commissioners to the next rank of Commissioners of Police; 31 Assistant Commissioners to Deputy Commissioners of Police and 63 Chief Superintendents of Police promoted to Assistant Commissioners of Police.

The Plenary Meeting which began on Wednesday, May 11th 2022 was presided over by Alhaji Musiliu Smith, Chairman of the Commission and former Inspector General of Police. DIG Amadi, currently acting, replaced late DIG Joseph Egbunike and will be representing the South East in the Force Management team while DIG Senchi was the most senior in the AIG cadre.

Other decisions taken by the commission at the Plenary were the promotion of 57 deputy Superintendents of Police earlier skipped when their

mates were promoted to the next rank of Superintendents. Other categories of deputy Superintendents of Police such as the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria, Course 4, Inspectors Course 37 and regular ASP's course 25 and 26 were also promoted to Superintendents having met established requirements. The Commission also promoted 1698 Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASP) to Deputy Superintendents of Police, 6119 Inspectors who attended the recent Departmental Selection Board (DSB) were promoted to ASP11 while 1965 ASP11 were confirmed ASPs. The Commission also approved the conversion of 19 Engineers from General Duty to Specialists and upgraded to the rank of Deputy Superintendents of Police which is the statutory entry level for Pilots and Aircraft maintenance engineers in line with Aviation scheme of service.

The eight Commissioners of Police promoted to AIGs were; CP Mustafa Magu Ibrahim who is the most senior in the CP cadre and who missed the last two promotions after returning to the Police; Abraham Egong Ayim; Okunlola Kola Kamaldeen; Andrew Amieengheme; Akeera Mohammed Younous; Celestine Amechi Elumelu;

Ngozi Vivian Onadeko and Danladi Bitrus Lalas (Airwing).

The Commission re-confirmed its earlier approval for the rectification/harmonization of promotion date and proper placement of eight Chief Superintendents of Police and subsequently promoted them to the rank of Assistant Commissioners of Police. They are Sunday David Ogenyi; Andrew Simon Ali; Manger Iorlumun Fergus; Juliet Ireju Barasau; Moses Aikuola; Francis Osagie Irabo; Ahijo Ditina Lawson and Ukponge Ephraim. The Commission also approved the promotion of another set of 55 CSPs to ACPs, which included; Janet Ademuyiwa Salami, Oyo State Command; Francis Ebhuoma, Lagos State Command; Iliyasu Tanko Doma X Squad, SCID, Kaduna and Ogonnaya Okpara, DPO, Ogui road, Enugu State Command.

Two Superintendents of Police skipped in the earlier promotion - Adebayo Olayinka and Abdulrazaq Bello, were promoted to the next rank of Chief Superintendents of Police. Some DSPs promoted to SPS were: Ibrahim Lawan Rano, SPU Base 7 Abuja and Lucas Yohanna, Adamawa State Command, Nnadozie Peter, Enugu State Command; Chinemelu Martholomew, Force Headquarters; Christopher Umukoro; Suleiman Yahaya, PPRO

By FWENJI GOAR

THE erratic electricity supply at the Yakubu Gowon Dam Treatment Plant Shen has been attributed to the lack of water supply in Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

In a press statement issued by the Jos Water Services Corporation on Tuesday, and signed by the Public Relations Officer, Nangor Ndam and made available to the media, the Ag Managing Director, Mrs. Stella T. Buge said, "there had been erratic electricity supply at Yakubu Gowon Dam Treatment plant which supplies the bulk of water to most areas within Jos and Bukuru metropolis"

Mrs. Buge listed the affected areas to include Bukuru, Bukur Low Cost, Rayfield, Abattoir, GRA, Hwolshe, Tudun Wada, Kabong, Rukuba Road, FarinGada up to Mista Ali.

The statement urged those affected to remain calm as the Corporation is doing everything it can to restore water supply to areas affected.

### Erratic power blamed for lack of water supply



Buge

Meanwhile, the management of the Corporation gave the assurance that the Jos

Electricity Distribution Company is working to rectify the problems, and that it regrets any inconvenience this might have caused the general public.

### BaSAM commends Bauchi health contributory agency

From ABBAS SHEHU Gungura, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Accountability Mechanism for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (BaSAM) has commended Bauchi State Government through the State Health Contributory Management Agency

(BASHCMA) for its effort in making basic health care services accessible to citizens of the state.

BaSAM also advocates for more improved and acceptable data collation/reporting on uptake of Child Birth Spacing Services (CBSS) in the state.

The Co-Chair of BaSAM, Mr.

Abu John Yusuf made the commendation recently at the end of a workshop meeting for the development of October 2021-March 2022 scorecard of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) intervention in the state.

The coalition further advocates that under 5 immunization and malaria treatment be given critical attention for infant survival and that ANC attendance and hospital delivery be

given increased focus to save mothers and babies. The advocates further stressed that, "efforts should be intensified to scale-up PHCs that provide Primary Care services under the BHCPF for improved health service access for the most vulnerable population of the state".

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that BaSAM is a coalition, whose membership is drawn from the civil society groups, relevant government MDAs and the media. The coalition is being supported by Evidence for Action-Mamaye (E4A) Project, using evidence-based advocacy methods to influence policy makers and other stakeholders into taking decisions that are likely to improve MNCH services and access in Bauchi State.



Osaghne

## Foreign Commentary

# Can Africa replace Russian gas supplies to Europe?

**African countries are among those hoping to increase their exports of gas to the European Union, after the EU committed to reduce its reliance on Russian supplies following the invasion of Ukraine. IJEOMA NDUKWE writes.**

RUSSIA'S suspension of deliveries to Poland and Bulgaria over their refusal to pay in roubles, the Russian currency, was a stark reminder of the threat facing the Eurozone. Russia has the largest natural gas reserves in the world and is the largest exporter, accounting for around 40% of Europe's imports.

The EU wants to cut supplies by two-thirds by the end of the year and become independent of all its fossil fuels by 2030.

However, energy economist Carole Nakhle says that with the combined exports of Africa's big players in the industry - Algeria, Egypt and Nigeria - amounting to less than half of what Russia supplies to Europe, they are "unlikely at the moment to compensate for any losses in Russian supplies".

"The good news is there will be greater interest in countries that already have the resources to replace Russian gas and Africa is in a very good position. We're going to see more investment," she says.

However, this will take time because if various logistical issues in the continent's major exporters.

Algeria is well positioned to benefit from the EU's shift in energy policy. The North African country is the region's biggest natural gas exporter and currently enjoys well developed gas connectivity infrastructure with Europe.

Last month Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi signed a new gas supply deal with Algeria to increase gas imports by around 40%.

It was Italy's first major deal to find alternative supplies following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, there are concerns over Algeria's ability to boost capacity due to rising domestic consumption, underinvestment in production and political instability, says Uwa Osadieye, the senior vice-president of Equity Research at FBNQuest Merchant Bank.



He points out that the amount of gas exported from Algeria to Europe has fallen sharply recently because of a dispute with Morocco, leading to the closure of a vital pipeline to Spain, from 17 billion cubic feet a year to around nine billion.

Pier Paolo Raimondi, an energy research fellow at Rome's Istituto Affari Internazionali, echoes these concerns.

"The agreement will allow them to exploit the available pipeline transportation capacity and it could gradually provide increasing volumes of up to nine billion cubic metres per year in 2023 and 2024. [But] we don't know how fast Algeria can ramp up this production."

Despite the reservations, the deal has been hailed as a solid first step for Italy, which is the second-largest buyer of Russian gas in Europe.

Italian ministers also travelled to Angola and Congo-Brazzaville, where they agreed new gas deals and Italy is eyeing opportunities in Mozambique in a bid to end its dependency on Russia by mid-2023.

Meanwhile, West African liquefied natural gas producer, Nigeria LNG, has been inundated with requests for gas from European countries since the start of the conflict in Ukraine.

At present, Spain, Portugal and France are the three key destination markets for Nigeria

LNG's product and the company is only able to honour its existing contracts with buyers, according to a source who wishes to remain anonymous.

"There is an opportunity to increase production. Today Nigeria LNG is just 72% plant-mobilised, which means there's still capacity of 28% to utilise, provided they're able to get the gas, and that's where the biggest challenge is right now," the source says.

He cites myriad issues obstructing the company's ability to step up production, including declining gas wells and a lack of funding for upstream activities.

"They're things that can be fixed in the short term - between six to 18 months."

According to Andy Odeh, Nigeria LNG's General Manager of External Relations and Sustainable Development, discussions are ongoing with natural gas suppliers to resolve these issues and he hopes to increase LNG production levels "from the end of this year onwards," he says.

A new Nigeria LNG gas project, Train 7, will increase production capacity by 35% from the current 22 million tonnes per annum by 2025.

However, contracts with buyers, largely in Europe, are already in place. Nigeria LNG is also conducting feasibility studies for an additional project, Train 8, to boost supplies further.

The West African state is also a key player in the stalled Trans Saharan Pipeline project - a 4,400km (2,735 mile) natural gas pipeline that would run from

Nigeria, through Niger to Algeria.

It would connect to existing pipeline infrastructure in Algeria, linking West African countries to Europe.

The project was mooted in the 1970s, but has been bedevilled by security threats, environmental concerns and a lack of funding.

At a meeting in February, regional officials promised to finally get it going.

However, Kayode Thomas, the head of Bell Oil & Gas, says that another project - the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline, which will connect infrastructure in West Africa to Morocco in order to reach Europe - is gaining traction.

"We're still not sure whether this will cannibalise the Trans Saharan pipeline or run alongside it," he says.

The project, estimated to cost \$25bn (\$20bn) and connecting 13 West and North African countries, will be completed in stages over 25 years.

Ms Nakhle says the shift to sourcing gas from Africa could also benefit countries such as Tanzania and Mozambique, although a huge project there run by French giant Total is currently on hold following a major attack by Islamist militants based in the area.

"There is great potential in Africa, but I would say that it's got to be very limited in the short-term because gas projects take time to materialise," she says.

But in the medium- and long-term, "you will see greater investment to increase the capacity to bring more gas out of the ground and bring them to Europe".



**Nigeria is under pressure to increase gas production**

## Foreign News

### Libyan rival PM leaves Tripoli after clashes

BASHAGHA entered Tripoli with some support but was met by opposition from forces aligned with UN-recognised PM Dbeibeh.

Fathi Bashagha was appointed last month as Prime Minister-designate despite growing tensions.

Libya's parliament-appointed prime minister briefly attempted to take over the capital Tripoli before being forced out hours after his arrival triggered fighting between opposing militias.

Clashes erupted early on Tuesday morning as Fathi Bashagha tried to take control of the government from the rival United Nations-recognised administration of Abdel Hamid Dbeibeh, which has refused to cede power.

Bashagha, who was appointed as prime minister by the Tobruk-based parliament in February, entered Tripoli overnight after two months of deadlock between Libya's rival administrations, but withdrew hours later as fighting rocked the capital "to preserve the security and safety of citizens", his office said.

The sound of heavy weapons and automatic gunfire was heard across the capital on Tuesday morning, schools were cancelled, and the normally heavy rush hour traffic was sparse.

Fighting was reported in the al-Mansoura and Souq al-Thulatha areas of central Tripoli.

Khaled al-Mishri, the head of Libya's High Council of State, condemned the violence and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

"We affirm that the only solution to the current political impasse is a clear constitutional process on the basis of which elections are held, and in which the Libyan people renew their authority, in a peaceful and transparent manner," al-Mishri said.

Libya has once again had two governments since the Tobruk-based House of Representatives in the country's east appointed Bashagha, a former interior minister under a previous UN-recognised government.

The North African



**Bashagha**

country has been riven by divisions since civil war broke out in 2014 between rival administrations based in the west and east of the country. That war ended in 2020, but splits have remained.

"What we need to understand is that in Libya, through a previous power-sharing agreement, there are two legislative houses," said Al Jazeera's Malik Traina. "There's the parliament based in eastern Libya, and there's the high council of state in the west."

The two legislative bodies are supposed to agree on a new government to replace the unity government of Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Dbeibeh, Traina explained.

But the appointment of Bashagha raised eyebrows regarding the transparency of the process.

"There was a lot of scepticism with regards to how transparent the vote

was and how legitimate it was," Traina said. "Even the UN support mission voiced concerns that the vote of confidence in Bashagha was flawed."

### Finland, Sweden NATO membership opposed

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan has confirmed Turkey's opposition to NATO membership for Finland and Sweden, shooting down a proposal by the Nordic countries to send delegations to Ankara to address the matter.

"We will not say 'yes' to those [countries] who apply sanctions to Turkey to join security organisation NATO," Erdogan said at a news conference on Monday, referring to Sweden's 2019 decision to suspend arms sales to Turkey over its military operation in neighbouring Syria.

Turkey also accused the two bidding nations of

FIGHTING in the northern region of Tigray has eased since a unilateral ceasefire was declared by the federal government.

Ethiopia and the World Bank have signed a pact for a grant of \$300m to assist reconstruction and recovery in conflict-hit areas, the finance ministry said.

Fighting that erupted in the northern region of Tigray in November 2020, and spilled over into neighbouring Afar and Amhara last year, has eased since a unilateral ceasefire was declared by the federal government in March.

will be used to finance the activities designed to support ... basic services," the ministry said in a statement late on Monday.

Services that stand to benefit are education,

### Ethiopia gets \$300m World Bank grant



**Ahmed**

health, water supply and a special effort to support survivors of gender-based violence in conflict-hit areas, it said.

Areas in Amhara, Afar, Tigray and the regions of Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz are targeted to receive the funds, it said, adding that

the government would sign up with third-party organisations to execute the project in high-conflict areas.

The violence in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz, home to several ethnic groups, is separate from the war in Tigray.

Ankara's objections.

Erdogan reacted to the comments by saying: He added that NATO would become "a place where representatives of terrorist organisations are concentrated" if the two countries join.

Ankara's approval will be necessary for Finland and Sweden to be able to join NATO, as membership bids must be unanimously approved by the alliance's 30 members.

Stefanie Babst, former NATO deputy assistant secretary-general for public diplomacy and an analyst at the European Leadership Network, told Al Jazeera that

Turkey may be aiming to obtain military equipment from Washington to upgrade its outdated F-16 fleet and ratchet up some Western support to relieve its troubled economy. On the home front, the analyst said the mention of the PKK was aimed at drawing the support of Erdogan's nationalist voters.

Ankara's latest rebuke came after Sweden's government formally decided to apply for NATO membership. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson made the announcement on Monday, a day after Finnish President Sauli Niinisto confirmed that Finland will also apply for membership. confident "that we will be able to address the concerns that Turkey has expressed".

harbouring "terror" groups, including the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), blacklisted by Ankara, the European Union and the United States.

Justice ministry sources told the state news agency Anadolu on Monday that Sweden and Finland had failed to respond positively to Turkey's 33 extradition requests over the past five years.

Ankara wanted individuals that are either accused of having links to the PKK and allied groups or of belonging to a

movement blamed for the attempted overthrow of Erdogan in 2016, the agency reported.

Turkey has rebuked Stockholm especially for showing what it describes as leniency towards the PKK, which has waged an armed uprising against the Turkish state since 1984.

The Swedish foreign office said earlier on Monday that senior representatives of Sweden and Finland were planning to travel to Turkey for talks to address

been described as "a repositioning of forces already in theatre who have travelled in and out of Somalia on an episodic basis" by US National Security spokeswoman Adrienne Watson.

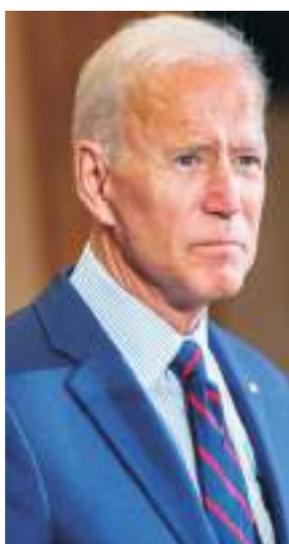
Her statement appeared critical of the Trump administration, calling its decision to withdraw troops "precipitous".

Al-Shabab militants regularly carry out attacks in the capital Mogadishu, which they stepped up in the run-up to May's election in the hopes of derailing it.

Somalia faces other formidable challenges including a drought that has left millions in urgent need of aid.

### Somalia: Biden reverses Trump's withdrawal of troops

US officials said President Biden has approved the redeployment of US troops in Somalia,



**Biden**

reversing a decision by his predecessor Donald Trump.

The deployment was requested by the Pentagon to support the fight against militant group al-Shabab.

President Trump withdrew about 700 US troops from Somalia in 2020.

The move to re-establish a military presence in the East African country comes as long-overdue elections delivered a new president.

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, a former peace activist, promised to work closely with

international partners as he took office on Monday.

Somalia has suffered from decades of chronic insecurity, and the Islamist militants who once controlled the country still hold large swathes of it and continue to collect taxes in places.

Many in the country expressed deep concern when former president Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of US troops, who had long been relied on as well as more than 19,000 peacekeepers from African Union nations.

This time around, fewer than 500 US troops will be deployed, which has

## Feature

By JOSEPH YOKAT

# How to overcome your fears

ACCORDING to Merriam Webster's Dictionary, fear means to be afraid of something or someone. As humans we often grapple with different kinds of fear- fear of failure, fear of public speaking, fear of the unknown, fear of success, fear of death, fear of injury, fear of danger...One of the major fears which often keep people trapped at one level, is the fear of failure. We naturally hate failure in all ramifications of life, and nobody wants to fail or to be termed a failure. As a result of this, we often run away from things we are uncertain about their chances of success.

God creates each individual on earth with the inherent ability to succeed. Because of this, we are always dreaming and thinking about how best we want our lives to be. Your vision is expected to challenge your present condition, because God always gives us big visions which sometimes look as though it's not achievable. And when you begin to take steps to achieve your dreams, fear sets in. It is at this point that you will begin to hear the voice of fear speaking to you directly. What if it does not work? What if so and so happens? All these are voices of fear. But it is also at this point that you will prove to the world that all things are possible, with God in the equation.

A lot of people who should have been record breakers, world changers and stars in different fields of endeavours, sometimes end up dying full of their potentials, because of fear. Sometimes we are crippled by fear to the point that we don't even make effort to achieve our targets anymore. Again, you will end up discovering that what you are afraid of, is false most times. A friend told me how he was afraid of talking to a lady he is presently married to. He will go close to her house and go back home because of fear. He will see her and not be able to talk to her until she passed him. One day he developed confidence and approach her, and she was so nice to him, then, he discovered that what he had thought about her is not true. They became friends thereafter and got married. This is just one among many stories of men and women who confronted their fears and achieve their goals.

One thing we fail to understand is, when you don't take action, you remain in the same level, for it is action that moves people from one level to the other. It is also in taking actions that we overcome our fears. Again we must realise, that every normal human being have fear just like you, but what differentiates us, is our ability to face our fears. Successful people are risk takers and they feel the fear of doing certain things, yet, they still go ahead to do those things they are



afraid of doing. On the other hand, failures feel the fear and allow it to stop them from achieving their goals.

#### Tips for overcoming fear

##### 1. Be prepared for the task:

One of the breeding grounds of fear is lack of preparation. When you don't prepare for something, you naturally become afraid to do that thing. If it is a business you want to start, read business books, and learn all you can about the business. If it is public speaking you want to venture into, know your topic very well. Whatever it is you want to start, prepare yourself thoroughly in regards to it. Lack of preparation reduces your confidence creating room for fear. I have learned by experience over time that thorough preparation gives confidence. When I prepare very well for a speaking engagement, I always have courage and confidence to face my audience, but the reverse is true when I don't prepare. Take time and prepare well for what you want to do. This will help you immensely, in overcoming the fear of doing that task.

##### 2. Do it afraid:

We often have fear of starting anything new, because of uncertainty about the outcome of the thing, but you must learn to feel the fear and still do what you should do. Sometimes your fears can only go away when you do the task regardless of how strong the fear is.

##### 3. Face your fears:

Years ago, I struggled with fear of public speaking. I was just afraid of speaking wherever people are gathered. As a result, I avoided gatherings that will require me to say anything. I arrive late for meetings that require

introduction. But the more I run away, the more I find myself in different places where speaking is mandatory. It was at this point, that I began to look for solutions, and travel writer Mark Twain corroborates this thus: "do the thing you fear most and the death of fear is certain. To overcome the fear of something, you must learn to do that thing. and in the process, I stumbled upon a small book about public speaking. The authour advised that one of the ways to avoid the fear of something, is to do that which you are afraid of. So I discovered, that I was doing everything wrong to overcome the fear of public speaking. When I decided to face my fear of public speaking, I volunteer to speak when no one would, and I have since improved in this regard. The American humourist, novelist and travel writer Mark Twain corroborates this thus: "do the thing you fear most and the

death of fear is certain. To overcome the fear of something, you must learn to do that thing.

##### 4. Imagine yourself triumphing over your fears:

Imagination is powerful. Most people who often end up defeated by their fears, are those who use their imagination in a negative way. If you imagine yourself failing or struggling to deliver the result you are expecting to deliver, you may likely experience such result at the end. To overcome your fear, you must use your imagination in a positive way. The Bible excruciating on this in Proverbs 23:7a said, "for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" Every human being is a living magnet, but we attract what we think about. Whatever you put your attention on and think about it all the time, you attract or become it. Be optimistic about the outcomes you expect from everything you are engaged in. Avoid negative

people who can sow seeds of negativity in your heart.

##### 5. Trust God with every other thing beyond your control:

Sometimes we remained fearful so long as our trust is in ourselves and other people alone. But this only serve to aggravate the situation for us. Because human beings can fail us, human beings have limitations in what they can do. The only solution you have, is to trust God with the other details, after you have tried your best. Don't try to figure out and do what only God can do. Do what is in your capacity to do an trust God to handle every other thing beyond your control. Putting your trust in God is a surest and dependable way to overcome a fear that persist after you have done all you need to do. God Has never failed anyone, and you are not an exception. If He had done it for others, He will definitely not leave you alone.

In conclusion, nothing works without action, therefore, whatever fear you want to overcome, you must take actions on it. It was the American lecturer, author, and pioneer in the field of public speaking and the psychology of the successful personality Dale Carnegie, who said "Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy". So long as you are alive and making progress, you will have fears time to time, and you can only overcome those fears by taking actions on them. Let me end this article with the words of the American Transcendentalist poet, philosopher and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson "He who is not every day conquering some fear has not learned the secret of life" Welcome to a world where you don't have to worry about your fears again.

**"A lot of people who should have been record breakers, world changers and stars in different fields of endeavours, sometimes end up dying full of their potentials, because of fear. Sometimes we are crippled by fear to the point that we don't even make effort to achieve our targets anymore. Again, you will end up discovering that what you are afraid of, is false most times. A friend told me how he was afraid of talking to a lady he is presently married to. He will go close to her house and go back home because of fear".**

# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

# Reinforcing strong family identity

THE first winter break of my freshman year of college was one I'll always remember. I was so excited to come home from school and hang out with all my friends for the first time in months.

My parents had other plans. They booked an epic family vacation, one they were so excited to take my sister and me on. I acted like a spoiled brat, pouting that I couldn't experience the break the way I wanted. In hindsight, my mom knew that while my friendships were important, reinforcing our strong family identity was something I needed even more.

I am grateful for the small things my parents did that helped create a strong family and I always knew I'd aim for the same with my own. Family life looks different for me than I thought it would. I went through a divorce several years ago and now both my ex-husband and I are remarried to other people. Fortunately, these things that create healthy, strong families can be accomplished no matter what your family looks like.

**1. Modeling** What your kids see you do as they grow up is what you'll likely see them do when they've grown up. What do your children see modeled in your character? Do they see honesty and integrity in action? Do they have healthy examples of conflict-resolution skills? Do

you appreciate and promote their uniqueness?

Do you model and encourage a healthy experience and expression of emotions? The greatest gift you can give your child is who you are. The lifestyle our children see us model daily is much more powerful than what we tell them. Both are important. But there must be congruity between the talk and the walk. What your kids see you do as they grow up is what you'll likely see them do when they've grown up.

**2. Time** Most children spell love with a T, an I, an M, and an E. That's right. TIME is how most children spell love. Healthy parents don't find time—they make time. Why is it so difficult? We're all busy with demands and pressures.

In the midst of this busyness, our children can easily seem like an interruption. It is unrealistic for us to always drop everything and cater to our kids' demands. But we need to remember that children don't have the same sense of time that we do. How can we "make time?" One way is to set aside special times for them. Acknowledge them when they get up in the morning or when they get home from school or another event. Set aside quantity time at certain times during the week.

**3. Nourishing Love** Learn how to say "I love you" in more than one way. Cherishing is the



easy part. When you cherish something, it means you value and care about it. It is important to you. However, you may not express it. That's where nourishing comes in. Nourishing involves going beyond the attitude to the action. Quality nourishment involves stopping, looking, listening, and studying that special person.

**4. An Encouraging Environment.** A n encouraging environment is one in which we spend more

time building and encouraging our loved ones than we do scolding and correcting them. It's one in which we honor them by speaking respectfully to them. An encouraging environment is one where our emphasis is on catching those we love doing good rather than catching them making mistakes. We invest more energy in praising them for being successful than in criticizing and castigating them for falling short of our expectations.

**5. Healthy Anger** What do you think of when you hear the word anger? Is all anger bad? Can this unwelcome and potentially destructive emotion be considered a gift rather than a time bomb? A healthy home is where people express anger in HEALTHY ways. The surprising truth is that when a person understands anger and learns how to express it in healthy ways, it can be an ally and actually lead to increased trust, greater intimacy, and stronger relationships. While we may have minimal control over when we experience anger, we have almost total control over how we choose to express that anger.

**6. Quality Communication** A characteristic of a strong family is that the members talk more to each other, convey feelings that they understand

what is being said to them, keep communication channels open, show more sensitivity to each other's feelings, and realize the importance of nonverbal aspects of communication. Since good communication doesn't just happen, smart families set aside a regular time each week for focused communication.

**7. Conflict as a Pathway to Intimacy** Most of us haven't learned the value of conflict. We misunderstand its potential and may interpret it as an attack. Conflict is the process we go through and the price we pay for intimacy. When we avoid healthy conflict, we avoid growth. The next time conflict stares you in the face, try these three simple steps.

First, make your primary goal to understand the other person. Take a few minutes to acknowledge, discuss and define the conflict and then listen..

Second, ask yourself, "What is MY contribution to the problem?" Most of us find it easier to identify the other person's contribution to the problem, how he or she needs to change, and what he or she could do differently without acknowledging that we need to change, too. Third, commit yourself to understanding what the issue looks like through the other person's eyes.

Source: [Lifestyles.com](https://www.lifestyles.com)



# THE NIGERIA STANDARD'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

# Signs you are in a competitive relationship

By **SYLVIA SMITH**

THERE are several factors that can lead to an unhealthy or toxic relationship. One of these factors is being too competitive.

Learning about the signs of competition in relationships and how to stop being competitive can help you to improve your relationship with your significant other or avoid competitive relationships in the future.

### What is a competitive relationship?

Competitive relationships occur when two people in a relationship are actually competing with each other, seeking to win or be better than the other, instead of operating as a team.

Some playful competition, such as challenging your partner to a race or a board game, can be harmless, but if you are truly competing to one-up your partner and do not want them to succeed, you have probably fallen victim to the traps of competitive relationships.

Competitive relationships move beyond the healthy,



playful competition. People in competitive relationships are constantly trying to keep up with their partners, and they ultimately feel quite insecure.

### Competition vs. partnership in a relationship

A healthy, happy relationship

involves a partnership in which two people are a united front and a true team. When one of them succeeds, the other is happy and supportive.

On the other hand, the difference in competitive

relationships is that the two people in the relationship do not form a partnership. Instead, they are rivals, competing on opposing teams.

Competitive signs in a relationship include constantly trying to outdo your partner, feeling excited when your partner fails, and finding that you are jealous when they succeed.

### Is competition healthy in relationships?

Competitive couples may wonder if competition in a relationship is healthy. The answer, in short, is no. Competitive relationships usually come from a place of insecurity and envy.

According to experts, being too competitive leads to resentment in relationships. With competition, partners view each other as rivals. Often, competition is a quest to see who can develop more success or power within their careers.

Since competition comes from a place of envy, competitive relationships can become hostile when one partner

perceives that the other is doing better or has something they don't have—feeling hostility or resentment toward your partner because being too competitive is not healthy.

There are other unhealthy aspects of being too competitive in a relationship. For instance, when in competitive relationships, people may boast or taunt their partners when they feel they are winning, which can lead to hurt feelings and arguing.

Not only is competition harmful and unhealthy; in some cases, it can also be abusive. If your partner feels competitive with you, they may try to control you, manipulate you, or sabotage your success in order to promote their own accomplishments or to feel superior.

Competitive relationships can also result in put-downs or belittling each other, which can cross the line into emotional abuse in a relationship.

*To be continued*



**Editorial**

**Deborah's murderers must face justice**

ON Thursday last week, Nigerians received the news of another gruesome murder of one of its citizens over an alleged blasphemy. Deborah Samuel, a student of Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto was not only killed but her body was also burnt by her fellow students who interpreted what she said on social media as blasphemy against Islam.

THE killing of Deborah has attracted outrage in both conventional and social media with divergent views from the Nigerian public who gave different interpretations to what happened.

NIGERIA is a secular state and by its constitution, any of its citizens can practice any religion he or she wishes to practice. By implication, no law of any religion should be applied to punish any person that is not an adherent of that religion.

THE uncivilized act of the students of Shehu Shagari College of Education by Nigeria's constitution is not acceptable and is condemnable in all ramifications. In 2021, a water vendor was, gruesomely killed by some youth in Darazo, Bauchi State for what his killers termed as blasphemy against Prophet Mohammed. Those arrested were later released without any charges. By all indications, that act will encourage some religious zealots to commit similar offences without fear of going to jail.

ON Saturday, the whole of Sokoto town was engulfed in demonstration with youths demanding the release of the suspects of this unconstitutional act. At the end of the day, the state government was forced to impose a curfew as the demonstration turned violent. Some churches were touched and shops looted by the misguided demonstrators.

IT is disheartening, that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that every nation wants to move ahead to catch up with modern development, students who are expected to be leaders of tomorrow are being misguided by wrong interpretation of their religious beliefs to cause division among the public.

IT is worthy of note that some Islamic religious leaders have come out to condemn the act saying it is not what the Qu'ran teaches regarding blasphemy. Notable among them were Sheikh Gumi, Sultan of Sokoto, Professor Ishaq Akintola who pointed out that "the glorious Qu'ran compares the killing of a single person to the killing of the whole of humanity just as it compares the saving of a life to the rescue of all homo sapiens (Qur'an 5:32).

NIGERIA remains a country where every citizen can go and do his lawful duty, without fear or favour. No one deserves to be treated with contempt because we are equal before the law no matter where one resides.

MOST importantly, like the adage which says 'Do as the Romans do when in Rome, it is expected that when you are in a place that you are not familiar with, do not cross your boundaries especially as regards religious values. It is expected that as a stranger in any community, their values should be respected so that you do not go contrary to it.

WE commend the security operatives and the Sokoto State government for their prompt response to stop the escalation of violence during the demonstration by imposing a 24 hour curfew to contain the situation. It is also important that the government should also check the utterances of some religious leaders who are bent on radicalizing the younger generation. What Nigeria needs now is unity in addressing the issues bedeviling us from all angles.

AS the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Sultanate have called for calm, it is important that the public heed to their call so that the issue will not escalate to other parts of the country. We also call for an independent investigation into this heinous crime and the perpetrators made to face the full wrath of the law.

WE condemn in totality this act of inhumanity to humanity in the name of religion. And whoever is involved directly or indirectly should not be spared.

I wish to commend the state owned newspaper, **The Nigeria Standard** for according the masses the opportunity to express their views on issues of urgent attention towards the development of our state.

When the pronouncement for the award of contract of British America junction flyover was declared by the government, it was a news that was greeted with excitement as the scope of road construction and beauty of the city centre would soon be a thing of the past.

The commencement of the work attracted attention as one would daily see people around the project site eager to assess the progress of the work. Though it came with some form of hiccup because of the interruption of free flow of traffic, people now have to maneuver their movements through some tough terrains. It also affected pipelines which affected flow of tap water to some areas within the town.

At a point, we noticed sudden protest which brought the work to a standstill. This according to unconfirmed source said the contractors were not paid to do the work effectively. I wish to appeal to appropriate authority to



**We need government to complete British America flyover**

do the needful as Plateau people are eager to see that the work is completed so that motorist can ply the road as expected.

Of late, one noticed the hold up on some major streets as a result of the closure of the British road. How soon are we anticipating its completion? If done, it will give the masses grounds to celebrate democratic dividends.

I appeal that the government should hasten the process and

not to play politics with what is of essence to the citizens. It should also pay particular attention to so many potholes all around our major streets within the metropolis. We are grate to some young people who have taken step to fill some of the holes with either stones or sand to help in putting the roads a bid in shape. Should such be our last option? The tax payers' money needs to be adequately utilized.

*Blessing Alfa*

**God, help us from the reemergence of bomb explosion**

PERMIT me space in your widely read newspaper, the Nigeria Standard to express my shock and displeasure over the bomb blast that occurred at Sabon Gari in Kano state in the early hours of Tuesday.

The very disturbing question is why are we going back to the dark days of weeping and sorrowing? When will this nonsense in the country ever stop? It is most unfortunate that business activities and school runs were interrupted because virtually everything came to a hold to enable appropriate authorities concentrate on removing dead bodies and other valuables from the collapsed structure.

Many people were seen running for their safety, it was devastating for many school children who got trapped in the process and parents were confused running for their wards who only God knows where they were and how

safe they could be. The day actually started on a sad note. Some dead bodies were littered on the street.

The question remains, who masterminded this attack? Whoever the culprit is and whatever was his intention has really brought great setback to the nation and serious pains to innocent Nigerians. One had thought that the issue of bomb blast has gone with the winds but most unfortunately it has resurrected.

Kano state government through its information commissioner, Mallam Muhammed Garba said the incident happened at an animal feed store opposite the school along Aba road, sabon gari area of Fagge local government. It's good to know that investigation into the cause of the explosion has since started; we pray that the finding comes out

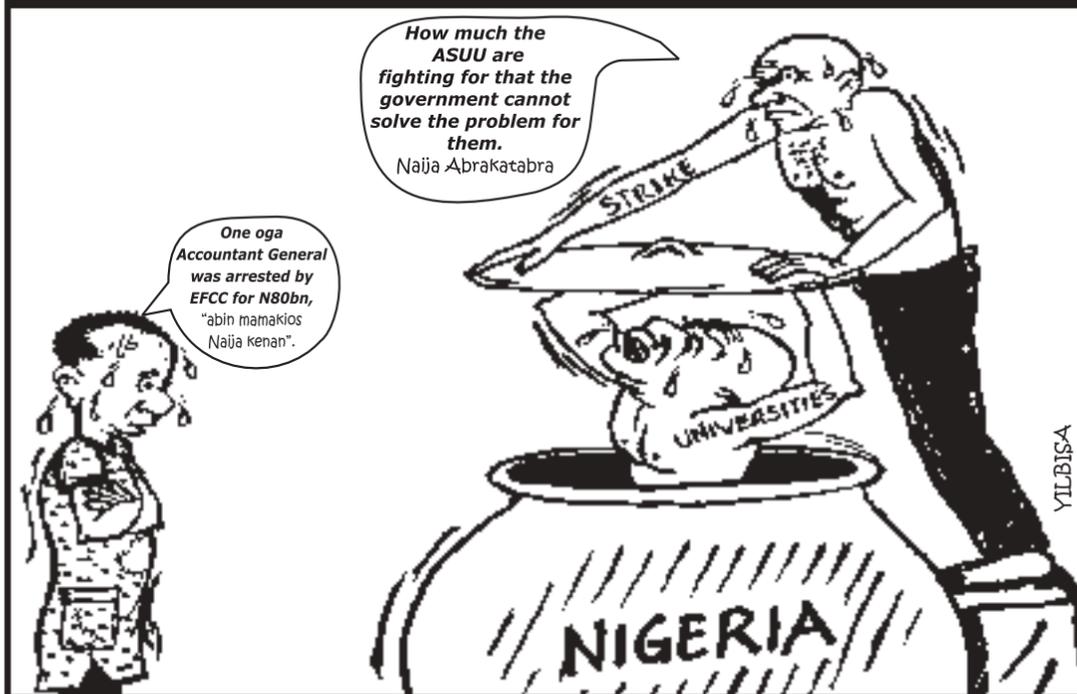
meaningfully to get to the root cause of the matter to guard a repeat of such. Government has urged inhabitants around the area to remain calm.

There are speculations that the explosion was aimed at a school which they couldn't gain access and the bomb exploded destroying a building close to the school, killing passersby and of course those who carried out the act.

Why would someone derive joy in causing pains for the other? This is inhuman and devilish. Whose tune are they dancing to? These are many endless questions that the answers may not come in a hurry. In any case, the act is condemnable and barbaric. If the culprits or their sponsors are eventually figure out, they should face the full wrath of the law because Nigeria needs to move forward.

*Noel Jiwul, from Jos.*

**Standard Cartoon**



## Opinion

# Checking religious intolerance in Nigeria

By  
**OKECHUKWU KESHI  
UKEGBU**

THERE should a collaborative effort among the government, security agencies, the media, and other stakeholders to put this monster at bay.

Several legal instruments promote the sanctity of human life and right to freedom of religion. Section 33 (1) of the Nigeria Constitution stipulates that "every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his/her life, save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria, while section 38 of the same constitution stipulates that "every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom (either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private) to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching practice and observance".

Also Article 4 of the African Charter of Human and Peoples Right promotes the right to life and Article 8 the right to freedom of conscience, the profession and free practice of religion.

Unfortunately, recent events in the country have negated the provisions of these legal instruments which uphold the sanctity of human life. On Thursday May 12, young Deborah Yakubu joined the rising number of victims murdered in

relation with religious intolerance. She was brutally beaten, stoned, and burned to death in broad daylight at around 9am at the Shehu Shagari College of Education in Sokoto.

The female Christian was accused of making a voice note that blasphemed the holy prophet Muhammad. In a far recent incident marked the gruesome murder of a female evangelist, Eunice Elisha, in Abuja. Elisha (42) and mother of seven, was reportedly waylaid during her usual early morning evangelism routine by criminals, who were suspected to be Muslim fanatics, who were alleged to have threatened her before over her preaching.

While the killing generated widespread condemnation, the worrisome aspect of the episode was that religious intolerance was spreading to other parts of the country such as the Federal Capital Territory other than the North where it is strongly-rooted.

Elisha's fatal fate came on the heels of the brutal murder of a 74-year-old woman by a Muslim mob in Kano for alleged blasphemy. Before now, ethno-religious killings and conflicts have constitute a recurrent decimal in our nation's life.

Three Christians killed in Niger state, while a carpenter battered to near death in Kaduna for religious reasons. According to reports, armed mobs attacked two churches in Gidan Waya and Sondi villages in Taraba State, killing 31 worshippers in 2015. Also, World Watch's report allegedly links the killing of

12,000 and destruction of 13,000 churches in Northern Nigeria between 2000 and 2013 to hate attacks.

On May 1, 1980, there were disturbances in Zaria during which property belonging to many Christians were destroyed. In December 1980, a riot spearheaded by the deadly sect, Maitatsine in Yan- Awaku ward, Kano State claimed 118 lives and properties were extensively damaged. The Kala-Kato and Maitatsine clash in Bullumkutu Maiduguri, Borno State in October 1982 claimed scores of lives and wanton destruction of property. During the time under review, Muslim demonstrators burnt down churches in Kano.

At Dobeli ward in Gombe in the first quarter of 1984, a crisis spearheaded by the Maitatsine sect claimed 568 lives and wanton destruction of property. In March 1986, Muslims and Christians clashed during an Easter procession by Christians.

There were clashes between Muslims and Christians in March 1987 at College of Education, Kafanchan, Kaduna State. In the same vein, waves of religious riots in different locations in Kaduna in the same March 1987 witnessed loss of lives and destruction of property. Religious riots among students at Kaduna Polytechnic in 1988 resulted to the destruction of the foundation wall of the Christian Chapel.

It will recalled that a quarrel between a Fulani man and Sayawa meat seller in Tafewa

Balewa, Bauchi State in 1991 later assumed a religious colouration resulting in wanton destruction of property and loss of lives. A peaceful protest initiated by the Izala sect in 1991 to halt Rev. Reinhard Bonnke's crusade in Kano snowballed into a full blown riot resulting to wanton destruction of property and lives. In May 1992 in Zangon Kataf, Kaduna State, a feud between the Kataf and Hausas later assumed Muslim-Christian riot in other major cities of the state which resulted into destruction of lives and property.

In December 1994, a Christian was beheaded in Kano for allegedly desecrating the Quran. A clash between the Hausas and Igbos in Kano in 1995 triggered burning of houses, churches, shops, and killing of innocent people. In February 2000, Kaduna exploded in conflagration as Muslim and Christian extremists clashed over the proposal to introduce Sharia.

The list of religious conflicts which have claimed wanton property and lives in the Nigerian history is inexhaustible. Every now and then, Nigerians are treated to gory sights of murder with religious undertones. It will not be out of place to suggest here that Nigeria's unity is on the precipice considering the geometric progression in which these religious hates are spreading.

A non-profit organisation in its 2016 World Watch ranking that

highlights where Christians are persecuted on a scale ranging from extreme, severe and moderate to sparse, rated Nigeria as severe and was 12th out of 50 countries.

In the view of pundits, the ranking is not only embarrassing but terrible. Our Constitution guarantees that "the Government of the Federation or any State shall not adopt any religion as State Religion."

The timing of these religious-related killings is ill considering the obnoxious activities of the Fulani herdsmen who are rampaging several locations in the country. The episode becomes worrisome in the face of the insurgency in the North East which has constituted a serious clog in the wheel of progress of the country.

Indeed, the times call for concerted efforts. All hands should be on deck. It calls for the strengthening of our institutions which are more or less dead. There are several unresolved murders in this country and the current situation should go beyond the usual mantra of "bringing the perpetrators to book" by our security agencies to concrete actions.

There should a collaborative effort among the government, security agencies, the media, and other stakeholders to put this monster to bay. For the Christians, the following statement by Open Doors: "When hatred and revenge is promoted, Christians remain the keepers of hope for humanity," beckons.

Insecurity in Nigeria has disrupted the supply chain as road transport that is regularly used to move goods and services from the Northern to the Southern part has worsened over the fear of kidnapping and diverting goods.

There are global concerns over the trend of insecurity in several nations, more so when it involves enemies of the state who bear arms and unleash mayhem on innocent citizens.

There has been a collaborative approach among different countries and institutions to tackling insecurity, especially terrorism, the most challenging global security issue. There is a strong relationship between security and economic growth because businesses and investments cannot thrive in an unsafe environment. Nigeria has had its share of insecurity over the last two decades. According to Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Nigeria has two of the five deadliest terrorist groups in the world, namely; Boko Haram and Fulani extremists. Nigeria was rated the 3rd worst country with insecurity in the world in 2020 by the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), behind Afghanistan and Iraq. These ratings have been of significant concern to security experts and the government.

Despite the government's massive funding in defence, border security, a collaborative effort with other neighbouring nations, changes in security structures, repentance of hundreds of terrorists, and the internal crisis between Boko Haram and Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) over

## Insecurity worsens Nigeria's development indicators

By **ALIKOR VICTOR**

supremacy, a lasting solution is still a concern for experts and the government.

Recent security attacks in different parts of Nigeria, especially the kidnap of school children in the North-West, North-Central, and North-East, have increased the number of out-of-school children. This statistics has over 10 million children out of school, the highest in the world according to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). These figures were projected to worsen by the World Bank in 2022. According to the World Bank, Nigeria has been the world's poverty capital since 2016. This has been attributed to the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, where people's significant sources of economic livelihood have significantly been affected by terrorism, banditry, and farmers/herders' frequent clashes. The inability of farmers to feel safe going to their farms and the forests being occupied by criminal elements have further affected food security and food prices in Nigeria.

Insecurity in Nigeria has disrupted the supply chain as road transport that is regularly used to move goods and services from the Northern to the Southern part has worsened over the fear of kidnapping and diverting goods. The Nigerian business environment has been concerned about investment safety in Nigeria as some foreign investors are migrating to other safer neighbouring countries for investment. The potential in

the tourism industry has equally been affected by safety concerns for tourists. There are high incidences of rural-urban migration, which has increased congestion in urban cities, accompanied by high levels of youth unemployment, especially in urban areas.

The security challenges have affected chiefly women and children in Nigeria. There are increasing cases of health crises, hunger, and starvation. Women and girls have been exposed to rape, forced marriages, lack of education, lack of equal economic opportunities, and other abuses even in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) where they seek refuge. The death of able and productive men over insecurity has caused an unbalanced marriage market for women at marriageable age with fewer men at their disposal. There is an increase in budgetary allocations to defence in acquiring more military hardware, equipment, and internal security at the detriment of other vital sectors like health, education, and investment in human capital development and programmes. There are tendencies of a crisis economy, a situation where people take undue advantage of the security situation in a place to their economic benefit and enrichment. Insecurity in Nigeria has been linked to an underlying religious undertone, raising cases of religious intolerance, extremism, and a battle for

superiority. This religious onslaught has heightened fear over the safety of worshippers in practicing their faith in Nigeria.

The presence of many foreign humanitarian agencies and organisations in Nigeria is a pointer to the challenges currently bedeviling Africa's most populated nation. Insecurity has spread like wildfire all over Nigeria, with the government's efforts not enough to address the root cause of these challenges. Poverty, the number of school children unable to go back to school or continue with their education, loss of people's source of income, health crisis, migration induced by insecurity, hunger, starvation, unemployment, and gender-based violence present a considerable challenge to this present administration. Government at state and local levels must complement and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to identify sustainable but practical solutions to these issues. Nigeria's ability to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 is also a concern to foreign development institutions in Nigeria. Government must engage the community and ethnic and religious leaders in areas faced with these challenges and demonstrate political will and action to salvage the problems.

**Alikor Victor is a development economist & policy analyst at The Nextier Group**



**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	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Abubakar Ibrahim late of Plateau State died on the 23rd Dec, 2021 at Faith Alive Hospital, Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Umar Abubakar Ibrahim Near Unity FM, Zinariya Bauchi Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Maigari Monica Maantoe late of Plateau State died on the 23rd May, 2021 at Fomas Hospital, Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Maigari Nanma Joseph of No11, 7th Street Fed. Low Cost Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Nephew of the said deceased.	Dadieng Julie David late of Plateau State died on the 20th Jan, 2022 at JUTH Plateau State.	Dadieng Precious Simi of Diye By Sparkling Junction Dadid Kowa, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Daughter of the said deceased.
Philip Angud late of Plateau State died on the 6th March, 2022 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Philip Wuffiong Angud of Jenta Mangoro, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Abashe Elisha late of Plateau State died on the 16th Nov, 2021 at Bokkos, LGA, Plateau State.	Elisha Sunday Abashe of COCIN Church New Karu, FCT Abuja. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Yusuf Abdurrahman Salihu late of Niger State died on the 29th Jan, 2022 at Gen Hospital, Minna Niger.	Jabir Abdurrahman Yusuf of Zinariya Behind Sharna Hotel Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Helen Dandam late of Plateau State died on the 12th Aug, 2019 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Dandam Musa Kenat Behind NITEL Office Tabbat Langtang North, LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Gwom Joseph Yaro late of Plateau State died on the 25th Nov, 2020 at Jos, Plateau State.	Gwom Boniface Joseph of Opposite Church of Immaculate Conception Zaramganda Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Gilbert Pam Kataiko late of Plateau State died on the 7th Dec, 2021 at OLA Hospital, Jos North LGA Plateau State.	Pauline Pam Gilbert of Teriala Garrage Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Anagor Pius Onwudiwe late of Anambra state died on the 25th Dec, 2021 at Akwa, Anambra State.	Maria Oluchukwu Anagor of Gyel Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.	Geoffrey Nanle Auta late of Plateau State died on the 9th April, 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	Tongriyang Nanle Geoffrey of Zaramaganda Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Prince Gambo Dachi late of Plateau State died on the 20th June, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Mangdong Gambo Dachi of Behind Haske Quarters Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Danlami Shendrach late of Plateau State died on the 23rd July, 2020 at Langtang, South LGA Plateau State.	Panshak Peter Dasen of Tingpol Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.				

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

**Foreign Commentary**

**Can Africa replace Russian gas supplies to Europe?**

**African countries are among those hoping to increase their exports of gas to the European Union, after the EU committed to reduce its reliance on Russian supplies following the invasion of Ukraine. IJEOMA NDUKWE writes.**

RUSSIA's suspension of deliveries to Poland and Bulgaria over their refusal to pay in roubles, the Russian currency, was a stark reminder of the threat facing the Eurozone. Russia has the largest natural gas reserves in the world and is the largest exporter, accounting for around 40% of Europe's imports.

The EU wants to cut supplies by two-thirds by the end of the year and become independent of all its fossil fuels by 2030.

However, energy economist Carole Nakhle says that with the combined exports of Africa's big players in the industry - Algeria, Egypt and Nigeria - amounting to less than half of what Russia supplies to Europe, they are "unlikely at the moment to compensate for any losses in Russian supplies".

"The good news is there will be greater interest in countries that already have the resources to replace Russian gas and Africa is in a very good position. We're going to see more investment," she says.

However, this will take time because of various logistical issues in the continent's major exporters.

Algeria is well positioned to benefit from the EU's shift in energy policy. The North African country is the region's biggest natural gas exporter and currently enjoys well developed gas connectivity infrastructure with Europe.

Last month Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi signed a new gas supply deal with Algeria to increase gas imports by around 40%.

It was Italy's first major deal to find alternative supplies following

Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, there are concerns over Algeria's ability to boost capacity due to rising domestic consumption, underinvestment in production and political instability, says Uwa Osadiye, the senior vice-president of Equity Research at FBNQuest Merchant Bank.

He points out that the amount of gas exported from Algeria to Europe has fallen sharply recently because of a dispute with Morocco, leading to the closure of a vital pipeline to Spain, from 17 billion cubic feet a year to around nine billion.

Pier Paolo Raimondi, an energy research fellow at Rome's Instituto Affari Internazionali, echoes these concerns.

"The agreement will allow them to exploit the available pipeline transportation capacity and it could gradually provide increasing volumes of up to nine billion cubic metres per year in 2023 and 2024. [But] we don't know how fast Algeria can ramp up this production."

Despite the reservations, the deal has been hailed as a solid first step for Italy, which is the second-largest buyer of Russian gas in Europe.

Italian ministers also travelled to Angola and Congo-Brazzaville, where they agreed new gas deals and Italy is eyeing opportunities in Mozambique in a bid to end its dependency on Russia by mid-2023.

Meanwhile, West African liquified natural gas producer, Nigeria LNG, has been inundated with requests for gas from European countries since the start of the conflict in Ukraine.

At present, Spain, Portugal and France are the three key destination markets for Nigeria LNG's product and the company is only able to honour its existing contracts with buyers, according to a source who wishes to remain anonymous.

"There is an opportunity to increase production. Today Nigeria LNG is just 72% plant-mobilised, which means there's still capacity of 28% to utilise, provided they're able to get the gas, and that's where the biggest challenge is right now," the source says.

He cites myriad issues obstructing the company's ability to step up production, including declining gas wells and a lack of funding for upstream activities.

"They're things that can be fixed in the short term - between six to 18 months."

According to Andy Odeh, Nigeria LNG's General Manager of External Relations and Sustainable Development, discussions are ongoing with natural gas suppliers to resolve these issues and he hopes to increase LNG production levels "from the end of this year onwards," he says.

A new Nigeria LNG gas project, Train 7, will increase production capacity by 35% from the current 22 million tonnes per annum by 2025.

However, contracts with buyers, largely in Europe, are already in place. Nigeria LNG is also conducting feasibility studies for an additional project, Train 8, to boost supplies further.

The West African state is also a key



player in the stalled Trans Saharan Pipeline project - a 4,400km (2,735 mile) natural gas pipeline that would run from Nigeria, through Niger to Algeria.

It would connect to existing pipeline infrastructure in Algeria, linking West African countries to Europe.

The project was mooted in the 1970s, but has been bedevilled by security threats, environmental concerns and a lack of funding.

At a meeting in February, regional officials promised to finally get it going.

However, Kayode Thomas, the head of Bell Oil & Gas, says that another project - the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline, which will connect infrastructure in West Africa to Morocco in order to reach Europe - is gaining traction.

"We're still not sure whether this will cannibalise the Trans Saharan

pipeline or run alongside it," he says. The project, estimated to cost \$25bn (\$20bn) and connecting 13 West and North African countries, will be completed in stages over 25 years.

Ms Nakhle says the shift to sourcing gas from Africa could also benefit countries such as Tanzania and Mozambique, although a huge project there run by French giant Total is currently on hold following a major attack by Islamist militants based in the area.

"There is great potential in Africa, but I would say that it's got to be very limited in the short-term because gas projects take time to materialise," she says.

But in the medium- and long-term, "you will see greater investment to increase the capacity to bring more gas out of the ground and bring them to Europe".

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SGT. Yakubu Monday late of Anambra State, died on the 13th January, 2022, at Anamba State.	Jacob Monday & Victoria Monday of St. Livinus Catholic Church Warsapiti, Lere LGA, Kaduna State. Lawful Widow/son of the said deceased.	Sunday Obadiah Andong, late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th February, 2022, at Mbar, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State.	Lucky Sunday Andongs of Mbar Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	Adang Abus Igyem late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th September, 2021, at Jos, Plateau State.	Azi Joanthan Ashi & Azi Emmanuel Abok of Madov village Tudun Wada, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
Paul Nanjing late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd February, 2022, at Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Lucky Paul Nanjing of COCIN LCC Gugur Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	Yunana Samson Bundung, late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd January, 2021, at JUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Lamin Yunanan Bandung of Peace Avenue Atiku Street Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Longmial Lydia Goeshalong, late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th October, 2021, at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Longmial Christ Walong & Longmial Pamela of Narkuta Villages Kunga Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.
Esther Obevodiri late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th March, 2022, at Gyel Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Vincent Francis of behind Vom Christian Hospital Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Wai Amos late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd August, 2019, at Garkawa, Mikang LGA, Plateau State.	Amos Jeremiah Nannmwo & Kande Wai Amos of Peace Baptist Church Garkawa, Mikang LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	Sunday Bot Fom late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th January, 2014, at Barkin Ladi, LGA, Plateau State.	Ayuba Sunday Bot of Church of Christ in Nations LCC Heipang, P. O. Box 45 Barkin Ladi, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Mauruce Shitnan Mutshiol late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th January, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Millicent Kushen Mutshiol & Hoomkwap Betzoom Bridget of No.69B Govt. Quarters Barrack Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.	Adoi Dan Ella late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th October, 1995, at Jos, Plateau State.	Bello Oyhi Ella, Jomo Onjefu Ella & Adakole Raymond Ella of Sa12 Idika Street Apata Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Adamu Maingo late of Bauchi State. Died on the 5th April, 2022 at Toro LGA Bauchi State.	Yusuf Ibrahim & Fatima Ibrahim Adam Miya Barkate, Toro LGA, Bauchi State. Lawful son /daughter of the said deceased.
Manshuut Stanley Aji late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th February, 2022 at Maiduguri, Borno State.	Aliyu Ubandoma Longdiem of Shemankar Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful father of the said deceased.	Bula Wilfred Terhide late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th March, 2022, at Jos, Plateau State.	Deborah Nguvan Bula No.2 Oasis of Love St. Zarmaganda Rayfield Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Raymond Mishin Galguk late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th June, 2019, at Shendam, LGA, Plateau State.	Mishin Nanfwang Raymond of opposite Police Station Kerang outpost Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
INSPR. Sani Maisamari late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th February, 2022, at Kabwir, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	James Sani Michael of ECWA Church Kabwir kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Mary Gadong late of Plateau State. Died on the 11th November, 2009, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Ponnak Nalifa Gadong & Pondul Nalifa Gadong of No. 41 State Lowcost Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Sallah Gabriel Jibirin late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st May, 2021, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Zahrah Naankwat Musa Opp. Gold Course Lamingo Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
Mallam Yaki late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th November, 2021, at Angwan Jukun Garkawa, Mikang LGA, Plateau State.	Nanmier Khiba Jacob of Garkawa Mikang LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	David Andrew late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th March, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Beauty Andrew of Zone 1. No.32 Giring Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Wakili Musa late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st December, 2021 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Sule Musa Wakili of Bayna Dutse Fusa Fursum District Jos East LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Aminu Bello late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th March, 2022, at Jos Plateau State.	Halliru Aminu Bello of Angwan Rimi No.18 Kari Close Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Lannap Donnap late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th April, 2022, at Zamko, Langtang North LGA. Plateau State.	Donnap Ali Danlami & Sunday Mary Danbaba of Zamko Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	Gadong Godfrey Nalifa Bala late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st April, 2005, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Gadong Micheal Bala of Kangtang Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
Nyam Ali late of Plateau State died on the 20th Aug, 2009 at UTAN, Jos Plateau State.	Ladi Arin Nyam of St. Anthony Catholic Church UTAN, Jos Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.	James Goteng late of Plateau State died on the 16th April, 2022 at Gen. Hospital Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Panshiwe Luka Yilshang of Sauke Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Langshi Damirin Pwanyi late of Plateau State died on the 30th March, 2015 at Pankshin, Plateau State.	Na'nyasar Langshi Damirim of COCIN LCC Yimtul, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widown of the said deceased.
Pam Adams Gwom late of Plateau State died on the 5th April, 2021 at Imo state.	Gyang Paul Wang & Gyang Stephanie Pam of No. 70 Zong C Rantya New Lay out Jos South, Plateau State. Lawful Widow/Son of the said deceased.	Reuben Kutson late of Plateau State died on the 1st Dec, 2019 at Mangu, Mangu LGA Plateau.	Senlong Kutson of COCIN LCC Mwar Chakfem, Mangu LGC, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Timzing Rindap Tyemgiwa late of Plateau State died on the 29th May, 2021 at Umuahia, Abia State.	Rindap Joseph Timzing of Pilgani Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Bulus Tengwong Deme late of Plateau State died on the 18th Jan, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Elizabeth Bulus Deme of COCIN LCC Batin Heipang Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.	Jibrin Khaleed Abubakar late of Plateau State died on the 3rd Feb, 2021 at Pulka, Borno State.	Umar Ali Mohammed of 7/47 Sabon Layi Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	John Bernard Benschak late of Plateau State died on the 27th Dec, 2021 at Mangu, LGA Plateau State.	Senjwong John Benschak & Mary Jwan Longsan of JUTH Accounts Dept, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow/daughter of the said deceased.
John Kaze Azi late of Plateau State died on the 31st Dec, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Kaze Moses Izang of Nukpis new JUTH Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Mahya Florence Lipdo late of Plateau State died on the 17th July, 2021 at Langtang, North LGA Plateau State.	Lipdo Eric Timnan of Dadin Kowa Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Brother of the said deceased.	Dalyop Augustine Pam late of Plateau State died on the 29th Jan, 2022 at Chol Kuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Pam David Dalyop of Chol Kuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

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

# Electricity tariff increase, effect on consumers



BY KENNETH DARENG

PRIOR to the return of democratic dispensation in 1999, the late Chief Bola Ige had criticized the way and manner past administrations had poorly managed the nation's power generation and distribution. He was also quoted to have said; "With the right caliber of people in charge, it doesn't require more than 6 months to fix the problem of power in this country..."

Behold, few years thereafter he was appointed minister of Power and after a few years without solving the problem, and one day, a journalist reminded him of that statement and asked what went wrong that he was yet to fix the problem. Ige replied with a smile that; "I am still trying to identify the real problem..."

And it then became a reality that throughout the eight years of the President Olusegun

Obasanjo's administration the puzzle in the power sector has not been unraveled by successive administrations which has remained a headache inherited by the Buhari administration and will also be passed on to the incoming administration in 2023.

It was the quest for a long lasting solution to the problem of power that the sector was privatized many years ago by the Obasanjo administration under the auspices of the Bureau of Privatisation of Enterprises [BPE] which was seen by some critics as; "Fraudulent" because the exercise only opened up the space for some cronies of the those within the corridors of power then which has led to more problems with daily challenges which has continued to grow day after day for many years running now.

However, one major issue that is causing ripples among power consumers is that of a new electricity tariff which was said to have come into effect without public notice in January 2022. And that has kept many Nigerians wondering why the secret increase and why would the National Electricity Regulatory Commission [NERC] that is expected to be on the side of the masses now be part of an arbitrary increase without taking into account the effect on millions of power should consumers.

It is now obvious that the consumers are going to bear the

brunt in the light of the present economic hardship where citizens are battling with high cost of food and other commodities, such as the hike in petroleum products like gas and kerosene, transportation and high cost of service delivery including general poverty. When power is beyond the reach and affordability of an average Nigerian, it means the macro economic spectrum is shut down and by implication small scale businesses that depend on electricity as well as residential houses are going to have challenges.

And as it is, the problem that



led to the increase in tariff has further pushed the stakeholders to find a way out. For instance, the Distribution Companies [DISCO's], are having the challenges of regular supply and metering of consumers while the Investors are trying to recoup on their investment and on the other hand, the consumers are

crying foul as many see any increase at this time as ill-timed and is an indication of lack of sensitivity on the part of the Federal Government which is expected to protect the interest of the consumers and by extension to enhance the well-being of its citizens. What has played out is that there was a complete breakdown in communication between NERC and the consumers. There should have been an explanation for the new tariff no matter how bitter it is, the consumer deserves to know the exact truth.

It is baffling that the power providers are yet to address the issue of metering which Nigeria STANDARD sources have indicated that 60 percent of electricity consumers in the country do not have meters which means only a few percentage of consumers are paying for electricity that is not even regular and is forcing investors in other sectors of the economy out to neighbouring countries.

Perhaps, late MKO Abiola was right when he said; "All that will make power available in Nigeria is just a Transformer in government..."

**And as it is, the problem that led to the increase in tariff has further pushed the stakeholders to find a way out. For instance, the Distribution Companies [DISCO's], are having the challenges of regular supply and metering of consumers while the Investors are trying to recoup on their investment and on the other hand, the consumers are crying foul as many see any increase at this time as ill-timed and is an indication of lack of sensitivity on the part of the Federal Government which is expected to protect the interest of the consumers and by extension to enhance the wellbeing of its citizens.**

## NERC, and metering system in Nigeria



BY HOSEA NYAMLONG

NIGERIA is among the countries with the largest economy and population in Africa, despite this great feat, it has the challenge of energy deficit in the world.

Over the years, successive government have put in some measures to improve and boost electricity supply in the country by using different approaches to achieve this in the Nigeria power industry, but this has failed, for many customers today are unmetered.

The power sector was privatised over five years ago, but the provision of meters to customers remains a major key challenge to many households, who are on estimated billings, which has given room for illegal connection to a sharp of corrupt practice within the system of the power

industry

It is regrettable that in this 21st century, analog meters are still in use, while others are not metered at all.

Federal Government in her efforts launched the National Mass Metering Programme (NMMP), in October 2020, through Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), to finance the programme through the Nigeria Electricity Distribution Company (DISCOS), for meters to be provided for free of charge to every household in Nigeria.

Although, the first phase of the implementation of the programme was successful to a large extent, while customers that are not metered are patiently waiting for the second phase of the mass metering, which seem to be delayed by NERC so far.

Nonetheless, there areIt was estimated that over 12 million registered energy customers as at September 2021, while only above 4 million customers were metered with the prepaid meters and with this significant figure left, many Nigerians are still under the estimated billings which customers are mandated to pay far above what they have consumed on a monthly basis

At the moment, the said

exorbitant bills have been linked to DISCOS trying to recover their profits, due to loss of revenues as a result of lack of transparency and accountability between the DISCOS and their customers.

However, the continuous estimated billing of customers have resulted to illegal and corrupt practices to get out of paying high cost of bills, because customers cannot reconcile their monthly bills gotten from the DISCOS with the energy consumption.

On this note, Nigerians are the mercy of estimated billing with the epileptic power supply which has over the years have not help to bridge the gap between DISCO and household that are unmetered

The prepaid meters are designed to ensure that customers would only pay for what they have consumed, for billing to be fair, consumers are expected to be provided with prepaid meters.

It was observed that NERC has not lived up to its responsibilities with regard to the issue of estimated billings, which seems that the commission is working in collaboration with DISCOS to exploit customers.

It was also gathered that the mass metering programme is

being sabotaged by some DISCOS staff, whereby, meters provided under the programme are being sold to desperate customers with cash at hand.

To this end, NERC that is being empowered by the power sector reform Act, must ensure that the mass metering programme of the federal, to reach the last household in the country.

At the commission must also ensure that all new connections of power supply to residents are done strictly base on the mass metering programme and DISCOS should on no account connect new customers without

**Nonetheless, it was estimated that There are over 12 million registered energy customers as at September 2021, while only above 4 million customers were metered with the prepaid meters and with this significant figure left, many Nigerians are still under the estimated billings which customers are mandated to pay far above what they have consumed on a monthly basis.**

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT is a fact that Colleges of Education, whether public or private are institutions that are basically saddled with the responsibilities of molding or training teachers that can professionally instill knowledge in pupils or students.

The importance of these colleges as far as education is concerned cannot be overemphasized, since its establishment's purpose as an institution is to produce professional teachers in different chosen field of study.

In order to have sound graduates from these institutions of learning, it is expected that student's enrolments or admission into the College for either National Certificate in Education (NCE) or BA in Education should be strictly based on merit not by whom they know, this if always put into consideration would indeed curtail the cases of producing half-baked graduates into the teaching profession.

Interestingly the establishment of Plateau State College of Education Gindiri in 1980 was not a misplacement of thought in the education sector, looking at the significant roles that the institution had played and is still playing particularly in training well sound teachers who are scattered across various parts of Nigeria.

Worthy of note is the fact that, the vision of this reputable college was of course to become a vibrant and respectable institution producing holistic pre-service professional teachers that meet the core values and expectations of the education industry for service to humanity and overall national development.

However, the mission of the institution was to incubate and hatch qualitative educators to bridge the manpower need in the Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences and Vocational Education, compare with contemporary needs of education in Nigeria and beyond.

This perhaps is indication that the college is one amongst other institutions that is setting the pace for others to follow, especially when it comes to moulding qualified teachers or educators in Nigeria.

This is also a clear hand writing on the wall that both academic and non-academic staff are not to relent in their efforts when it comes to commitment and hard work to duty.

In fact, for this effort to be sustained amongst the staff of the college, it therefore behooves on any regime that comes on board to always do the needful through the institution with more physical infrastructural development, working tools and the staff welfare, this is to further create more conducive learning environment for the staff and students.

It was against this background that the new management of the College of Education Gindiri thought it very expedient to organize an interactive session and workers day for the staff, which took place at the Institution's auditorium recently.

Provost of the College, Dr. Emmanuel Daniel Jurte, on the occasion expressed the management's readiness to work together as a team with the staff and the various unions of the college so as to move the institution to a higher pedestal.

Dr. Jurte stated that the interactive session was for the new substantive management to know the staff of the college and thanked Governor Simon Bako Lalong of

Plateau State, and the Governing council members for finding the new team worthy to serve the institution in various capacities.

Dr. Jurte explained that the new management on board would give utmost priority to staff training and emphasized the need for academic institutional best research urging them to do more on inaugural lectures.

He called for understanding from the stakeholders and applauded the effort of the deputy speaker House

the support and cooperation accorded the committee throughout the planning of the events, urging them to sustain such spirit in subsequent programmes.

In their separate remarks, chairman, COEASU, Comrade Yaknan Cirfat, NASU Comrade Musa Manga and SSUCOEN, Comrade Joseph Longner who was represented by Samuel Dabit expressed hope with the crop of new management on board,

## COE Gindiri and educational excellence



of Representative Abuja, Rt. Hon Idris Maje for facilitating the roads network within the college.

The provost appreciated TETFund for its various interventions through infrastructural development in the college and assured of the management's readiness to continue partnering with TETFund.

Dr. Jurte also assured the various unions of the institution that the management would look in to the issue of reviewing the law that established the college stressing that the issue of turning the institutions to a degree award would also be pursued.

He also congratulated all the long serving meritorious award recipients whom the provost described as mentors to those who had passed through the college. He said that he was impressed with the large turnout of the staff, urging them to sustain such tempo.

Dr. Jurte also told the staff that the management is going to operate an open door policy for any constructive criticism and told the welfare Committee that the programme would be a continuous one, since the purpose was for the management and staff to come together and interact with one another, adding that a problem shared is a problem half solved.

Speaking on behalf of the Welfare Committee, its Chairman Mr. Jack Fomson expressed delight with the success of the programme and thanked management and staff for



adding that they were equally optimistic that they would change some of the negative narratives that the college had encountered over the years.

They also stressed the need for staff development, such as workshops, seminars and conferences both within and outside Nigeria, pointing out that for over a decade now things have not been going on well, they called

on the management to look into the issue of lack of release of staff promotion and temporary staff that have been stalled in the college for many years without confirmation.

The meritorious award recipients, Sylvanus D. Datal, Nuhu T. Ayuba and Dr. Polycarp Bedung all said that they were very elated by the gesture of the institution for considering them worthy of the award which they described as very

historic.

In a vote of thanks, Registrar of the College, Chief Michael George Maqual appreciated the staff for attending and also staying throughout the programme, saying that the management would remain friendly to both Union and staff at all times.

The event featured presentation by the theatre arts students of the college among others.

# IMAGES (Repeat)

## PPC RE-UNION HELD IN JOS

*Plateau Publishing Corporation recently held its first Re-Union at the premises of the organization*



*PPC, GM, Dr. Boniface Gwotbit KSM, taking the former and present staff during the facility touring*



*Mrs. Cina Bupwatda, Director Commercial Printing showing the working of the printing machine*



*HRH Barr. Joel Sabo Aninge (middle) discussing with Mr. Sylvanus Namang and Mr. Emmanuel Gogwim*



*Dr. Timothy Golu (right) with Malam Samaila Ado Shigi*



*Dr. Boniface Gwotbit KSM, General Manager, PPC reading his speech*



*Chief Gideon Mitu (left) with Mr. Chris Gyang*



*Mr. Boniface Kassam (left) with the General Manager, Dr. Boniface Gwotbit KSM*



*L - R: Mr. Sylvanus Namang, Mr. Allahnanan Attah and Mr. Hosea Yunana*

Photos: DANLADI DUK

**Odd World**

**'I'm 45, wear same clothes as my 17-year-old daughter**

AN age-defying 45-year-old woman regularly wows people with her strikingly youthful appearance, and even wears the same clothes to 'twin' with her 17-year-old daughter.

All too often, it's assumed that women will dress differently as they enter new decades of their lives, no matter how unique their style may be.

However, one 45-year-old woman is defying all assumptions about what a 40-something mother should wear, and dresses in an almost identical fashion to her 17-year-old daughter.

As previously reported by the *Daily Star*, teenager Tatiana Fleming-Smith recently went viral after sharing footage of herself posing with her equally glamorous, Pandora Fleming-Smith.

Tatiana can be seen wearing a fun Spongebob Squarepants crop top, while Pandora sports a similarly playful Bratz crop top.

Many of Tatiana's TikTok followers were greatly impressed by Pandora's youthful glow and felt as though they were looking at a set of 'twins' rather than a mother and daughter.

**Source: The Mirror**



**2023 elections: Our fears, their gimmicks**

THOUGH many cynics have once more predicted doom as the 2023 general elections are concern in Nigeria, a pocket few of us are still optimistic that these elections will by the grace of God come and go in peace. A pocket few of us are still not losing sleep yet knowing too well that if the needful is done, the nation will survive another civilian to civilian transition. This development however will only become realistic when we as a people are prepared to take our future in our hands and navigate it as anticipated by our founding fathers.

Come to think of this properly, there is always an unnecessary anxiety each time elections are projected to be conducted in Nigeria. In a built up to the 2015 general elections for instance, many Pastors and Imams predicted that there would be war, bloodshed which would eventually lead to the total disintegration of the country. In a "religious" nation where most citizens always listen to such predictions from their clergies with keen interest, they are always left with no other option than to relocate their families to other areas perceived as safe after these predictions are made.

Nigeria before the 2015 general elections became further heightened after a United States based organization added its voice to the already charged situation noting that if the then unpalatable security situation was not checked, the nation will be dragged into a state of chaos and anarchy to the detriment of the people. The America team was forced to predict this doomsday following the inability of the political actors and their cronies to abide by the rules of the game in anticipation of the polls. To further consolidate on this notion then, a former United States Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell reiterated his stand that Nigeria will not exist beyond 2015 going by these ugly unfolding events in the country.

This aside, one cannot also easily forget that within that same period, the Boko Haraism ideology brainwashed many vulnerable youth who eventual sold their souls to the devil causing mayhem and destruction to lives and property in some regions of the nation. Unfortunately and till date, many security experts have continued to blame the political class for creating this insecurity circumstances which our nation is going through this very moment. No doubt, had former President Goodluck Jonathan also not conceded elections, this country would have perhaps by now gone with the wind.

As God would have it however, all these cynics were put to shame at a high outlay which did not make sense to some of us. Then came the 2019 where the same fears and anxiety were exhibited but with the help of God, the hurdles were crossed with but some little bruises. All this while; the question on the lips of many Nigerians have been on lessons the citizens have learnt so as to avert a repeat of these ugly happenings in the future.

Evidently, it seems the political

leaders and administrators of this nation are pushing their luck too far when it comes to understanding the complex heterogonous disposition of Nigeria, its citizenry and the quest to improving our behavioral attitude to enhance better governance in the country. This time, our politicians are knowingly and or unknowingly trying to drag this country into an unprecedented chaotic and unstable situation ever imagined in the annals of our nation's history. While the entire citizenry are groaning from unfavorable economic and socio-political stagnation, some of these politicians who care less about the ordinary man are not remorseful and the common man remains a direct victim of their nefarious activities and or antics of administrative ingenuity.

For some of us, it is becoming quite clearer now that some of our politicians are not in politics to save the common man from the shackles of suppression and lack which had held us in bondage since the our nation's independence in 1960. Even as the nation is gearing towards another general election come 2023, what is on the mind of our politicians is how they intend to win their elections to enable them consolidate on their acts of personal aggrandizement.

With less than a year to this historic general election, some states in this country are still unsettled due to pending issues of insecurity. Many of the citizens of this country may not vote during these elections due to the precarious security situations bedeviling us all. In fact, the greater chunk of them has become internally displaced and may not have a chance to participate in the elections.

Regrettably, Nigeria is getting less serious about the ongoing unpalatable affairs in the nation. Our leaders have lost touch with reality even as the country is going through a lot. Though the security situation in the nation is today getting out of hand, stakeholders are yet to comprehend the ferociousness of what is confronting us as a developing nation. Many of our youth have turned against us knowing too well that the economic policies of the nation are becoming unfriendly to their expectations. As we are about going into another election period, there is great anxiety but for the political class, its major concern is how they can win the forthcoming polls without much difficulty. Many of them are only concerned with that which they can benefit from our national treasury and not that which many of us can better our lives with.

Our fears as citizens are whether we can as a country overcome some of the challenges bedeviling this nation before the polls. Some of these challenges as at today include those created by the political class even as many of them are not thinking of our common interest as a nation.

To avoid a disaster in 2023, our politicians must seriously have a rethink on how they go about politicking their ruthless political campaigns. They must understand the fact that only when the citizens are alive and in good health would they have the platform to govern this country. The 2023 general elections will only be a successful only when there is a country to govern as without such a nation in existence, no political activity will be able to take place.

## Feature

# The economic challenges of insecurity in Nigeria

**Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with a population of over 157 million. With such a large number of people, security challenges are inevitable. Also expected is a proper response from law enforcement to ensure the security of lives and properties. This is a statutory imposed duty on law enforcement agents, and a right guaranteed to the citizens of Nigeria. Timothy zitta Joseph, writes.**

NIGERIANS are faced with terrorist activities and occupation of territories in Yobe, Borno, Adamawa, Taraba banditry in Zamfara, Kaduna, Kastina, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto, and largely around Kaduna-Abuja road, now extended to some parts of Benue and Plateau State.

These activities include bomb attacks, sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens, burning of police stations across the Eastern part of the country, Churches, mosques, prison breaks and raping of school girls' and women are some of the atrocities committed by this terrorist.

The various attacks carried out by suspected herdsmen on some communities in the north, the north central and the south have been another great major challenge of insecurity facing the country. Recently in Kanam local government area of plateau state, many lives and properties were lost including women and children with large number of citizens rendered homeless.

Families have lost their loved ones, many women are now widows, children becoming orphans with no hope of what the future holds for them. These and many more have negative economic implications for National development.

These government led by President Muhammadu Buhari is making efforts to tackle all of these challenges posed by terrorism and insurgency in the country to put an end to it but unfortunately, the efforts of government are not enough obviously from the rate of rising insecurity which is still alarming.

Suspected bandits had recently set up detonators on a train heading to Kaduna from Abuja, which led to more than 70 people kidnapped. Recent records have shown that Kaduna state is one of the most affected by banditry in northern Nigeria where hundreds of people have been abducted or killed.

Insecurity has greatly reduced the confidence of foreign investors in Nigeria. According to the United Nations Conference Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FDI flows to Nigeria



at averaged \$5.3 million annually from 2005-- 2007 however, UNCTAD data shows FDI to Nigeria is average \$3.3 billion from 2015 - 2019 a period that has been heightened with widespread insecurity in the country.

More so, Nigeria is losing its best brains on a daily basis through mass emigration to western countries like Canada, U.S, Britain and of late Saudi Arabia seem to be the preferred destinations for most Nigerian health workers at the moment due to its open-door policy for qualified migrants.

The search for a better-quality life and enabling working environment is the main reason for the Mass emigration of Nigerian doctors and other professionals. The prospect for the good life is being jeopardize in the country by insecurity.

The vicious circle of insecurity in Nigeria has diminished public

confidence as people are afraid to move around freely in the country.

Going further clearly shows that any effort to grow the Nigerian economy by the Buhari Administration would most likely fail if insecurity is not adequately addressed. Insecurity is no longer just a problem that affects the security sector, but the entire economy which required an urgent fix.

As we adapt to the challenges of a changing world and reposition our economy for growth and increased employment, security must be sorted as a matter of economic priority. A strong and stable economy fosters long term national security whereas insecurity is a hindrance to long term economic prosperity.

Therefore, efforts must be spared in bringing under control the spate of the bloodletting that currently afflicts most part of the

country.

Government should as a matter of urgency declare a total war on terrorism and seek assistance and advice from international communities who have in the time past face this kind of challenge. The Nigerian Military should be empowered with more sophisticated weapons to fight this insurgency. Security should be beefed up in all parts of the country to curb the menace of insecurity, our borders should be closely monitored to prevent enemies of the state from crossing.

Surveillance and intelligence gathering are some of the sophisticated methods that law enforcement authorities should use to tackle security challenges. These help them to gather information sufficient to prevent a crime that is to be committed, intervene a crime that is being committed, or investigate a crime that has been committed.

Insecurity has heightened leading to severe unimaginable social consequence which has blighted the social economic sphere of Nigeria's life

Without a doubt, Nigeria has a great potential for greatness, especially with its large population made up of dynamic work force, a growing economy, abundant natural resources, diverse raw materials, huge oil deposits and a reservoir of intellectuals. In spite of these indices for greatness, Nigeria still remains a developing country struggling most frantically to her feet among the

comity of nations due to the prevailing and divergent security challenges among others, that have continued to pose a challenge to its development and growth.

If an environment is well policed and secured it tends to bring about economic development. This is because no society can develop where there is constant threat to life and peaceful coexistence.

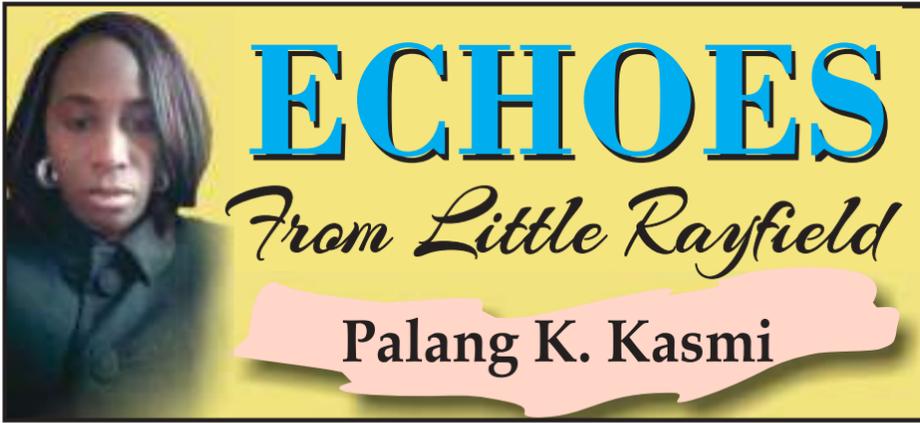
Successful national security architecture begins with defining one's national interest. Nigeria needs the confidence to design a homegrown national security strategy that involves all institutions, including both the state and non-state actors.

The country needs accountability in policies, processes and restrictions to ensure higher impact from available security budgets. Every Nigerian has a role to play in tackling security challenges facing the country. There is a need for a unified stance guided by an agreed national interest, irrespective of political, religious and ethnic affiliation. The national security architecture should significantly improve Nigeria's chance of mitigating the spate of violence across the country.

The best hope Nigeria could have today in its efforts against criminal activities lies in preventing crime and not apprehending offenders after their act.

**Timothy zitta Joseph is of the Ministry of Information and Communication.**

**"If an environment is well policed and secured it tends to bring about economic development. This is because no society can develop where there is constant threat to life and peaceful coexistence. Successful national security architecture begins with defining one's national interest. Nigeria needs the confidence to design a homegrown national security strategy that involves all institutions, including both the state and non-state actors".**



# ECHOES

*From Little Rayfield*

Palang K. Kasmi

## 2022 Ilum O'Tarok

WITH the ongoing season and series of cultural festivals in the state, Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong was special guest at the 2022 Ilum O'Tarok festival over the weekend on Saturday 14th May 2022 at the Langtang Mini Stadium.

The event did not only attract sons and daughters of Tarok Land but many friends, neighbours, traditional rulers, and dignitaries including cultural enthusiasts, politicians and government officials. The event attracted a huge crowd with many clad in cultural attires for the celebrations.

Governor Lalong commended the Tarok Nation for sustaining the cultural festival for many decades and using the platform as a way for preserving, sustaining and showcasing their rich cultural heritage for their generation and those unborn.

Lalong who also expressed delight for being a part of the epoch making occasion was optimistic that aside being a unifying force, the cultural festival is a boost to the state's hospitality and tourism potentials and called on the sustenance of the festival to guard against the threat of globalisation.

"Many of our cultural practices are gradually being abandoned while languages are fast disappearing by the day especially among our younger generation" said Lalong as he expressed concern and assured the Tarok Nation of completion of some ongoing projects in their domain.

Other speakers at the colourful and memorable yearly cultural festival including the Emir of Dass from Bauchi State, Alh. Usman Bilyaminu Othman, ALGON Chairman Plateau State, Hon. Alex Naantwam in their separate speeches commended the organisers for putting up such a remarkable event and described the cultural festival as great social forum for hospitality and tourism, and a way of making the people get in touch with their rich historical roots.



## 'Plateau Fresh project'

AMONG one of the remarkable visits at 'Little Rayfield' last week was a team of South African Investors under the 'Plateau Fresh Project'.

The project which is a joint venture between a South African Company, Wellington and White and the Plateau Investment and Property Company (PIPC) targets farming, processing and export of exotic crops, vegetables and perishables from Plateau.

Technical partner to the project, Mr. Ian White, and PIPC Managing Director, Mr. Chris Yilzak both assured the governor that investing in such agribusiness is a viable venture that would create great opportunities for citizens, in the area of employment, farming, export, industrialisation, globalisation and increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as well as stop the exploitation of farmers in Plateau by middlemen.

Lalong who received the team alongside his officials said he was eagerly looking forward to the project take-off based on its high potential to improve his state's economic growth.

## News

### 3 arrested for the death of APC chairman

**From Abbas Shehu Gungura, Bauchi**

Bauchi State Police Command has arrested three persons for interrogation in connection to the suspicious

death of Hussaini Gwabba, the newly elected chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) of Bauchi Local Government.

Addressing journalists on the issue Sunday evening, the Bauchi State Commissioner

Police Umar Mamman Sanda, appealed to the general public to be calm, as police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of Hon. Gwabba.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** gathered that on 14/05/2022, at about 1130hrs, information was received from a good Samaritan that one Hussaini Musa Gwabba, 62, was in distress.

He Sanda, "It was also gathered that DPO C Division visited the scene at Khairan Hotel behind Specialist Hospital Bauchi where he met the victim vomiting and rushed him to ATBU Teaching Hospital Bauchi for treatment, where he was certified dead by a medical doctor."

The police boss added that preliminary investigation led to the arrest of three suspects for interrogation.

"Meanwhile, the result of the autopsy is being awaited. The outcome of the investigation will be made public, please," CP Sanda said.



Alkali

### Rain storm destroys property in FCE Pankshin

**BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

A heavy rain storm has destroyed properties worth millions of naira at the Federal College of Education, Pankshin following heavy down pour over the weekend affected the main administrative block which housed the offices of the Provost, Registry and Bursary blowing off the tops roof destroying vital documents.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the College's Public Relations Executive, Istifanus Kyakmut, Mnipr, and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State Capital Yesterday.

The statement stated that, "also affected are lecture halls, Convocation arena, Electric polls and Solar installations as well as plants which were uprooted by the rain storm. The heavy rain storm started at around four (4) pm on Friday 13th May, 2022 and lasted for over

one hour leaving a flooded environment with detached zinc and leaf branches scattered all over the place".

Speaking after incident, the Provost of the College Dr. Amos Bulus Cifrat, described the incident as unfortunate and that, it was an act of God which no man can question saying, "the destruction was massive which requires immediate intervention and I want appeal to the government and relevant agencies and spirited individuals to come to the aid of the Institution".

He expressed gratitude to God that there was no life was lost in the disaster even as it also affected structures at the staff quarters where he called for calm and encouraged members of the College community saying, "efforts



**Prof. Wonang**

are being made to address the situation".

However, while assessing the level of damage down by the rain storm, the Registrar of the Federal College of Education Pankshin, Nna Elizabeth Yiltong Homsuk, said, the destruction was a sad one to the institution and that, it was capital intensive and appealed for support from government.

## Sports

By JONATHAN SMITH

# Man City prove Guardiola remains in control

THE knives had been sharpening for Pep Guardiola and Manchester City.

After a week in which their character was questioned, the English champions fought back from 2-0 down against West Ham to claim an important point.

Despite almost having the Premier League title wrapped up, their dramatic exit from the Champions League at the hands of Real Madrid had opened the floodgates for criticism to flow through.

Dimitar Berbatov claimed that City had a "small mindset" with "no winning mentality", while his former Manchester United teammate

And when City went in at half-time 2-0 down to West Ham on Sunday, there was a chance that, despite Guardiola's protestations a few days earlier, those opinions would be vindicated.

Jack Grealish's deflected volley and a Vladimir Coufal own goal might have meant that City's fight-back to claim a 2-2 draw at the London Stadium came with a decent helping of luck, but it was no more than they deserved for the way they turned it on after the break.

"We just have to just to win one more game and if we don't, Liverpool will be champions," was the simple message from the City boss after the game, but it does not tell the tale of how they got to that position.

It is a scenario that Guardiola would have been more than happy with for the final match of the season back in March, when the Reds closed the gap to just a single point.

And he definitely would have taken it midway through their final away game of the season after Jarrod Bowen's first-half double.



Man city in action

But that was when Guardiola's technical and talented squad had to show their grit and bravery to maintain an advantage on the title race.

Step forward Grealish - the £100-million man who is jeered and barracked at every Premier League ground, but still possesses the strength of mind to hit a first time volley from the edge of the box when most others would have at least taken a touch first.

Step forward Aymeric Laporte,

City's bandaged up centre-back that gritted his teeth to win a painful free-kick that led to Coufal flicking Riyad Mahrez's cross into his own net for the equaliser.

Step forward Fernandinho, the 37-year-old midfielder plunged into the centre of defence, who never gave up in a battling brawl with Michail Antonio.

It could have been even better had Mahrez scored an 87th-minute penalty that was saved by Lukasz Fabianski, but boy could it

have been a lot worse too.

Overall, Sunday's was not a great performance from City, with a slow build-up too often shut down while lacklustre defending allowed Bowen to twice catch them on the break.

But, staring down the barrel, they somehow managed to drag themselves to a point that could prove crucial in the final reckoning.

"At half-time we would have

taken a draw all day long," Grealish admitted. "We recover now and have good days of training and look to win on Sunday.

"You want to make it as easy as you can for yourselves. We have a great home record, all our fans will be behind it, it will be a great day. Fingers crossed we can go and get the win."

That final day will see Grealish face his former club Aston Villa, now managed by Liverpool legend Steven Gerrard, who will be desperate to do his old club a favour.

But City have given themselves the advantage and could even win the title on Tuesday night if Jurgen Klopp's side lose at Southampton.

Liverpool looked tired at the end of their FA Cup final victory over Chelsea having lost the influential Virgil van Dijk and Mohammed Salah to slight injuries, though those damaged muscles must have been twitching with energy at around 3pm on Sunday afternoon.

Guardiola does not expect their rivals to slip up at St Mary's and believes a thrilling title race deserves to go the last day.

"I said to the players after the game that we could not expect any different against a team fighting to win the Premier League that is one of the most perfect teams I have seen in my life," he said.

"Against this Liverpool you cannot win the league a month ago or two or three fixtures ago. You have to fight until the end.

"They fought, we fight and the big privilege we have is that it is in our hands at home. We only have to look at ourselves and we will give everything."

City have the quality and talent to beat Villa, but if it turns into a scrap, Guardiola will still back his side then too.



Guardiola

## Sports



Rico Henry's second-half header deepened Everton's relegation fears and earned Brentford their seventh victory in ten league games

### Lampard unhappy with referee after loss

EVERTON manager Frank Lampard says his side have been "on the wrong end of a lot of bad decisions this season" after the nine-man Toffees were beaten by Brentford at Goodison Park.

**BBC SPORT** said that, Leeds' draw at home to Brighton earlier on Sunday meant victory for Lampard's team would have secured their top-flight status with two games to spare, but the narrow loss leaves them just two points clear of 18th-placed Burnley and one above Jesse Marsch's side, who have played a game more.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin got the faintest of touches to Richarlison's flick to give the hosts an early lead, but the dismissal of teenage defender Jarrad Branthwaite - which came moments after Richarlison's appeals for a penalty for a foul by Kristoffer Ajer were turned down - swung the momentum back in the visitors' favour.

"When you see that shirt pull [on Richarlison], that's a foul anywhere on the pitch," said Lampard, who is facing an FA hearing over comments made in the aftermath of last month's 2-0 defeat by Liverpool at Anfield.

"This 'clear and obvious' phrase, I don't know if it still counts but I

think it's a nonsense. The decision is either right or wrong.

"Is a shirt pull a foul? Yes. Is it in the box? Yes. It's a penalty."

A Richarlison spot-kick in first-half stoppage time restored Everton's advantage after Seamus Coleman's own goal had levelled for the Bees, but Brentford dominated the second half and deservedly turned the game on its head through headers from Yoane Wissa and Rico Henry.

The Toffees contacted the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) after the Liverpool defeat to query why referee Stuart Attwell did not penalise a challenge on Anthony Gordon.

"It's hard," Lampard continued. "I have to represent the club, represent the fans that come here, and those small margins can affect our position."

"I do believe that penalty for the shirt pull means maybe 2-0 and 11 men, and I think we all know how that game goes."

The Toffees' woes were compounded late on when substitute Salomon Rondon was sent off for a two-footed lunge on Henry, but Lampard's side will be safe if they beat Crystal Palace at home on Thursday evening.

An impressive haul of seven

points from three games had lifted Everton clear of the bottom three before Sunday's crucial game, and Leeds' failure to overcome Brighton at Elland Road meant survival was within tantalising distance for Lampard and his players - who were greeted off the team bus by thousands of Toffees fans prior to kick-off.

Both sides had opportunities to open the scoring in a blistering start to the match, the first of which was spurned by Richarlison after Brentford goalkeeper David Raya had clawed Gordon's clever flick into the forward's path.

Ivan Toney and Richarlison traded further chances, before Calvert-Lewin - making his first start since 9 April - got the slightest of touches to Gordon's driven free-kick to break the deadlock and ramp up the noise inside an already frantic Goodison Park.

The mood changed dramatically, however, when Branthwaite was adjudged to have brought down Toney as last man.

The red card shifted the momentum inside Goodison Park as Christian Eriksen curled a free-kick narrowly wide of the far post, before Wissa's whipped delivery was diverted into his own net by Coleman.

VICTOR Osimhen opened the scoring as Napoli condemned Genoa to Serie B following a 3-0 victory in their penultimate match of the 2021-22 Serie A season at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium on Sunday.

**Goal** said that, the Super Eagles star showed his prowess in the air once more as Luciano Spalletti's men firmed up third place.

The Nigerian international showed his prowess in the air once more when he headed in, inside the left post after 32 minutes, connecting well with Giovanni Di Lorenzo's beautiful lofted cross into the box for Napoli's first and his fifth straight home goal.

Osimhen had tormented the Genoa defence with his movement and physicality, missing a number of half chances before he took advantage with a free header after being left unmarked in the box.

After the break, Napoli maintained the pressure and got the chance to extend their lead after a handball in the Genoa box but Lorenzo Insigne failed to score the resultant penalty as his effort hit the post.

Di Lorenzo thought he had made amends when he scored from a rebound as the ball came into his path but the referee noticed an infringement during the penalty and ordered it to be retaken.

Insigne, who has now missed five penalties from 14 this season, got a second bite of the

### Osimhen on target as Napoli relegate Genoa

cherry and made no mistakes this time, putting the ball into the left side of the goal past the outstretched arm of Genoa goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu.

Stanislav Lobotka made it 3-0 for Napoli after weaving his way past his markers before unleashing a magnificent effort from the edge of the box into the bottom left corner.

Osimhen, who had a quiet second half, ended the game with a pass completion rate of 85 percent after managing three shots while winning two aerial duels.

The Super Eagles striker has now scored 18 goals across all competitions in his second campaign at Napoli, although the tally could have been more if his season had not been disrupted by injuries.

Senegal captain Kalidou Koulibaly and Cameroon international midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa were also involved from the start for Napoli with the former completing the game while the latter was substituted seven minutes from time.

Article continues below  
Victory leaves Napoli assured of third position with 76 points although Luciano Spalletti's men will head into the final game of the season, next Sunday against Spezia, feeling disappointed that they have not managed to mount a title challenge to the end.

Defeat leaves Genoa second from bottom where they are relegated and will join Venezia in the second-tier after the latter went down on Saturday.



Osimhen

### 'League title harder to win than Champions League'

WINNING the Premier League is more difficult than winning the Champions League, says Southampton boss Ralph Hasenhuttl.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the Saints welcome league title chasers Liverpool on Tuesday - a must-win match for the Reds if they are to

maintain the pressure on Manchester City.

Liverpool are four points behind City with a game in hand.

"This is still the title that's the most countable for everybody because it's the hardest to get," he said.

"For me it's even harder to

be over 38 games in the Premier League consistently on the top, than to win the Champions League sometimes."

Liverpool won the FA Cup on Saturday and remain in contention to win the quadruple having won the Carabao Cup in February.

They face Real Madrid in the Champions League final on 28 May. Including this season, the Reds have appeared in three of the past five Champions League finals, winning in 2019.

City have reached only one Champions League final in that time, losing to Chelsea last season, but have won three of the past four Premier League titles, with Liverpool winning the other.

"Even if he [Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp] says it's tough for him to go for all four, I know he will do everything to win this game on Tuesday to give himself a chance on the last day," Austrian Hasenhuttl added.

"I think it is fantastic for the Premier League to have such a close title race.

"Everybody is electrified from this battle and we are now part of this duel.

"We have done our job this season against Man City with two points; they lost four points against us in the title race.

"Against Liverpool, the first game we lost, so now it's up to us to show again that we can be competitive against a top team."

### Madrid release 120th anniversary home kit

REAL Madrid will be celebrating their 120th anniversary in 2022-23, with the newly-crowned Liga champions have revealed what their home kit will look like for the historic campaign.

**Goal** said that, the Blancos, who collected another La Liga title in the current campaign,

have revealed their latest design in partnership with Adidas.

The Blancos are looking to "celebrate the past, present and future" in their latest design, produced in partnership with shirt suppliers Adidas.

The Spanish giants will not

be straying too far away from their iconic all-white next season, although they will be sporting "purple detailing".

The Blancos and Adidas have said in a statement to accompany the release of the 2022-23 home kit: "Inspired by the club's legacy, the jersey sports the iconic white

and logo of Real Madrid, partnered with purple detailing, to celebrate the past, present and future, as the club marks its 120th year anniversary.

"Off the back of another victorious Real Madrid season, the jersey honours the past whilst celebrating

Grandeza - the spirit of greatness that has united the players, fans and club over the past 120 years.

"The club's rich history is also commemorated with a unique symbol printed inside the neck, as Real Madrid continues to bring impossible moments to life and make history with grandeza.

"Since the inception of the club, the iconic white of the Real Madrid jersey has become the symbol of 'Madridismo' from the very first moment - passing through generations of players and fans.

"The 2022-23 jersey continues to be a classic icon, with a modern twist, that unites all Madridismo's to continue writing the history of Real Madrid."

It is available to purchase through the Real Madrid section on [Adidas' retail website](#), in selected Adidas stores, the Real Madrid official stores, as well as selected retailers and fashion outlets.

The latest offering from the Liga champions will see the 2022-23 home shirt cost £70 (\$86) for adults, £50 (\$61) for juniors and £38 (\$46) for a baby kit.



Madrid players

Sports

# Falcons begin camping ahead of 2022 AFCON

REIGNING Africa Champions, the Super Falcons will begin camping ahead of the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, WAFCON in Morocco, www.bestchoicesports.com.ng can report.

Head Coach Randy Waldrum invited 32 players to the camp as the Cup holders get set for a two-week training camp in Morocco ahead of the 12th WAFCON holding in that country, 2nd - 23rd

July. Goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie, defender and captain Onome Ebi, midfielders Rasheedat Ajibade and Toni Payne, and forwards Francisca Ordega, Desire Oparanozie and Asisat Oshoala are among those called to the two-week intensive training programme.

Thenff.com learnt that the training camp will start on 18th June in the North African kingdom, with all players already advised to arrive in Rabat on 17th

June. Nine-time champions Nigeria will play in Group C of the 12-team tournament alongside South Africa's Banyana Banyana, Botswana and Burundi. Nigeria's first match of the competition, at which Africa's four flagbearers to next year's FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand will emerge, is against the Banyana at the Complexe Sportif Prince Abdellah in Rabat on 4th July.



super Falcons

## FG to rescind decision on NBBF

THE Federal Government decided to withdraw the country from international competitions to find time to cleanse the basketball industry and more especially, save the local game from completely crumbling, a senior official of the Ministry of Sports has said.

The ministry on Thursday announced the Federal Government's approval of Nigeria's withdrawal from all international engagements for a period of two years with immediate effect.

The decision, it said, would enable the government to concentrate efforts on revamping the sport from the grassroots and reviving the domestic leagues, which have become moribund.

The withdrawal, it added, would also allow for the setting up of an "Interim Management Committee

(IMC) to oversee the management and development of the domestic basketball leagues in Nigeria and address other related issues around the development and advancement of the game in Nigeria."

As expected, the decision has generated divergent comments from stakeholders; with some saying it is the best way to resolve the leadership crisis that has lingered in the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) for over six years.

However, there are others, who believe withdrawing the country from international competitions would have adverse effects on the development of the game and erode the gains made by Nigeria in recent years.

A top official of the Sports Ministry, who pleaded anonymity, told The Guardian at the weekend, that the Federal

Government was forced to take a drastic action to rescue the game from people that have held the country to ransom for a long time.

He said: "We tried several ways to get these people fighting over the administration of the game to resolve their differences and work in the interest of the game and its players. But, we discovered that the more we tried, we harder they dug in. It was an ego thing... they believed that without them Nigeria will not play basketball.

"There were disruptive protests here and there and the Federal Government took note of all these. The Federal Government was also worried that we did not have a league to produce players from home.

"There was so much pressure on the minister to resolve the issues and rescue our basketball. No country surrenders its national team to players born overseas, some, of who have never been to the country they are representing.

"Each time we tried to resolve the issues, they threatened us with FIBA ban. Our game was suffering... the local leagues were gradually dying and the players were suffering. So, we had to take drastic action."

He listed the effects of the five years of unending crisis including a court action that suspended the national league for more than three

PLATEAU United reduced the gap on leaders Rivers United after a 3-1 win against Wikki Tourists in Jos.

Jesse Akila put the hosts ahead in the 24th minute, while Ridwan Adeshina equalised for Wikki three minutes after the break.

Plateau United regained the lead in the 50th minute. Akila scored his second goal of the game in the 66th minute.

At the Kwara Sports Complex, Kwara United defeated Kwara United 3-1 to boost their chances of picking a continental ticket.

Ads by FatChilli Samad Kadiri, Issa Gata, and Ayobami Junior were all on target for the home

## Plateau United keep pressure on Rivers United



A Plateau United player in action

team. Opeoluwa Olufemi reduced the deficit on the stroke of 90 minutes.

In Ikenne, Remo Stars edged out Rangers 1-0 in a keenly contested encounter.

Ads by FatChilli Sikiru Alimi scored the decisive goal four minutes before the break.

Katsina United also beat Nasarawa United 1-0 at the Muhammadu Dikko Stadium with Adebayo Waheed scoring the decisive goal on 23 minutes.

Elsewhere, Sunshine Stars were held to a 0-0 draw by Akwa United at the Akure Sports Complex.

"The good people of FCT appreciate the proprietor Barr Paul Edeh Joseph for

choosing Abuja as his base and for choosing to run a women's team in our domain. This has helped the football loving people of FCT the opportunity to watch women football again after the disbandment of the Almighty FCT Queens years ago," he said.

Despite losing their final League match 3-2 on Wednesday, Naija Ratels qualified for the Super 6 after placing 3rd in Group A with 18 points from 12 matches.

They played a total of 12 matches, won 5, drew 3 lost 4. The young dynamic ladies scored 19 goals and conceded 15 with 4 goal difference.

## NPLF RESULTS

Sunshine Stars 0-0 Akwa Utd  
Kwara Utd 3-1 3SC  
Remo Stars 1-0 Rangers  
Plateau Utd 3-1 Wikki  
Katsina Utd 1-0 Nasarawa Utd

## Sports Minister insists future is bright for Nigerian athletics

MINISTER of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare says the future of the sport of track and field is bright in Nigeria following another impressive displays by the country's athletes both at home and abroad.

Johnson Nnamani, Egbuchilem Raphael Chimezie, Ezekiel Nathaniel, Favour Ofili, Rosemary Chukwuma, Alaba Akintola and Favour Ashe among others displayed standout performances at the 3rd AFN All Comers in Abuja and the Collegiate Circuit in the USA.

Teenagers Nnamani and Egbuchilem both improved on their Personal Best at the Abuja Meet while Ezekiel broke Henry Amike's 35 year old 400m hurdles Nigeria record.

Ofili was simply unstoppable as she successfully completed a sprint double, running 10.93s in the 100m and 22.04s in the 200m.

Ashe and Akintola set new Personal Best times in the 100m, both running 10.04s while Chukwuma ran a wind-aided 10.88s to place third in the 100m before scorching to a wind-legal

22.33s finish in the half lap.

World U20 200m and 400m champions, Udodi Onwuzurike and Imaobong Nse Uko also set new lifetime best with the former running 20.09s in the half lap event while the latter raced to a new 51.24s best in the 400m.

"The performances by our athletes show the depth of talents we have in Nigeria. I am particularly pleased that majority of the athletes left Nigeria between 2020 and 2021 and their incredible rise to world class standards is a testimony that we have the talents here," said the Sports Minister.

Continuing, Dare is convinced investments in our home based stars will always produce results and congratulates the AFN for providing competition for the athletes.

"I was at the AFN All Comers in Abuja on Thursday and Friday and witnessed how our athletes, especially the junior ones have been improving, setting new lifetime bests.

"Johnson Nnamani is only 19 and was at the World U20 Championship last year in Nairobi, Kenya. He ran a new personal best

of 46.23s in Abuja. I was told he ran 46.9 seconds last year and first improved to ran 46.66s in Lagos last month.

"This is a massive leap in performance, the kind our athletes are also displaying in the USA," added the Minister.

Dare is particularly pleased with Ezekiel who ran 48.42s to break the 48.50s Henry Amike ran in Rome in 1987 to set a new Nigeria record.

"I have been following the performances of our athletes, especially the junior ones that achieved unprecedented feats at the Nairobi World U20 Championship last year and saw how Ezekiel improved from a 51 seconds runner to a sub 49 seconds athlete. Now, he has broken a 35 year old national record," said Dare who recalls some of the athletes were in the Sports Ministry's adopt an athlete programme.

"This shows with the right investment, we can achieve so much. We all saw how Enoch Adegoke and Grace Nwokocho defied the odds to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics as home based athletes."



Nigerian Basketballer



**Quest**



**writer**

Hassan Barau Singhry

**FRAGMENT**

**"I wish to emphasize that no government or a politician nor a donor has the means to solve all the community problems. It is therefore a necessity for people to take responsibility; to take the center stage and contribute their quota in solving community problems. To 'move as one' means to work in a group and participate with a sense of ownership".**

**HASSAN BARAU SINGHRY**

# Human resources in community development

I am particularly grateful to the Chairman and Executive Committee of Boi Progressive Association, (BPA) for selecting the theme "Participation of Human Resources in Community Development". This topic is adequately thought-out and will continue to generate discussions and debates in the realm of community development. To make my presentation less technical, I will be using the words 'human resources' as people or members.

Boi community is historic and peaceful. The community has produced great men and women.

The community is home to academicians, politicians, civil servants, business men, farmers, and upcoming young political actors. I learned that the youths are resourceful, energetic and actively channeling their potential in a positive way. The youths are very much respectful of their elders, politicians and visitors. The women are compassionate and agile. Tolerance for visitors is cherished. I learned that it is in your DNA to engage in self and mutual help and helping others.

In this community resides one of the three major and strong Village Head – a traditional ruling council (including Bogoro and Lusa) in Bogoro LGA of Bauchi State. It is impossible to tell the history of the people of Bogoro Local Government without the history of these three traditional royal communities. As Royal Fathers, you are the custodians of culture and history. Please, ensure that the history of the people is correctly transmitted. My special greetings to the Royal fathers here present and the 3 Village Heads.

The history of community development is actually old. Some traced it to the post World War reconstruction efforts to improve less developed countries. Others cited the American 'war on poverty' of the 1960s with emphasis on solving housing and social problems.

As a collective movement, community development brings members together to take action, attract other resources, and generate solutions to common problems. The essence is to build stronger and more resilient local communities.

I wish to emphasize that no government or a politician nor a donor has the means to solve all the community problems. It is therefore a necessity for people to take responsibility; to take the center stage and contribute their quota in solving community problems. To 'move as one' means to work in a group and participate with a sense of ownership.

The backbone of community development is the participation of the people. Participation is built on two major principles (1) "Volunteerism" – self-chosen involvement (2) "unity is strength, division is weakness" – a belief that a group of people exerts influence over a single person in getting a voice heard or a piece of work executed. Members are volunteers with unbending affective, financial, and continual commitments to improve the quality of lives of the community.



**Chief Kichime**

It is visible to me that you have all the human capital needed to make the Boi community more important, but you need to get involved in the initiation, design, implementation, evaluation, and more importantly the financing of your community development programmes.

My call to all members of the BPA is to be active volunteers rather than spectators. To be active donors. Active participation will enhance the spirit of togetherness and 'esprit de corps'.

Members will have the opportunities to talk to each other, think together, work communally, disagree calmly, engage in difficult discussions, resolve differences, and grow together.

Let me use this opportunity to share with the Chairman of BPA some approaches to inspire active participation and reduce member apathy in community development. (1) maintain authenticity and transformation in your leadership (2) be just and fair to everyone (3) encourage membership registration (4) ensure a participatory decision-making process (to engender a spirit of trust, transparency, accountability, and togetherness) (5) schedule meetings (6) engage in publicity (7) enlighten members (8) seek finance through registration, bequests, and donations, and (9) respect the rules and regulations of the association.

To all members of BPA, you can develop your community by participating in educational activities, politics, social, religious, environmental, economic empowerment and skill acquisition.

**Participation in Education**

i. Young people and women must not only acquire quantitative education but also the qualitative part - education supported by skills. Otherwise, they will be tormented by

poverty and grow with anger.

ii. You must send your children, wards, and the less privileged to schools at various levels.

iii. You should organize programmes to enlighten your members.

iv. You should be attending workshops and seminars to broaden your skills.

v. Education will make you learn basic skills, gain knowledge, develop your talents, improve your personal achievement, make new friends, and develop your community.

vi. Education will make you to be enlightened and productive, reduce poverty, get higher income, discourage crimes, live healthier, develop problem-solving skills and to sustain a democratic society.

**Political Participation**

i. Many people incorrectly presume that politics is a dirty game. If politics is dirty, everyone is dirty because all of us are politicians. It is the roles we play which differ.

Although the not too young to run bill has come to stay, we must tread this path with the cautions it deserves.

ii. People participate in politics to elect a legitimate government and legislature, to create awareness of the political process, to make the government responsive and responsible, to exercise political franchise, and to influence the outcome of government decisions. Most importantly, to benefit from the dividends of democracy.

iii. You can participate in politics through party registration, vying for a political office, appointment and holding a political office, donating money or materials to support a political candidate or campaigns, voting, analyzing and making comments on political issues, membership of pressure group(s),

writing a letter to a public officials, and participating in a public protest (including signing a genuine petition).

iv. You must do as much to reduce political apathy, where people lack interest in political activities leading to lower political engagement and voter turnout. Some of the reasons for political apathy are rigging, violence, nepotism, illiteracy, poverty, and political exclusion.

v. To be apolitical, you must possess the political skills of social astuteness, networking abilities, interpersonal influence, apparent sincerity, humility in winning and emotional stability in defeat. Avoid deception. Never conceal, fabricate, or manipulate the truth to potential voters during campaigns. Honesty is the best policy unless you are a crook.

**Social Participation**

i. One must learn to spend fruitful time in the presence of others, to listen to them and talk to them. This will avail the members the opportunities to be self-aware of peoples' concerns.

ii. Social issues in the local communities include unemployment, poverty, food insecurity, conflicts, child labour, out of school children and uneducated adults, divorce, orphanage, prostitutions, and theft.

iii. Sustainable community development will slow down if some people are socially excluded. Social exclusion may create a 'gang of saboteurs' - you build they destroy.

**Participation in Environmental Programs**

This is meant to enhance the quality and sustainability of our environment.

i. You must avoid building on waterways, filling drainages with wastes, open defecation and urination, spitting of saliva in public places, uncovered coughing, indiscriminate cutting of trees, bush burning, roaming of domestic animals, improper disposal of domestic and market wastes.

ii. Poor sanitation and unclean water breed epidemics like cholera, tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid fever, hepatitis A, and Lassa fever. Blocked drainages cause floods.

iii. We must promote washing of hands, oral hygiene, sanitation, and other pro-environmental practices.

**Economic Participation**

Poverty is a disgusting, frustrating, and needless part of life that should be stopped. Today, there are many more opportunities to do away with poverty than in the years back. You need a positive entrepreneurial mindset, a passion for self-reliance, a culture of making daily income and savings.

i. Parents raised in poverty are more likely to surrender their children to poverty unless the child stand-up to change the situation.

ii. You should know that poverty during childhood considerably increases the risk of poverty throughout adulthood.

iii. Poverty is caused by low education, poor infrastructure,

uneven allocation of resources, large family size, unemployment, unstable sources of income, poor standard of living, rural location, poor health, and under-investment.

iv. Poor people lack income and savings, lack the ability to meet basic needs, have limited opportunities, have blurred vision, and say yes even if they disagree.

v. Reducing extreme poverty will involve starting entrepreneurial activities, keying into economic empowerment programmes, and building skills in agriculture, trades, handcraft, ICT, manufacturing, arts, engineering and technology.

**Religious Participation**

i. Religious education and upbringing in the family and community is very important for community development. According to religion, service to God is the essence of living.

ii. As a unifying system of belief, religion influences leadership behavior and neighborhood livelihood. The interconnectedness with spirituality helps a person to act with the fear of God.

iii. Religion teaches prosocial behaviors such as hard work, brotherhood, charity, generosity, impartiality, and diversity management.

iv. Organizations associated with various religions such as faith-based schools, hospitals and banks are thriving.

v. Religious participation is assessed by how regular you are towards: attending religious services/performing your prayers, attending religious meetings, reading or studying holy books, being ethical, charity and giving, and thinking about God and life after death. Faith is generally assessed through our actions.

vi. We should use religion to define our life, morality, behaviors and ethics, and impose sanctions against antisocial conduct.

**Conclusion**

I would like to emphasize that the community is an extended family. It makes us, so we should make it. We cannot only live for ourselves. We live to cure the wounds of others. If we support the Boi community today, the community will support you another day. Therefore, I urge you to make financial or material donations to help the BPA make the Boi community a home for everyone. BPA can do more with money than with physical energy and an empty bank account.

**Make sure you have your voter's card for the 2023 General Elections.**

As you prepare for the donations, give no matter how little. This is better than the strongest promise that receives loud cheer/clapping from the audiences and ends in no giving. I wish all those that graced and contributed to the success of this cultural day a safe journey back to their homes.

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