

**'Why I am still in active politics'**  
Page 6



**The scourge of fake news in Nigeria**

Page 15

**FG revokes NDDC unexecuted contracts**

Page 2

**2023 elections: Seven political parties form coalition -NCFront** Page 2

# THE Nigeria Standard



FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 736

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

N200

www.nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

## 19.4 million Nigerians to face food crisis by August -ECOWAS

**A**bout 19.4 million Nigerians will face food crisis, and nutrition insecurity by August, Executive Secretary, ECOWAS Rice Observatory, Dr Boladale Adebowale has said.

The crisis, according to Adebowale, is being fuelled by the fact that crop production is not meeting population growth, while the nation's agricultural sector is threatened by insecurity, adverse weather conditions, and climate

change. She added that the bane of food insecurity also includes being characterised by low mechanisation, poor seed quality and varieties, low access to agricultural credit, low agro-processing

capacity, low investment in agricultural research, high prevalence of systemic inefficiencies and low productivity.

To reverse the trend, she noted that the nation must implement strategies to ensure that crop

production increases by 30 per cent in the next two years.

Adebowale stated these while delivering the fourth Grace Foundation Day Lecture titled: "Can Nigeria Achieve Food Security in 2023?" at the International

Conference Centre, University of Ibadan.

On increasing production, she advocated for sector-focused actions, adoption of a value chain approach, and climate-smart methods for the nation's agric and food

Cont'd on Page 2



L-R: Representative of the Chief of Army, Maj. Gen. S.O. Olabanji, Commandant, Nigeria Army Training and Doctrine Command, Minna, Niger State, Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State and the GOC 3 Armoured Division, Maxuell Khobe Cantonment, Jos, Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Ali on arrival at the opening ceremony of the Nigeria Army Small Arms Competition 2022 at the Division Shooting Range, Miango, Bassa LGA on Monday  
PHOTO: DOPPA'S OFFICE, RAYFIELD, JOS.

### Curb proliferation of arms among civilians -Lalong

By PALANG KASMI

**G**OVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong has challenged the Nigeria Army to be more proactive towards using their skills to address the challenge of proliferation of arms circulating in the hands of civilians in the country.

Lalong was speaking as the Special Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony of the Nigeria Army Small Arms Championship (NASAC) Competition 2022, at 3rd Division Shooting Range Miango, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

He attended the opening ceremony of the military competition Monday, May 23, 2022 alongside his Deputy and other top government officials, saying the 5-day Small Arms Championship for army formations is a great forum for the Nigerian Army that is blessed with courageous military men and women to train

themselves towards ways to protect the country and ensure the maintainance of peaceful coexistence.

After participating in the ceremonial shooting, Lalong said: "Let me use this opportunity to request that the Nigeria Army and indeed the security agencies in the country do more to ensure that arms are taken away from non-state actors".

"This is so because the level at which unpermitted persons get access to arms and ammunition in the country is very worrisome and this situation has increased the cases of kidnapping, violent crimes, and terrorism across the nation and is affecting peoples' normal peaceful lives and livelihoods".

"Therefore I urge you to rise to the occasion and ensure the protection of lives and property as well as act towards denying the criminals the pleasure of tormenting innocent citizens by preventing them from pursuing their legitimate means of livelihood".

Lalong also stated that his state is honoured to host and have the Nigeria Army conduct their activities for their training and retraining, saying that the training and championship is timely in view of the nation's current numerous security challenges.

Cont'd on Page 2

## 'Covid-19 vaccine is safe'

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

**T**he usual hygiene associated with Covid-19 protocol of using face mask, to cover mouth and nose, using bent elbow or

tissue when coughing or sneezing, maintaining social distancing, washing of hands frequently with water and soap or alcohol based sanitizer have gone into oblivion as only few

organisations like banks, hospitals are seen observing such rules.

It is on record that the risk of getting Covid-19 is higher in crowded areas, poorly ventilated spaces,

where infected persons spend long period of time together in close proximity, nightclubs and places of worship.

It appears that residents of Plateau State, especially

Jos metropolis have forgotten about the spread of the virus. Normal life has resumed fully without taking the Covid-19 protocols serious anymore.

Cont'd on Page 2

## News

### 19.4 million Nigerians to face food crisis by August -ECOWAS

Cont'd from Page 1

systems such that Nigeria prioritises key crops.

Furthermore, she noted the need for the nation to improve on its irrigation strategy, and have a development agenda at the core of its agric programmes.

In having a development agenda for the sector, Adebowale charged actors to engage with the private sector for sustainability, have a change in policy orientation and establish new partnerships cum networks in the agric sector.

In his remarks, President, Grace Leadership Foundation, Ibadan, Mr Bola Olowe noted that the nation was in a state where there is an urgent need to restore its

agricultural fields, rice and groundnut pyramids, and cocoa fields among others.

Olowe bemoaned that hunger, and abject poverty had become a fact of life and daily experience in Nigeria, a situation worsened by inflation and a fast-disappearing craving for farming

Legal practitioner, Kunle Kalejaye, who chaired the occasion, chided the federal government for failing to arrest the rising cost of food items, insecurity, and lack of a conducive environment for farming.

Rather than addressing food insecurity, Kalejaye bemoaned the present expenditure of huge financial resources on the purchase of nomination forms and politicking.

A coalition of seven political parties under the aegis of the National Consultative Front (NCFront) have unanimously agreed to present a single candidate for the presidential ticket and other elective positions.

According to the statement issued by the Communications Executive of the National Consultative Front (NCFront), Ms Bilikis Bello, the alliance came to fruition "after about 15 months of painstaking engagements with like-minded allied political parties.

According to her, NCFront is the umbrella body of the '3rd Force' Movement and Political Alternatives to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Nigeria.

She disclosed that

NCFront has finally adopted the Labour Party as the mega party for '3rd Force' Stakeholders and Allies for the 2023 elections.

"This historic adoption of the Labour Party was made possible by the new rapprochement between the leadership of the Labour Movement and the hierarchy of the Labour Party; an emergent solidarity jointly spearheaded by President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, and the Trade Union Congress, TUC President, Comrade Quadri Olaleye, both of whom have since personally revalidated their membership of the Labour Party by formally registering with the Party last week.

"The formal endorsement of the Labour Party by the '3rd

### 2023 Election: Seven political parties form coalition -NCFront



Wabba

Force' Movement is also

Coming on the heels of the success of the recent meetings and activities of the separate Political Commissions of the NLC and the TUC with their Allies like the Femi Falana led The Political Alternative Movement, TPAM in the Civil Society, towards repositioning the Labour Party as the People's Alternative Platform for rescuing Nigeria ahead of the 2023 general elections.

"With the adoption of the Labour Party as our 3rd Force Mega Party penultimate week, the NCFront has since commenced the fusion of its structures of over 20 million members and supporters nationwide into the Labour Party.

"Consequently, our teeming members all over Nigeria and in Diaspora have been directed to register immediately as members of the Labour Party at all designated registration centres, both online and physically at the ward levels, to be able to take part in the ongoing electoral programmes of the Party for the 2023

elections. "We also wish to state clearly that the NCFront is also particularly enthused by the non-partisan strategic nature of the Labour Party, as a People's centred, Pan Nigerian political platform that can inclusively serve the interests of all Nigerians irrespective of their ethnic, religious and social inclinations; in uniting the country towards a momentous development that can accommodate and serve the diversities of Nigeria.

"Therefore, with the novel synergy between the Labour Party and the NCFront, the convening platform of the 3rd Force Movement, which is also today the largest political mass movement in the country, Nigerians can be rest assured that the glorious future we all desire for our dear country, is now achievable by 2023, especially with the brewing implosion cartel of APC and PDP, which will soon burst into unpreventable disintegration after their party primaries.

"However, taking inspiration from the consummation of NCFront/Labour Party novel fusion, leaders of the '3rd Force' Movement across party lines, including Prof Attahiru Jega of the People's Redemption Party, PRP, Prof Pat Utomi of the Labour Party and Senator Saidu Dansadau of the National Rescue Movement, NRM, among others have been mandated by the leadership of the 3rd Force Movement and like-minded allied political parties to drive a mega electoral alliance of the 3rd Force Movement towards the adoption of a single line of candidates among seven allied parties involved in the '3rd Force' alliance talks for the 2023 Elections.

"To this end, an inclusive Consensus Technical Committee to screen presidential candidates and other candidates of '3rd Force' allied parties towards the adoption of a single line of candidates across all 2023 elections, is expected to be set up next month after the conclusion of all party primaries.

"Furthermore, the '3rd Force' mega electoral pact for the 2023 elections is proposed around agreement on Labour Charter of Demand, EndSar Youths Demands and Constitutional Referendum for Nigeria, among others to be agreed as terms of the Alliance for the 2023 elections.

"Finally, the '3rd Force' coalition leaders and parties are expected to jointly address the nation sometime this week to announce the new agenda to save Nigeria from imminent collapse and anarchy foisted by the ruling parties in Nigeria," the statement read.

### 'Covid-19 vaccine is safe'

Cont'd from Page 1

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, observed that despite the availability of the vaccines in our hospitals, there is lack of willingness from citizens to receive the vaccine.

Our correspondent went round the city centre of Jos North Local Government Area to get the opinions of citizens about the nonchalant attitude towards the Covid-19 safety protocols and unwillingness to receive the jab.

Among citizens that were interviewed were Mrs. Keziah Luka, a resident of Jos North Local Government Area. She believed that the virus exists, but she does not think it is that serious that it would necessarily warrant medical attention. He believe is that the virus is just like any normal catarrh that would come and go depending on the season of the year.

In her reaction, Mrs. Monica Joseph, a medical personnel said that the Covid-19 vaccines are safe for humans. She also lamented that despite the awareness and the sensitization exercises made to the general public, citizens are still in doubt to receive the vaccine, which makes the turn up very low within the metropolis.

Joseph added that citizens have forgotten about the Covid-19 safety protocols which is key if we really want to stop the spread of the virus in our communities.

Investigation has revealed that there are some citizens in the habit of not receiving the vaccine, but would bribe or pay their ways to get the

Covid-19 vaccine card, all in the name of protecting their jobs especially for those working with government ministries, departments and agencies.

It was gathered that as a result of some contradiction of the vaccine earlier administered in Europe that was alleged to result to blood clotting disorder among few European recipients, a lot of people are still discouraged and fear for their lives. Most citizens are still wary over lingering

issue of the safety of the vaccines.

Nigeria needs to vaccinate about 70% of its population before the end of 2022, in order to meet up with the target of one hundred percent.

Recently, the Chairman of the Presidential Steering Committee on Covid-19, Mr. Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), said that "we need to encourage all eligible persons to get

vaccinated and keep observing the rules of washing of hands, wearing of face mask, keeping physical social distancing and avoiding crowded places.

"The vaccines are safe and efficacious. It is better and safer to be vaccinated against the virus now to help stop the fast spread of the virus.

"Covid-19 vaccine should be viewed as a global public interest", the SGF buttressed.

### Curb proliferation of arms among civilians -Lalong

Cont'd from Page 1

While urging the competitors to display commitment, discipline, professionalism that will help them prepare for their work in the Army with the skills and knowledge they will gather at the forum, Lalong called for synergy between the Army and other security outfits to nab criminals who are becoming highly sophisticated in their approaches and attacks.

He also said his administration has used strategies and peaceful approaches to dialogue through the Plateau Peace Agency and Inter-religious Council in a bid to maintain peace among the citizens, aside building the capacity of community and traditional systems, vigilante watch groups, to serve as a support system to the conventional security apparatus at the grassroots.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Farouq Yahaya, represented by Maj. Gen. Stevenson Olabanji, Commander Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Minna said small

arms are basically what the Nigeria Army use in carrying out some of its activities especially the asymmetric warfare. And the championship affords the Army a platform to improve their skills.

"The championship will help development our skills to be able to tackle whatever challenges that our troops face out there and I'm sure that at the end of it all, we will be able to see the effects in all our activities".

The General Officer (GOC) 3rd Armored Division, Maj. Gen Ibrahim Ali, and Commander Operation Safe Haven in his welcome address at the event said training on

weapon handling through competitions of such nature is done to get the required skills for defence of the country.

He appreciated the Chief of Army Staff for making the 2022 training exhibition successful by renovating the venue that was conceptualized to serve as permanent venue for the programme.

He called on the participants to give in their best during the training exhibition and display their skills that will showcase them as best firers of the country.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that the event which officially

### FG revokes NDDC unexecuted contracts

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

A statement by the NDDC also said the Presidency directed that the affected contractors be made to refund to the commission, all monies paid to them for projects that were either not started or left completed.

Corporate Affairs Director of the commission, Dr Ibitiye

Abosede, explained in a statement, that the actions were the fallout of the forensic audit.

The statement read: "This is to bring to the notice of all contractors engaged by the NDDC as well as stakeholders and the general public that the Presidency has directed that all projects awarded by the commission before December 31, 2019, for which the beneficiary contractors are yet to mobilise to site, are by this directive cancelled.

"According to the directive, 'this cancellation is subject to any future re-award in accordance with the Public Procurement Act and in line with the terms of the contracts for the award of the said projects.

"Consequently, all affected contractors are advised to note that all monies earlier received by way of mobilisation for any of the projects are to be promptly refunded to the Commission's Account with the Central Bank of Nigeria."



# Business & Economy

## The fate of Nigeria's digital currency

**In this photo released by the Nigeria State House, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, centre, and Central Bank Governor Godwin Emefiele, right, during the launch of a digital currency in Abuja, Nigeria Monday, Oct. 25, 2021. Nigeria has launched a digital currency which the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) says is a "major step forward in the evolution of money" in Africa's most populous country. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said at the launch Monday that the digital currency and the blockchain technology it uses can foster economic growth and increase the GDP of Africa's biggest economy by US\$29 billion over the next 10 years, writes Sunday Aghaeze/Nigeria State House via AP**



WHEN asked if he knew the eNaira could be accessed via USSD codes – a quick shortcode available even for users without smartphones – and if he would consider trying that option, Ndubuisi simply said: "Never heard that. Not interested in finding out."

When the eNaira, the digital form of the naira and the first national digital currency in Africa, was launched by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), officials of the apex bank said it would allow for financial inclusion and fiscal benefits to ultimately boost the economy.

In a televised speech at the time, President Muhammadu Buhari said adoption of the eNaira and blockchain technology "can increase Nigeria's GDP by \$29bn over the next 10 years".

The eNaira was created as part of the CBN's cashless policy to improve cross-border trade, expand access to financial services, increase remittances from a large diaspora base and ultimately boost the country's economy.

Half of Nigeria's estimated 200 million people have no access to bank accounts, so the apex bank claimed it was hoping to facilitate day-to-day transactions between business owners and their producers and customers across the country.

Six months on, analysts are wondering if the new digital platform will succeed where the traditional banking system has not.

### Demand and supply

According to a report by

Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (PDF), only a third of Nigerians in rural areas are within proximity of financial service providers. And even for those in urban areas, the continuous fluctuations of the naira against the United States dollar still trigger recurring frustrations.

As of April 2022, cryptocurrency exchange Kucoin reported that 33.4 million Nigerians trade or own crypto assets despite restrictions on cryptocurrency transactions by the CBN, using peer-to-peer networks.

The introduction of the eNaira came seven months after the CBN's restriction of cryptocurrency transactions because digital coins have become well-suited for conducting many illegal activities "including terrorism financing and tax evasion".

Unsurprisingly, it is seen by some members of the public as a natural response to the trend of increasing cryptocurrency usage, but the jury is still out on whether the eNaira can improve financial inclusion.

"Adoption of digital currency is definitely on the rise, given the fact that businesses and individuals are constantly looking for ways to preserve value," Jennifer Echenim, a Lagos-based front-end engineer working with Web3 technologies, told Al Jazeera. "However, naira keeps devaluing; as such, adoption of the eNaira looked like a failure even before it started.

"It appears to me as a follow-up on restrictions placed on other digital currencies. Proper research wasn't done before its launch," she said. "For a currency to be valued, there needs to be a demand for it; that's basically what drives digital

currencies today (demand). No one is looking for Naira. It isn't even acceptable or usable outside Nigeria. Building a digital currency on that, is definitely a fail."

At the launch, CBN governor Godwin Emefiele said more than 2,000 customers had been onboarded.

In January 2021, it was announced that 95 days after its launch, the eNaira app was downloaded 694,000 times from 160 countries with more than 35,000 transactions. Today, according to local media reports, there have been approximately 700,000 downloads in total.

By comparison, just one month after El Salvador launched its own digital currency "Chivo", three million people – almost half of the population – had downloaded it. "There are more Salvadorans with Bitcoin wallets than traditional bank accounts," Forbes wrote in October 2021.

In addition, the eNaira Speed Wallet app is rated 2.2 out of 5 on the iOS App store and 2.9 out of 5 on the Android Play Store. And there seem to be far more criticisms than commendations on the app's page and in real life.

It took Oghenemarho Orukele, an engineer and researcher based in southern France, nearly three days to create an account after download in October 2021. The sign-up form asked for his bank verification number and then the app

refused to let him continue with an email address, he said.

When he eventually got to the second step of the process, the One-Time Password (OTP) he was supposed to receive via email came hours later. It took two days for it to be fixed, after which Orukele said "it was smooth sailing".

Eugene Adavore, a 22-year-old UI/UX designer downloaded it to see if the design was user-friendly and ascertain "in the long run, if the product would meet the need it was designed for". He called it a "brilliant initiative" but said it needed a thorough redesign to succeed.

Many economists also believe that eNaira's macroeconomic purpose of a cashless society is yet to be fulfilled.

In January 2012, CBN introduced a cashless policy to encourage electronic-based transactions and reduce circulation of physical cash nationwide. It was piloted in Lagos, the commercial capital, and implemented on a national scale two years later.

But in many parts of Nigeria, cash is still king.

For Ese Osamwonyi, senior analyst at Lagos-based socio-political risk advisory SBM Intelligence, lack of compliance with the policy – like the slow adoption of the eNaira – is evidence that the government has not been inclusive enough in its pursuit of a cashless economy.

He told Al Jazeera that Nigerians living below the poverty line carry out daily transactions with street vendors, motorcycle taxi (okada) riders and other retail businesses

that conduct business in cash. For this large group, e-payment channels are not a priority.

"The inclusion of these segments of last-mile retailers in the usage of the eNaira for daily business transactions will boost adoption amongst low-income earners/individuals within the poverty bracket," said Osamwonyi.

In response, the CBN said it has created viable solutions for this demographic, including provisions to use other forms of identification (e.g. fingerprints) to access their eNaira wallet and USSD codes for those without smartphones.

"[The] CBN policy cannot be effective if the proportion of the informal sector is a lot larger than the formal sector," Hassan Mahmud, CBN's director of monetary policy, told Al Jazeera.

CBN says it is working closely with telecom operators to ensure access to the eNaira even when an individual is out of service. The goal, Mahmud said, is to enhance monetary policy penetration by moving many of the sectors within the economy that are outside the banking system into it.

Years ago, the CBN established the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending to promote agribusiness by giving rural capital to farmers. With the eNaira, the CBN believes these funds can be transferred more efficiently, subverting middlemen and curbing corruption.

But small and medium enterprises – which amount for 96 percent of businesses in Nigeria and 84 percent of jobs in the country, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers – may not be able to benefit from the eNaira due to lack of information about it.

Al Jazeera spoke to dozens of small business owners; most of them were hearing about eNaira for the first time, and many said they were not aware of any business owner currently using it. Some asked if it differed from conventional bank apps, and how.

In Lagos, 29-year-old baker Zainab Yakura N'jie is keen to adopt the app even though she has not downloaded it yet. "The world as we know it is becoming very digital so, it will make things easier and faster to be able to make payments through your phone," she told Al Jazeera.

To target people like N'jie, Osamwonyi says sensitisation is key.

"The government needs to increase awareness of the benefits of the cashless economy to the players as well as share insights on electronic channels and payment mode available to entrepreneurs in the informal sector of the economy," he said.



# Business & Economy

## AfDB to help Nigeria – Adesina

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) says it is ready to help Nigeria return to the electronic wallet system of input distribution to farmers to boost agricultural production.

The President of AfDB, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, said this on Monday, at a meeting with newsmen ahead of the Bank's 2022 Annual Meetings in Accra, Ghana.

The e-wallet system was introduced by Adesina, while he was the Minister of Agriculture in Nigeria.

The system allowed the government to register about 14.5 million farmers and reached them directly with inputs, notably seeds and fertilisers, via electronic coupons on their mobile phones.

He said the Bank would support Nigeria with about 30 million dollars reallocated fund to be used for an emergency food plan to produce in the dry season.

"Nigeria needs to go back and use the electronic wallet system that I developed when I was a minister to get fertilisers straight to farmers and cut out all the middle men.

"We are going to help the government to do that



Adesina

because when farmers have quality seeds and fertilisers, they can rapidly triple food production," he said.

According to him, Nigeria will also benefit significantly from the African Emergency Food Production Plan.

"In Nigeria, we have provided 540 million dollars for special agro-industrial processing zones in seven states including the Federal Capital Territory.

"That will allow Nigeria to have special zones where

you can have agro processing value addition and increased competitiveness of agriculture.

"We are not alone, we put in 170 million dollars and others put in money such as the Islamic Development Bank and other partners," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the theme of the meetings is "Fostering Climate Resilience and a Just Energy Transition for Africa". (NAN)(www.nannews.ng)

THE Naira on Monday, exchanged at 420.23 to the dollar at the Investors and Exporters window, compared to 419.02 traded on Friday, representing 0.31 per cent depreciation.

The open indicative rate closed at N418.54 to the dollar on Monday.

An exchange rate of

## Africa, Middle East, South Asia facing food insecurity – WEF

The World Economic Forum's Community of Chief Economists expects lower economic activity, higher inflation, lower real wages and greater food insecurity globally in 2022, pointing to the devastating human consequences of the fragmentation of the global economy.

According to the survey report "reversing previous expectations for recovery, the majority of respondents to the latest survey expect only a moderate economic outlook in the United States, China, Latin America, South Asia and Pacific, East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa in 2022.

In Europe, the majority expect the economic outlook to be weak. The

## Naira drops by 0.31%, exchanges at 420.23

N444.00 to the dollar was the highest rate recorded before it settled at N420.23.

The Naira sold for as low as 413 to the dollar within

the day's trading.

A total of 75.25 million dollars was traded in foreign exchange at the official Investors and Exporters window on Monday.



Zahidi

choices of both business and government are expected to lead to greater fragmentation in the global economy and unprecedented shifts in supply chains, creating a perfect storm of volatility and uncertainty. These patterns are expected to create further difficult trade-offs and choices for policy-makers, and without greater coordination – shocking human costs.

These are the key findings of the World Economic Forum's quarterly Chief Economists Outlook, published Monday.

"We are at the cusp of a vicious cycle that could impact societies for years. The pandemic and war in Ukraine have fragmented the global economy and created far-reaching consequences that risk wiping out the gains of the last 30 years. Leaders face difficult choices and trade-offs domestically when it comes to debt, inflation and investment. Yet business and government leaders must also recognise the absolute necessity of global cooperation to prevent economic misery and hunger for millions around the world. The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting this week will provide a starting point for such collaboration", says Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director at the World Economic Forum.

The war in Ukraine,

continued surges of COVID-19 variants and associated supply shocks are impacting expectations on inflation. The majority of chief economists surveyed by the Forum expect high or very high inflation in 2022 in all markets except China and East Asia – with 96% expecting high or very high inflation in the US, 92% for Europe and 86% for Latin America. In parallel, two-thirds of chief economists expect that average real wages will decline in the near term in advanced economies, while one-third are uncertain. Ninety percent of those surveyed expect average real wages to fall across low-income economies.

It further said "With wheat prices expected to increase by over 40% this year and prices for vegetable oils, cereals and meat at all-time highs, the war in Ukraine is exacerbating global hunger and a cost-of-living crisis. Over the next three years, chief economists expect food insecurity to be most severe in sub-Saharan Africa and in the Middle East and North Africa. At the current trajectory, the world is on track for the worst food crisis in recent history, compounded by the additional pressure of high energy prices. These expert predictions are echoed in the experience of the general public.

## Nigeria's GDP improves by 3.11% in Q1 2022

THIS is according to the NBS Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report Q1 2022 released in Abuja recently.

According to the report, Nigeria's GDP grew by 3.11 per cent year-on-year in real terms in the first quarter of 2022.

It said this showed a sustained positive growth for six consecutive quarters since the recession witnessed in 2020 when negative growth rates were recorded in quarter two and three of 2020.

The NBS said the first quarter 2022 growth rate further represents an improvement in economic performance.

"The observed trend since Q4 of 2020 is an indication of a gradual economic stability.

"The Q1 of 2022 growth rate was higher than the 0.51 per cent growth rate recorded in Q1 of 2021 by 2.60 per cent points and lower than 3.98 per cent recorded in Q4 of 2021 by 0.88 per cent points.

"Nevertheless, quarter-on-quarter, real GDP grew at -14.66 per cent in Q1 of 2022, compared to Q4 of 2021, reflecting a lower economic activity than the preceding quarter."

The report said in the period under review, aggregate GDP stood at about N45.317 million in nominal terms.

"This performance is higher when compared to the first quarter of 2021 which recorded aggregate GDP of about N40.014 million, indicating a year-on-year

nominal growth rate of 13.25 per cent.

It said the nominal GDP growth rate in Q1 2022 was higher relative to the 12.25 per cent growth recorded in

Q1 2021, and higher compared to the 13.11 per cent growth recorded in the preceding quarter. (NAN) (www.nannews.ng)

## CBN MPC raises interest rate to 13%

IN its 142nd meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has increased benchmark interest rates to 13 per cent.

The Governor of the Central Bank, Godwin Emefiele, while reading the communique says the action was to tame the raising inflation rate in the country.

The apex bank boss announced this development on Tuesday in Abuja, explained that the decision to increase the benchmark interest rate was taken at the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held yesterday and today.

While addressing financial reporters this afternoon, Emefiele says members of the committee were unanimous with the decision to hike the rates as it was the best thing to do after holding them for



Emefiele

about two years.

Adding that one of the reasons for raising the rate is to control liquidity ahead of the 2023 general elections as politicians would be expected to flood the system with cash in a bid to woo voters.

The other parameters were left unchanged by members at the gathering

as the Asymmetric corridor remained around the MPR at +100/-700bps, the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 27.5 per cent and the Liquidity Ratio (LR) at 30.0 per cent.

Emefiele, however, noted that the rate on development finance loans will remain at 5 percent till 2023.



## Business & Economy

# Affordable housing and the capital markets

**Affordability must be viewed in the context of the country, the household characteristics, and the supply and demand factors at play. YANKHO CHITSIME writes.**

THE mere mention of affordable housing and capital markets in the same sentence is a seeming contradiction, reflecting misconceptions about affordable housing. On the one hand, there is a deep appetite for affordable housing and, on the other, a lack of understanding of how best to achieve it.

One of the answers is apparent and is a simple one – the capital markets. Investors have shown an appetite for affordable housing worldwide and in African countries with more developed capital markets.

The recent naira bond raised by Shelter Afrique highlights just how both industries could exist in symbiosis and how capital markets can be leveraged to address affordable housing across Africa.

Understanding the capital markets

When the conversation over buying a home begins with “What is affordable?” the perfect response is, “it depends”. Affordability must be viewed in the context of the country, the household characteristics, and the supply and demand factors at play.

It is clear that like most real estate projects, even affordable housing projects must be viable primarily to their respective developers, which translates to all stakeholders including financiers.

The key drivers to viability are (i) the ability for households (or buyers) to afford the housing opportunities and (ii) the ability to achieve development costs, including market-related returns that deliver the housing opportunities at a set price.

The housing deficit across Africa can be debated ad nauseam, with governments scarcely wanting to admit the yawning gap.

However, where there is a consensus is there is a deficit, it is material and continues to grow with the rapid urbanisation rates recorded and projected.

When one draws a parallel to capital markets, Africa has continued to see a growth in the depth of the capital markets, none more so than in Nigeria. Nigeria has a solid investor base compared to most other African countries.

Capital markets are composed of stock exchanges and bond markets.



Governments have dominated bond issuances, with fewer big corporations listed on the domestic stock exchanges. Corporate bonds constitute a tiny part of the capital markets in most African countries.

Capital markets offer access to an investor base of institutional investors with substantial financial resources and such investors more choices to diversify their portfolio. In South Africa, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) make up close to 3% (US\$40 billion) of the total market capitalisation of just over US\$1.3 trillion.

Some of these REITs are residential/housing specific REITs, such as Transcend Residential Property Fund Limited (TRPF). Others have a mixed portfolio that includes Residential/housing assets.

Other opportunities to raise capital for affordable housing in Africa that will develop over time will be in the private/ non-traded space. In countries like the USA, affordable housing is becoming a focus for large private REITs such as the Blackstone Group's private REIT (BREIT), which has over \$120 billion of Assets under Management.

BREIT recently announced that it was dedicating \$1 billion to address the growing need for affordable housing for America's lower-earning households,

especially single-family rental housing.

Africa still has some ways to go as the capital markets are not as deep. However, we can draw on some parallels and lessons on leveraging it for affordable housing.

In considering the above, there were vital lessons learnt before, during and immediately after the issuance of the naira bond. To begin with is capacity. It may seem obvious, but to successfully raise a Bond, the depth of the respective capital market on its own is not enough.

With this should be a required parallel number of housing developers with a proven track record of delivery at scale combined with a pipeline of bankable projects. Nigeria has several such developers (most already known to Shelter Afrique and the investors), providing further comfort to all stakeholders.

Secondly, you must consider and match timelines to the development cycle. The funding provided must support developers to deliver on their projects which require longer tenors as development cycles range from 12 to 36 months, with complete cashflow sales cycles ranging from 12 to 60 months post-construction.

Thirdly, the messaging is important. Affordable housing is an asset class that is appealing to investors based on the social impact of the housing units, jobs created, and environmental improvements.

This should be the pitch to investors and stakeholders.

Additionally, continued use of the markets only serves to deepen them. The bond issuance will enhance data on affordable housing, which is required to further unlock other capital market and non-traded market opportunities.

These could be products like affordable housing REITs to support housing supply and enhance housing demand.

Also, smart partnerships are still required over and above the actual issuance, an example in point being SHAF being in the final stages of considering a direct equity investment (not from naira bond proceeds) in the Housing Solutions Fund of Nigeria, in partnership with FundCo Capital Managers, to address bulk off-take of affordable housing across projects in Nigeria.

Another key takeaway is price. The pricing and tenor of the funds mean it broadly supports the supply of affordable housing, either via

future issuances or a combination of raising funds through Multilateral Development Finance Institutions (MDFIs).

These institutions will seek to also support the demand-side of affordable housing through mortgages, rental solutions, and rent-to-buy solutions.

Lastly, the momentum from series one will give rise to a broader range of developers across Nigeria to access follow-on funds in subsequent series. You can only deepen the market by continuing to use it.

In the end, capital markets are certainly not the only source of funding for affordable housing; the two industries are an appropriate and sustainable fit. Closing the housing gap will require a lot of patient and affordable capital coupled with strategic partnerships; Shelter Afrique and the capital markets alone cannot address the deficit, but it is a beginning. Let's see how the journey continues.

Yankho Chitsime is a seasoned Investment and Private Equity expert who currently heads Business Development for Shelter Afrique, a Pan-African Development Finance Institution.

Politics

**We will not compromise break of peace**

- Governor Bala

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi**

FOLLOWING an alleged blasphemous statement by a house wife and hospital staff in Warji Local Government Area of Bauchi State. Senator Bala Mohammed has said his administration will not take it kindly with anyone found wanting or trying to cause any trouble aimed at undermining the security and peace of the state as the administration places special regard for religious tolerance in the state.

The governor made this known when he led heads of security agencies and other top government officials on a visit to the scene of a religious crisis in Warji Local Government Area of the state over blasphemy where he expressed serious concern over the incident.

Addressing people of Warji both Muslims and Christians, Governor Bala emphasized the need for peaceful coexistence among the people of the area regardless of their religious differences for the maintenance of peace and security.

According to him, Warji Local Government has been known for peace and stressed the need for peaceful coexistence amongst them.

A press statement by the media adviser, Mukhtar Gidado quoted the Governor as saying, "I will not spare anyone found making any attempt to cause trouble. My administration has a special regard for peace and religious tolerance. I will not fold up my arms and allow forces of doom to cause trouble in any part of the state."

"Religion is very close to peoples' hearts. It is very uncivilised to cast aspersions or joke with peoples religious believes. We know that there are Christians and Muslims in Warji. Those of us who are 60 years old never heard of any religious crisis in Warji before this time. I must commend religious leaders, traditional leaders and security personnel for putting up a combined effort that led to quenching of the violence."



Mohammed

The governor informed that the state government in collaboration with security agencies has set up an investigation panel to identify the culprits in order to bring them to book which will serve as deterrent to other, and warned that government will not allow individuals or groups to work against the peace and security of the state.

On his part, the Commissioner of Police, Umar Sanda said investigation is ongoing, adding that Bauchi Police Command has deployed all tactical teams, Mobile Police Force and Rapid Response Squad (RRS) whose joint efforts had brought the situation under control.

The Commissioner of Police reiterated the need for parents and guardians to maintain strict vigilance over the activities of their wards, particularly youths and urged religious, community leaders and elders to caution youths to desist from anything that could temper with the security

of their areas and the country as a whole.

**Court adjourns hearing of CNG Vs Biafra case**

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG ABUJA**

A Federal High Court sitting in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja has adjourned until 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 hearing on a suit filed by the

coalition of Northern Group (CNG) seeking a referendum to determine the fate of



Malami

**Fayemi promises to bring experiences to bare**

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

garnered while resolving internecine war in Sierra Leon, Liberia, Rwanda and Sri

Lanka to resolve insurgency and banditry in the country.

A statement signed by the spokesman of his Campaign Organization, Femi Ige, which was made available to Media Houses in Abuja indicated that

interest of the party in choosing its presidential candidate.

The group in a press statement in Abuja by its coordinators, Vincent Uba said personal sentiments and parochial interests should not be allowed to override the interest of the party.

It added that by doing so, the party would remain strong and will be able to win the 2023 general elections.

The group said it craves for rancor free primary elections where every contestant will be given a sense of belonging on a level playing ground when the spirit of sportsmanship would be on display for candidates to accept the outcome of the exercise which ultimately is the hallmark of democracy.

According to the group, in a complex political party, such as the APC, the cynosure of all eyes, the leadership of the party should not make the mistake of adopting the consensus method to select a candidate that will compete in a general and national election that will not be decided by consensus arrangement. Our position is that the consensus method is as undemocratic as it is akin to imposition of candidates, which more often than not does not present popular candidates that can win elections freely and fairly.

"A consensus method also breeds crisis because other contestants who feel short changed and are aggrieved would want to fight back by whatever means," the statement stated.

**'Why I am still in active politics'**

By **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

encomiums on Atiku and urged the delegates to vote for him as a son of the north-east region.

"We are seeing a man who can fix the problem," Ishaku

stated.

According to Ishaku, if Atiku could run his business successfully, he could also do it for the country. He disclosed that some of the best ministers of past administrations were recommended by Atiku Abubakar.



Atiku

Blafara and other nations agitating for self-determination.

Justice Inyang Ekwo, who presided over the matter granted all the motions to allow interested parties to be joined in the suit, marked FHC/ABJ/CS/538/2021, for the country to conduct a referendum.

Briefing journalists after the adjournment, the lead counsel for the Igbo nation, Victor Onweremadu said that the South-East was properly joined in the suit because the Court accepted the argument to join the region.

According to the lead Counsel, the Igbos have been marginalised so much and that the unjust treatment of the Igbos in the country can only be corrected through a referendum.

He emphasized that none of

the injustices mated against the Igbos can be compared to the issue of the ruling of the country.

That since the inception of democracy in Nigeria, almost every part of the country has produced a president even ruling for eight years but the South East has been denied the opportunity to rule the country.

However, the spokesman of the Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) Abdul-Azeez Suleiman countered the lead counsel saying that it was North-East that had been marginalized.

He said, the North-East has not had the opportunity to even field a vice president, whereas the South-East that is over agitated about marginalization has had three opportunities for the Vice President.

adding that he consulted for Nigeria under President Obasanjo in the resolution of the wars in different countries.

Furthermore, the presidential aspirant said "Beside that experience, I have a doctorate degree in War Studies. If I can bring peace in other lands, why can't I do same in my own country? Nigeria is facing war situation that we can't afford to put a neophyte in power."

**APC group makes case against consensus candidate**

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**



Adamu

A Non Governmental Organization and a pressure group, "No Alternation to Tinubu 2023 (NATT2023) has

urged the leadership of the All Progressive Congress (APC) to adopt a method of primary that would be in the overall



Fayemi

Politics

# 2023 : Fayemi visits Lalong, Plateau delegates

By PALANG KASMI

EKITI State Governor, Kayode Fayemi in furtherance of making his Presidential ambition come into fruition, has paid a visit to the Plateau Governor and the state All Progressives Congress (APC) delegates.

Fayemi and his campaign team were received at the Government House, Rayfield Jos on Sunday, as the addressed party delegates and stakeholders over his mandate.

Governor Fayemi is among the list of Presidential aspirants trying to secure the party's ticket as the Presidential flag bearers in the primaries which has been shifted to May 29th, 2022 in Abuja.

In his speech at the forum, Fayemi who is the Chairman of Nigeria's Governors Forum (NGF) sought for the support of Plateau state to win the primaries, promising delegates to improve Nigeria's security architecture using technology and other technical innovations.

Fayemi said: "I as a foundation member of this party, was there as a part of a coalition of patriots that worked with our leaders in order to bring to fruition the party. And when we started, there were people who were skeptical it will not happen but eventually with dedication, determination, and commitment, the party is today successful".

"If given the chance to be President, I will address the gaps that continue to worry our citizens and the number one is security in Plateau and Nigeria including parts of the country like North East, the North West which is affected by terrorism, banditry and North Central which faces herder farmer clashes".

Describing Plateau as the hub of tourism in the country which made a great name during the colonial era, he promised to restore Plateau's status as a leading and peaceful tourism center in the country and the world.

Fayemi also said if given the mandate, he will review the country's security architecture, centralise the country's policing system, and improve on intelligent gathering and boost technology in the management of security challenges because there cannot be any meaningful development without first securing the nation's security status.

During a courtesy visit to the Governor earlier, Lalong assured Fayemi of his support saying his coming is just a formality because he has shown an unflinching



Lalong

love and support to Plateau State and its peace loving people.

Lalong asked delegates to give their votes to aspirants like Fayemi who knows and supports Plateau State and prayed for a successful outing for him while also promising to support him replace an APC Governor in his state Ekiti being a member of the committee working in that direction.

Plateau APC Chairman, Hon.

Rufus Bature also assured Fayemi of the support of Plateau delegates towards actualising his Presidential ambition and wished him success in the APC primaries.

The APC Chairman described him as one who will definitely use his pedigree as an astute academician to develop the nation since he understands the dynamics of the political scene in the country.

# Humanitarian Minister accused of inducing delegates

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi**

UNSATISFIED with trend of events going on in the camp of Ambassador Baba Abubakar, one of the gubernatorial hopefuls under the umbrella of APC in Bauchi State, a coalition of APC groups' recently accused the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Hajiya Sadiya Farouk of inducing the state delegates to vote for her husband Air Marshall Sadique Abubakar who is an aspirant in the party ahead of the All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship primaries coming up before the end of this week.

Alhaji Yusuf Abdullahi Ajiya, is the leader of the coalition and made the accusation in a press release made available to journalists in Bauchi, where he alleged that wife of the aspirant who is a Minister of Humanitarian Affairs is using the survival funds meant to assist citizens in need in the state to influence delegates to vote for her husband in the scheduled governorship primaries.

According to him, Sadiya instead of taking names of 'the right beneficiaries' to

benefit from the survival funds, took details of party members that will participate in the forthcoming primary election as beneficiaries of the funds.

The group stated that it was unlawful for the minister to convert humanitarian assistance into campaign funds they



Farouk

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

KOGI women have called for immediate fulfilment of Governor Yahaya Bello's zeal to accord them desired recognition in elective positions.

The appeal is coming on the heels of Kogi West women who are demanding for the Senatorial seat for the zone in 2023.

The women in their hundreds stormed the NUJ, Press Centre, Lokoja on Monday, asking Kogi APC delegates to vote Mrs Adedoyin Ibikunle Eshanumi at the party's primaries.

Speaking on behalf of the women, Mrs. Aisha Kasim and Mrs. Orenusi Tosun from Lokoja and Kabba axis respectively, declared that the only woman aspirant for Kogi West Senatorial seat be given the chance.

According to them Yahaya Bello is a women friendly Governor who has

# Kogi West women demand senatorial slot



Bello

maintained his stand on offering equal opportunities for both male and female folks in politics". "We remain grateful to God for Governor Bello's fair disposition for women. Recall that the Governor had earlier through his human face policy ensured

that women were elected into the office of vice-chairman in the 21 local government areas of the state as well as their appointments into his cabinet and other government agencies and parastatals".

# Primaries for lawmakers commences with losers taking a bow

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi**

M A N Y times commissioner in Bauchi

State Alhaji Garba Dahiru, who was ex - commissioner of Finance, information and Communication and

Commerce Ministries, has once again defeated former Chief of Staff, Bauchi Government House, Dr. Ladan Salihu Ilelah, to become Bauchi South senatorial district candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 general elections.

Also at the poll Garba Dahiru who is a traditionalist with the title of Salaken Bauchi defeated Mahiru Maiwada, his closest contender with 70 votes. The latter, however polled 69 votes. A former Senator who once represented the zone Alhaji Adamu Gumba was also defeated.

Shortly after the announcement of results, Garba Dahiru while talking to journalists at Zaranda venue of the election, expressed thanks and gratitude to Almighty Allah for giving him the victory. He expressed his appreciation to all delegates and other party members that made the day successful for him assuring that the victory is for every member of PDP in the state.

He therefore called on all other aspirants that contested with him and lost to accept it in good faith as it is the will of God and appealed to them to team up with him for the success of the Party in the general election come 2023.

Survival funds which is supposed to be for the less privileged instead of delegates." "Her action was meant to induce them into voting her husband Air Marshall Sadique Abubakar as the APC governorship candidate of Bauchi state", the group alleged. In his response to the allegations, the Air Marshal Abubakar Saique Campaign Organization dismissed the allegation, and described it as malicious, and a mockery which has no base and barbaric.

The Chairman of the Media Committee of the Organization, Salisu Ahmed Barau who reacted through telephone, said. "What Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouk is doing has nothing to do with her Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, she is doing it in her capacity as a woman of Bauchi State".

"They should remember that she is married to His Excellency, Ambassador Sadique Baba Abubakar by virtue of which she is an indigene of Bauchi State and has the right to contribute to the development of the state unhindered".

# IMAGES

## LALONG INAUGURATES CHIEF LIAISON OFFICERS

*Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Thursday at the Government House mini Hall, inaugurated Chief Liaison Officers for the 17 LGAs to be monitoring State Government projects at their various LGAs*



**Governor Lalong inaugurating the Chief Liaison Officers**



**A cross section of Chief Liaison Officers (standing) being inaugurated by Governor Lalong**



**Governor Lalong, Deputy Governor, Prof. Tyoden (left) Speaker, Rt. Hon. Sanda congratulating members of the Chief Liaison Officers**



**Rt. Hon. Peter Ajang Azi, Chief Liaison Officer for Jos North (standing) responding on behalf of his colleagues**



**A cross section of government officials at the inauguration ceremony**



**L - R: Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda, Hon. Naanlong Daniel, House Majority Leader, Hon. Livinus Kwapfuan and Clerk of the House (behind)**



**Hon. Sadat Garga, Chief Liaison Officer for Kanam LG (left) flanked by other Liaison officers at the ceremony**



**Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda in a group photograph with the inaugurated Chief Liaison Officers**

Photos: DANLADI DUK

## Politics

# Nigerian politics and its discontents

Politics is a moral human activity characterised by perpetual rude shockers. It is one game too many, where anything can happen. The game of politics, is the unusual interaction between the good, the bad and the ugly of human power tussle. In other words, it has to do with the surprising manifestation of all possibilities within the context of human tendencies in the pursuit of power and relevance. AYUBA YILGAK'ha writes.

BECAUSE politics is a game intertwined with virtues and vices, it therefore takes someone who has the capacity to absorb big shockers and survive its discontents, that is, aspects of the the game that fall below accepted rule of behaviour or shared expectations. This is especially so when politics take dimensions that are antithetical to one's shared values or ethical code of conduct.

Politics is like a gambling game, full of risk but full of gains too. In the game are no experts but people who are possibly capable of adapting to all situations or outcomes. No politician could, ab initio, predict with certainty the outcome (s) of any political contest at all times. This is because, political outcomes are dictated by the interplay of highly deregulated factors which often flow with great rapidity (speed) and overwhelming complexity that are often difficult to track or control throughout or at some points. Except otherwise imposed, all political outcomes are surprises to all manner of persons including those claiming to be in charge or on top of the game. Therefore, politics is a flexible game which occurs with much fluidity.

What makes politics fluid is the unpredictable nature of its players: human beings. Human beings are mobile moral agents who can change based on prevailing circumstances around them. This assertion is in consonance with Micheal Owen's postulation that 'the character of a man is made for him not by him.' Here, the scholar means that the behaviour of man is dictated by the environment around him. Therefore, when circumstances change, human beings which Plato described as 'political animals', also change.

The changing nature of politics has made it a constant and regular game of negotiations and re-negotiations; alignments and realignments; adjustments and re-adjustments. Senator Sani Shehu, a human right activist cum politician once observed that in the game of politics, when one attends the dusk meeting and fails to attend the dawn one, he has already been schemed out. So, it is total naivety for a politician to be absent during meetings where strategic last-minutes-and-critical decision (s) will be taken. This is because the changing dynamics of the game might have invalidated previously held standpoints, especially, when new information is obtained about what really matters at the time.

To an active politician, what is constant is the desire to acquire and/or maintain political power. Every other thing is by the way, especially, when the game is played without morality or moral consideration and moderation as postulated by Niccolò Machiavelli. In Machiavelli's political school of thought, 'the end justifies the means'. The idea is that whatever is done to acquire power, even if it is deceit, betrayal or even to commit murder, etc, is justifiable. So, those who play the game of politics based on the dictates of this evil postulation, lack morality and can do anything worst than one could ever think or imagine to acquire political



Adamu

power.

Former Vice President of Nigeria, Alh. Atiku Abubakar was once reported as saying politics is a game of betrayal and that a politician who does not have full dose of it will not fit. Similarly, Rothman (1983) hypothesised that a good politician is one who has prejudices enough to suit the needs of all his constituents. These assertions clearly meant that betrayal and prejudices are strong weapons in any political expedition. The reverse is the case for politicians with good moral disposition.

Moralists see politics as the search for an opportunity to serve not to be served. This means that power just for the sake of it, is useless. It is about service and not self. Therefore, Chaplin's idea that power is needed only when those who seek it wants to achieve something sinister does not follow. If it does follow, at all, then in part, not absolutely. Politics, therefore, can neither be demonised or justified as a saintly enterprise. The condition of the game is dependent on the world view of the participants or actors.

Those whose God is their stomach and have no regard for values can easily be toyed around and make the game of politics more murky and uncertain. For instance, a man who has not tamed his appetite for food can easily betray when food is offered in exchange for his vote or support. Also, gullible minds could easily be psyched, hypnotised, brainwashed or even indoctrinated when religious sentiments are whipped. In other, words money (food) and religious instincts are the common most used factors

by politicians to win public sympathy amongst gullable minds.

All politicians are restless mood-readers. They are experienced but, maybe, informal psychologists whose motivation is always to understand what appeals to the consciences and instincts of their public or constituents. Having gauged the mood of the electorates, they tried even by way of unrealistic promises to woo support. This explained why there are more broken promises in the game of politics than in any human endeavour. This is so, especially, when the political actors are the desperate types.

In Nigeria, political actors can mimic anything to gain acceptance from the people. A political lion could perfectly or imperfectly mimic a dove as part of the strategy to survive the unpredictable nature of the game. In this clime, politicians fly private jets but ride motor cycles when elections are handy; they feed on British menus but go for roasted corns at street corners when elections are handy.

In Nigerian politics, also, politicians spend weekends in Europe, US and Dubai but always in the villages when elections are handy; they eat and sleep in five star hotels but on queue at 'Mama put' (local or street) food vendors when elections are handy; their phone lines hardly go through but always reachable when elections are handy. The idea is just to identify with the ordinary status of the masses who are in the majority with enviable voting power that could return or unseat any public office holder seeking election.

A situation whereby politicians desert the people and return during electioneering campaigns is called fundamentals of psychology of politics. The actors try to avoid everything that will suggests they



Ayu

are leaving in luxury, especially, when in company of the poor electorate. Most politicians will fake empathy, that is, "feel for, with, about the people." This makes them politically correct (but morally dubious!). The people are getting wiser by the day. They have learnt to understand the fundamentals of the psychology of the politicians too.

Electorates are human beings not mere voting machines. They can reason and make informed decisions. Voters are citizens not inanimate object that can be used and dumped. They cannot be left to fate only to be found useful during elections. When you bite the finger that fed you; there will be no finger to feed you tomorrow. It is the finger that votes, so you cannot push it aside and expect to enjoy its voting power during the next circle of elections.

In Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart", Eneke the bird says that since men have learned to shoot without missing, he has learned to fly without perching. Driving the message home from this postulation, I dare say, since politicians have perfected the art of dribbling poor electorate with subtle professionalism; the electorate have learnt to vote out dubious political office holders with prompt correctness and due diligence. This is a possibility in the game of politics too.

In the last couple of months, we woke up to intimidating billboards in the city of Jos, Plateau State with uniquely catchy inscriptions. For example, "Bigg Things Coming." The name Sunday Garba Biggs suddenly appeared with intimidating aura. Without sounding preemptive, however, the Bigg things seemed to have been grounded. The initial power and sympathising frequency that gave it steam have stealthily

backtracked and, therefore, the hot steam it generated suddenly evaporated at the speed of light. That is the game of politics for you.

Punctured dreams like this are recurrent decimals in Nigeria's socio-political and economic landscape. The perceived grounding of the "Bigg things" is a symbolic metaphor of many ballooned yet shattered hopes and dreams which are a very common part of the game of politics in the country. With time, therefore, all political actors would either taste disappointment or appointment. There is no politician, born of a woman, who tarries awhile, in the game of politics, that has not gone through one form of discomfort or the other.

In politics, a secret game of dabbings and wobblings, the more you look, the less you understand and, the less you understand, the more you are manipulated and shortchanged with discreet subtlety. In primitive democracies like ours, where sound moral values and progressive political ideologies are almost nonexistent, political outcomes are often bound to be boring and inspiring.

Active political participants are likely to experience political baptism of fire (deceit and betrayal) or political favour where power is gained to serve. These binary probabilities and possibilities are fifty-fifty, especially, in this part of the world. Those that have been part of the game could tell the story even better. Best wishes to genuine political office seekers at all levels as processes leading to the 2023 General Elections start in Nigeria.

News

# KDSG approves over 3bn for pensioners benefits

KADUNA State government has approved over three billion Naira, for the payment of gratuity and death benefits to retirees and families of deceased civil servants respectively at the state and in all the 23 local government areas.

A statement by the Executive Secretary of Kaduna State Pension Bureau, Professor Salamatu Idris Isah said, Governor El-rufai approved the sum of three billion, one hundred and Five million Naira for the payments.

Professor Isah explained that one billion and five million naira, has been allocated for the payment of local government retirees while six hundred million naira is for the payment of state retirees under the Defined Benefits Scheme.

She said, the sum of one billion, five hundred million Naira, has also been allocated for the payment of Accrued Rights to retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme, (CPS).

Prof. Salamatu further stated that shortlisted names of beneficiaries would be sent to the Pension Desk Officers across the 23 Local Government Areas as well as Ministries Departments and Agencies, (MDAs).

The Executive Secretary maintained that the names would be made available on the social media handles of the Pension Bureau for wider dissemination.

She recalled that Kaduna State government had paid gratuity/death benefits of batches one to sixteen of beneficiaries at the state level and batches one to fourteen of local government pensioners under the Defined Benefits Scheme.

Prof. Isah further said that the Pension Bureau would

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna



El-rufai

commence screening for payment of both batch 15 of local government benefits and batch 17 of state retirees, once all necessary arrangements have been

put in place. According to her, the screening will be done at the various headquarters of the three senatorial zones of the state.

# NDE disburses 11 million loan

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

National Directorate of Employment, (NDE), has disbursed N11 million loans to 237 unemployed persons in Kogi to boost their business engagements. The three categories of the beneficiaries are; Matured People's Programme, Start Your Own Business and Micro Enterprise Enhancement Scheme. The Kogi State Coordinator of NDE, Mallam Abubakar Zakari during the disbursement ceremony at

the weekend, told journalists that the beneficiaries were drawn from the 21 local government areas of the state.

Zakari said that the gesture was aimed at giving opportunities for the unemployed people to embark on ventures that would boost their livelihood through self-reliance.

He appealed to jobless citizens especially the youths to embrace the Federal Government's

THE President, Enemona Humanitarian Foundation, Ambassador Gabriel Onoja has called on Kogi East, youths to mobilise against voting for politicians who have failed in their current positions in delivering democracy dividends to their people. Gabriel Onoja made the call at the First Igala National Youth Summit, with the theme. The Role of the Youth in Kogi East development Agenda held at the Lagos Travels Inn, MKO Abiola Crescent, Ikeja Lagos. Ambassador Onoja, who was the Guest of honour at the summit said, the zone would be developed, if only the youth could identify and work for the emergence of those with integrity, compassion and capabilities to effect sustainable development to the zone.

He said in the same breath, they are to spot those whose antecedents have been against the growth and development of the zone to ensure that they are not returned to power or other positions of responsibility.

He therefore, charged them to collect their PVC and ensure the transfer of same to their localities ( Those who did not register at home) for possible casting of votes for acceptable candidates.

While commending the organisers of the Lagos Summit with intent to raise consciousness of the youth for excellence in their chosen

# Philantropists advises youths against voting failed politicians

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

vocations he said, even distance could not affect their patriotism. He urge others from across the country to emulate Lagos chapter for the growth of the people.

While enumerating the achievements of Enemona Foundation to uplift the welfare of people, the Philanthropist announced that

by September, 2022, the foundation will provide free scholarship from nursery, primary to secondary for one thousand children in Inele Ugoh and its environs.

He disclosed further that in addition to scholarship, pupils would be fed at least once a week to provide nutrient for their mental development. Ambassador Onoja hinted that as part of effort to rid the zone of criminal elements, he had



Bello

organised youths into cooperatives for artisanal mining on numerous sites that abound across the state.

He said, the cooperatives have empowered not fewer than 300 youth group who are making worthy living that has kept off criminality.

He charged the youths to be ready to demand accountability from those serving now and make sure good politicians emerge in 2023 by mobilizing votes and ensure that their votes are counted.

According to him " We must also champion the fight against cultism, thuggery, political killings, election malpractices, imposition of bad and failed leaders, destruction of community property and every index that makes us under-developed. "On the economic front, Kogi East is blessed with mineral resources and agricultural products.

I urge you here in Lagos to use your connections to bring in investors that will explore our minerals towards engaging our youths, provide employment for our women and bring prosperity to the land.

"The economic development of Igala land will make us competitive among other tribes in Nigeria, take our youths from poverty and crime and above all, make our people live well.

"As an individual, in the past three years I have been able to bring some developments to our land through my foundation, Enemona Humanitarian Foundation such as women empowerment, youths' engagements in artisanal mining, ensuring interreligious harmony among Christians and Muslims in the state, scholarship for orphans and other vulnerable persons among other interventions.

# PDP congress results come with surprises

THE People's Democratic Party, (PDP) Adamawa state held its congresses with some surprises.

Adamawa Central has Speaker of the State House of Assembly Honourable Iya Abbas emerging ahead of the people's favorite Auwal Tukur son of one time National Chairman of the people's Democratic Party, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur. Abbas polled 125 votes as against

From- GYANG PAM, Yola

54 votes by Tukur. The results from Adamawa North Senatorial zone showed that Reverend Amos Yohanna won by 123 votes as against 28 votes by his close opponent, Zira Maigadi.

Adamawa South has the incumbent Binos Yaroe who polled 232 votes as against Engineer Peter Fwa who polled 55 votes.

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

SOKOTO State Governor, Aminu Tambuwal, has lifted the curfew imposed on the state capital just as he banned all forms of processions.

Recall that the curfew was imposed on Saturday due to protests by youths calling for the release of the suspected killers of Deborah Samuel, a Christian student of Shehu Shagari College of Education (SSCOE), murdered over alleged blasphemy.

Tambuwal in a statement issued by the Commissioner of Information and Orientation, Isah Galadanci, banned all forms of processions in the State until further notice.

The statement reads in part: "Acting on enabling powers under Section 176

(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Public Order Act and Section 15 of Sokoto State Peace Preservation Law, Governor of Sokoto State, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, CFR, Mutawallen Sokoto has after due

consultations, lifted the curfew imposed on Sokoto metropolis with immediate effect."

He, therefore, urged residents of the state to be law-abiding and stressed the need for peaceful coexistence among Nigerians.



Tambuwal

# News

## Supporters protest postponement of swear-in ceremony

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

SUPPORTERS of the six Area Councils Chairmen elect in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja took to the streets recently to protest the suspension of the swearing-in ceremony of the new area Council chairmen earlier scheduled for Friday.

The protesters who later converged at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Secretariat at Area II tried to force their way through to the minister's office as the security personnel stationed there battled to prevent them from invading the premises.

The protesters also ensured that activities at the secretariat were grounded as staffers were neither allowed to gain entrance or exit at the premises.

**THE NIGERIAN STANDARD** observed that the protesters were chanting, "FCT Minister, you must swear them in." The protesters armed with placards which also carried various inscriptions which include, "FCT Minister, we know you obey the law,



Bala

swear in as enshrined in the constitution."

It would be recalled the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory had on Thursday last week suspended the planned inauguration of the six Area I Territory (FCT) High Court which extended the tenure of office of the Chairman from three to four years in

line with the provisions of the recently signed Electoral Act of 2022.

The suspension followed a judgment by a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court which extended the tenure of Office of the Chairman from three to four years in line with the provisions of the recently signed Electoral Act of 2022.

## National bioethics documents set for Presidency's approval

From GYANG PAM, Yola

NIGERIAN youths have been enjoined to take over the leadership of the country in the coming 2023 general elections. The challenge was thrown weekend by the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Beth Leonard.

According to her, the only way for them to do that is by being involved in controlling the voting process of the country.

She was speaking on the 13th graduation of the class of 2022 of the American University of Nigeria (AUN).

Mary Beth said the population of Nigerian youths placed them on the advantage of using their votes to achieve that.

The AUN had graduated 266 graduates with thirty-three who came out with First Class.

According to the Ambassador, voting is the way you and your community become a priority for lawmakers and elective individuals and should give you access to those who may wish to earn your vote.

Quoting from Michelle Obama, a First lady of the U.S., the Ambassador asked "what happens when you don't vote?"

She added that Mrs. Obama had said you are giving your power to someone else, someone

who doesn't necessarily see the world the same as you.

"You are letting them make some key decisions and the truth is that they are hoping you would stay home for them to make key decisions about the way you live," she enthused.

The youths, she also added should please remember that their vote is

their voice.

Our correspondent reported the PDP presidential aspirant Atiku Abubakar kept mute during the occasion.

Meanwhile the AUN President and or Vice Chancellor, Dr. Margee Ensign commended the founder of the University, Atiku Abubakar for his foresight in building the institution that is training future African leaders.

## FG deploys drones to deliver ART drugs

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE Federal Government says it is deploying drones to deliver antiretroviral therapy (ART) drugs in some states in order to minimize the death rate within HIV/AIDS communities. Accordingly, it further stated despite the ravaging Covid 19 pandemic, it recorded the largest growth in HIV treatment numbers, placing nearly 300,000 people living with HIV on treatment in 2020.

Director General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) Dr. Gambo Aliyu made this known at the 6<sup>th</sup> National Council of AIDS meeting held in Abuja recently.

According to him, some programme managers of the State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA) were engaged as

Officers. The NACA boss further stated that "in line with programme sustainability, the HIV and AIDS response has witnessed and evolved over the years in ensuring country alignment plan in all HIV and AIDS programmes. "In view of this, there has been progress in the efforts to improve programme coordination through regular engagements with stakeholders and reintroduce the joint annual programme review process which will contribute to the sustained positive evaluations and result whilst advocating for allocation of resources from state governments".

According to him, re-emergence of the Nigeria Business Coalition Against AIDS (NIBUCCA) and its renewed conversations with NACA led to the launch of the private sector HIV Trust Fund by President Buhari.



## When religion becomes a curse

ACCORDING to Wikipedia, religion is usually defined as a social-cultural system of designated behaviors and practices, morals, beliefs, worldviews, texts, sanctified places, prophecies, ethics, or organizations that generally relates humanity to supernatural, transcendental, and spiritual elements. However, there is no scholarly consensus over what precisely constitutes a religion.

If that be the case, then religion is supposed to provide the moral oil that would help society thrive and grow. Not one that would serve as a drawback and a clog in the wheel of its development.

In Nigeria, however, our case is different. Religion does not provide the moral standards that society needs to relate with for its growth. Religion is only a "convenient" often used when it suits us and interpreted to suit the human purpose rather than that of the divine. To be sure, the foundation on which both Eastern originated religions were

introduced were faulty. The truth was not the ultimate reason for their introduction but commerce and political power were the motivating factors.

Our society was conquered and to ensure the continued subjugation of the people, religion was introduced to perpetuate and ensure the enslavement of the people. It was made as a tool rather than a moral gauge with which to measure the growth or otherwise of the society. Religion in Nigeria's nay Africa's context has been everything but developmental. Instead of helping the society grow, it has helped in destroying it. Or how else could we explain the so many havoc wrecked on our society in the name of fighting for God who all religions claim is all powerful and all knowing.

Lets be misunderstood, religion where it is well produced helps lay a solid foundation on which the society is built. But where it is commercialized, it brings destruction and stunts growth.

If the gods we claim to worship are as powerful as we all claim, should we fight for them? Can they not destroy the whole universe with a single pronouncement? If someone is said to be omnipresent, it means that that thing is everywhere at all times. If the God we worship is all knowing, then it is presupposed that even before you conjure up a thought, he has already known it. Religion just like other aspects of our lives have not lived up to its billings in our country. The evidences abound.

Nigeria is one of the most fractured country in the world. We hold dear very base sentiments which have dragged the society back and refuse to allow it grow. We claim to be religious when all of our actions say the contrary. We kill at the slightest provocation on behalf of the most high. We lose our senses when it comes to matters that have to do with religion. Everybody interprets the sacred books to suit their personal interests and purpose.

And, because we have refused to invest in things that would help us, everything is not working

for us including the practice of our religion. Industries have had to relocate from our climes to other more serious countries. In their place big religious institutions have taken over. We spend our entire lives praying for miracles forgetting that miracles, only happen when we use our God given skills to pursue and build those things we pray for. The only things that thrive in our country are places of worship. They are found in every corner of our streets. They are the alarms that wake the community up from their slumber yet they serve no purpose when issues of development are put in the front burner. No society can realise its potentials when it does not pursue growth but instead think it can pray its way to growth.

Growth comes only when a community determines to work together no matter their differences. Growth comes when we keep what is personal at home and pursue the general good not when we try to juggle everything into one. The contradictions which arise therefrom are often difficult to manage. It is not too late to start changing for the better. We must start practicing true religion. We must serve God through serving humanity. We must not and should not be used to confirm Karl Marx's dictum of religion being the opium of the people. When you worship money and see it as the ultimate, there is every reason for you to lose track. When you see power as the ultimate, then there is every indication that you would do everything to grab it at all cost in the course of which you will do harm to the community.

Let us resolve as a people to pursue those things that would help us grow rather than those that would harm us. We have no business being where we are as a country considering the huge natural and human resources our country is endowed with. Let us not be giants only in name but through the examples we provide for our other brothers. Let us turn our curse to blessings.

**Growth comes only when a community determines to work together no matter their differences. Growth comes when we keep what is personal at home and pursue the general good not when we try to juggle everything into one. The contradictions which arise therefrom are often difficult to manage. It is not too late to start changing for the better.**



## News

# Thunder storm destroys 50 house in Bokkos LGA

FRIDAY thirteenth May 2022 was a dark day for the people of Makundang in Mangor ward of Bokkos LGA as over fifty houses and two churches were destroyed by a late afternoon thunder storm.

Chairman Bokkos Local Government Council, Joseph Guluwa who swiftly moved to the site to commiserated with the community and assesses the level of damage said, this was the first time he is seeing this kind of disaster and assured them of his support and will also seek the support of both the State and Federal governments for interventions over this humanitarian and economic disaster. He asked for calm as government will not fold its arms to providing succour to ameliorate the refugees this disaster has caused.

The Zonal Coordinator National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Mr Eugene Nyelong immediately led a team from his office together with members of the Plateau State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), to carry on the spot assessment of the impact of the disaster with a view to mobilizing relief to the Community. Mr Eugene expressed shock with the extend of damage and thanked the LGA Chairman for alerting and providing early interventions which actually is overwhelming and beyond the capacity of the LGA given thousands of persons displaced by the natural disaster.

The team of inspectors included Judith B.I. Relief Officer at NEMA, Juni Bala Director Search Rescue SEMA, Chief Stephen Abang Member Governing Board of SEMA

The Chairman Bokkos LGA, Hon Joseph Guluwa thanked the NEMA and SEMA team especially the North Central Zonal Coordinator Mr Eugene Nyelong for personally leading the team for the on spot assessment of the carnage and expressed optimism, Government will intervene to ameliorate the plight of the victims.

The thunderstorm also killed different domestic animals, destroyed farmlands and left many persons with varying degrees of injuries many death

The inhabitants of the agrarian community have been left devastated as they have not only lost their means of livelihood but have no place to lay their heads.

Receiving the Executive Chairman, the Councillor



Guluwa

Representing Mangor Ward Hon Francis Mador, the Village Head of Mangor Saf James Zorom and a title holder Chief Josiah Maqual and other Community Leaders poured encomiums on the Chairman and the government for his swift response and assessment of level of damage.

Youth leader of Makundang community Hosea Diyong and some Victims of the disaster Mrs Patience Johnson and Mambok Philip narrated their ordeals.

The Ward Head of Mangor, Saf James Zorom and the Ubangari Mangor Chief Josiah Makwal said they are overwhelmed by the disaster and appealed for aid from government, organised private sector and public spirited individuals.

APC Stake Holders in Mikang Local Government Council have unanimously adopted methods that will place the party at Local Government level on the same page with others during the forthcoming Party primaries for the various positions.

This was disclosed in a statement issued by the Executive Chairman of the Council, Augustine Bako after he Chaired the council's stake holders meeting that has in attendants the commissioner of land and surveyy, Yakubu Datti, the member representing Mikang in the State House of Assembly, Naanlong Daniel Gapyil, the Local Government Party Chairman, Leader and members of Mikang legislative arms among others.

He explained that the forum deliberates on pressing issues especially on the need to have free and fair primaries, saying that the council party Chairman has been mandated to meet with all State house of

## Mikang APC stake holders adopted strategies for party primaries

Assembly aspirants to brainstorm and come up with a consensus candidate.

He described the period at hand as critical in the history of the party at all levels but maintained that the existing peace amongst members remains paramount and encouraged party loyalists to continue to remind committed in offering services that will attract members from other parties.

Bako, while commending Religious, Traditional and community leaders for their tremendous contributions through prayers and advises, restated that his administration will not toy with the Unity and the peaceful coexistence of the various tribes in the locality.

Stressing that his doors are always open for every citizen to chip in meaningful contributions for more developments.



Bako

## NIPSS participant interfaces with Jos North LG Management

PARTICIPANTS of Senior Executive Course, SEC 44 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies NIPSS, Kuru, have described Local Government Administration as a viable driver of impacting positive development at the grassroots.

To achieve this, the participants want all relevant stakeholders to synergize to empower the Local Councils to become fully autonomous.

A Directing Staff who is also leader of the delegation, Professor Tunji Olaopa made the submission during their engagement with Management of Jos North Local Government Council at the Old Government

House, Jos.

The interface with the Chairman of Jos North Shehu Bala Usman and his Management is designed by the study course 44 of the Institute with the "theme, "Local Governance in Nigeria, Strategy, Challenges, Options and Opportunities" to obtain first hand information of Local Government Councils, especially, challenges, options and opportunities at that tier of governance in the state.

Professor Tunji urged officials the Council to be thorough and make information explicit to them that would further assist his group in their research on Local governance, which outcome, he said would form the basis for Policy

direction on local government administration at all levels.

The Director of Research and Documentation Government House Professor John Wade appreciated the Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Shehu Bala Usman for always availing himself when the need requires and for responding despite the change of venue from the metropolitan Council Secretariat to Government House due to the ongoing celebration of Nzem Berom 2022 as at the time of the visit.

Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Shehu Bala Usman commended the management of the

Institute for the choice of his local government among others in the state for the research.

Represented by the Council's Director of Personnel Management, Samuel Laksing, the Chairman expressed optimism that the outcome of the study course 44 would lead to strong implementation strategies that will help the Federal Government in making Local Government Administration more impactful on the lives of the people at the grassroots.

While answering questions from participants ranging from "how the local Council could use the opportunity to gain more when the Jos Main Market is rebuilt" How

could the Council function effectively in the absence of oil and how it intends to harness the abundant tourism potentials of the state, Supervisory Councillor for Special Duties, Lawan Ishaq and the Director of Finance and Supply Katmwa Yise said efforts are on the way by the Shehu Bala Usman led administration to rebuild New Market as well as redesign others, especially, those at Gada Biyu, Fillin Ball, to improve sources of income for the council.

The Chairman used the opportunity and told the participants that his administration has placed premium on Security, Health, Education, Agriculture, poverty reduction architecture, and provision of social amenities to the rural dwellers as well as other infrastructural development in the locality.

Usman maintained that though Jos North is a miniature Nigeria, noted that his administration has ensured inclusiveness of all the inhabitants of the area in governance of the locality.

High point of the occasion was a presentation of souvenir to the council Chairman.

## Bokkos LG boss reaches out to opponent after Appeal Court victory

THE Court of Appeal sitting in Jos today 23rd May, 2022 delivered judgment led by Hon. Justice J. S. Abiriyi in an Appeal filed by Hon. Peter Best Mallo against the judgment of the High Court of Plateau State where the High Court struck out the suit file by Hon. Peter Best Mallo for being incompetent.

Dissatisfied with the decision of the High Court striking out his suit, he proceeded to the Court of Appeal where the judgment of the High Court was sustained.

By this judgment, the protracted dispute between Hon. Peter Best Mallo and Hon. Joseph Guluwa in the

APC Primaries conducted in June 2021 has been settled.

Hon. Guluwa while speaking to press men, shortly after the judgement, expressed gratitude to the judiciary for always being the last hope of the common man. He called on Hon. Peter Best Mallo to join hands with him to build APC in Bokkos LGA and by extension the entire people of

Bokkos and Plateau at large.

Nantok Dashuwar, Esq, Counsel to PLASIEC and Hon. Joseph Guluwa also congratulated his clients and praised the Justices of the Court of Appeal for dispensing justice within the shortest period possible considering that the Appeal was heard and determined in less than a year.

Foreign News

# Ukraine invasion-dark how in history

THE world is "navigating a dark hour in our shared history" with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, US President Joe Biden told key Asian allies.

The war has now become a "global issue" underscoring the importance of defending international order, he said.

Japanese PM Fumio Kishida also echoed his comments, saying that a similar invasion should not happen in Asia.

Mr Biden is meeting the leaders of Japan, Australia and India in Tokyo in his first visit to Asia as president.

The four countries known collectively as the Quad are discussing security and economic concerns including China's growing influence in the region - and differences over the Russian invasion.

Mr Biden's comments come a day after he warned China that it was "flirting with danger" over Taiwan, and vowed to protect Taiwan militarily if China attacked, appearing to contradict a long-standing US policy on the issue.

In his opening remarks at Tuesday's summit, Mr Biden said their meeting was about "democracies versus autocracies, and we have to make sure that we deliver".

The Ukraine war, he said, "is going to affect all parts of the world" as Russia's blockade of Ukraine grain exports aggravates a global food crisis.

Mr Biden promised the US would work with allies to lead the global response, reiterating their commitment to defend international order and sovereignty "regardless of where they were violated in the world" and remaining a "strong and enduring partner" in the Indo-Pacific region.

After their meeting, Mr Kishida told reporters that all four countries "including India" agreed on the importance of the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity; and that "unilateral



Biden

attempts to change the status quo by force will never be tolerated".

India is the only Quad member so far that has refused to directly criticise Russia for the invasion.

The Quad nations announced a new maritime monitoring initiative that is expected to step up surveillance of Chinese activity in the region, along with a plan to spend at least \$50bn (£40bn) on infrastructure projects and investment over the next five years.

Formally referred to as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the Quad began as a loose grouping of countries following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that banded together to provide humanitarian and disaster assistance. The group fell dormant before it was resuscitated in 2017.

Since then however, the top leaders have gathered for the fourth time - they have already met once in Washington last September and twice virtually - in less than two years.

Analysts say the steady decline in each Quad

nation's bilateral ties with China in the past few years appears to have given the grouping more impetus.

There has been mounting discomfort with China's growing assertiveness in the region, with ongoing maritime disputes between China and several countries, and a land boundary conflict with India.

## DR Congo military accused of shelling Rwanda civilians

THE DRC military is taking part in a joint operation with Ugandan forces against the ISIL-linked Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

Rwanda's military has accused forces of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo of wounding several civilians in cross-border shelling and asked regional monitors to investigate.

Rwanda Defence Force spokesman Col Ronald Rwivanga said authorities are "engaging" their DRC counterparts over the

A Palestinian woman lifts her son, who is being treated for cancer, in the paediatric ward of Augusta Victoria Hospital in occupied East Jerusalem November 6, 2012. Six hospitals in occupied East Jerusalem face a financial crisis because the aid-dependent Palestinian Authority has been unable to meet payments for their services, jeopardising the healthcare of thousands of West Bank patient.

A humanitarian organisation has warned that the European Union's continued delay in distributing aid to vital sectors in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is putting Palestinian lives at risk, with dire consequences for patients needing treatment at occupied East Jerusalem

## Withholding aid: Palestinian lives at risk

hospitals.

Since 2021, the EU has withheld a large proportion of its funding to the Palestinians - nearly \$230m - under the pretext that Palestinian school textbooks need to undergo revisions and changes.

But, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the suspension of aid is paralysing critical sectors and impeding services, including healthcare in occupied East Jerusalem, where hospitals provide life-saving treatments to Palestinians from across the territories.

"These restrictions punish terminally ill patients who cannot get life-saving medicine and force children to go hungry when parents cannot

afford to buy food. Palestinians are paying the cruellest price for political decisions made in Brussels," said Jan Egeland, the NRC's secretary-general, on Tuesday.

The rights group, which helps displaced people, said that at least 500 cancer patients, diagnosed since September 2021, have been unable to access adequate, life-saving treatments at Augusta Victoria Hospital in occupied East Jerusalem.

This has led to avoidable deaths, according to the Lutheran World Federation, a global communion of churches, which operates the hospital. Patients already under the care of the hospital have endured significant delays in critical treatment, the group said in a statement.

The EU's decision to withhold the badly needed aid has also had dire consequences on the cash support needed for Palestinian livelihoods. Since November 2021, the group said, as many as 120,000 people, most of them in Gaza, have not received financial support, while Palestinian Authority (PA) employees have had their salaries cut by 20 percent.

"We do not ask to live like the rest of humanity, just a quarter of the life they live would suffice, no more," said Muhammad, a 74-year-old man from Gaza whose sole source of income is assistance from the Ministry of Social Development, which in turn relies on EU aid.

For close to two years, he has not received any cash aid, which is badly needed to support his disabled wife and to be able to afford adequate housing.



shelling that Rwanda says struck areas in Musanze district on

Monday morning.

Rwanda has asked that the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism - a group of military experts from the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to urgently investigate.

The ICGLR, which comprises nineteen countries across south, east and central Africa, was formed in 2008 as a result of continuing conflicts in eastern DRC.

Rwanda has described allegations of supporting rebels in the DRC as baseless.

Fighting reportedly continues between DRC forces and an armed group called M23.

## Khan's party alleges arrests of Imran supporters

PAKISTANI police have arrested hundreds of supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party ahead of a major march planned by the defiant politician, say members of the party.

The crackdown against Khan's PTI is being seen as an attempt by the authorities to thwart the sit-in planned in capital Islamabad starting on Wednesday and aimed at toppling the new

government.

"The police raided the houses of over 1,100 party workers and leaders after midnight," Fawad Chaudhry, Khan's close aide and former information minister, told dpa news agency on Tuesday.

More than 400 workers and leaders have been arrested, he said, adding that the crackdown was continuing and that the party's senior leadership was "safe".

Authorities confirmed the raids but refused to share details about any arrests.

Meanwhile, Pakistani social media was flooded with videos showing policemen allegedly entering PTI workers' homes and harassing their family members.

A policeman was killed in the eastern city of Lahore during one such raid at the residence of a PTI leader.

## Foreign Commentary



*US president Joe Biden has said he would be willing to use force to defend Taiwan, but White House officials insist the US has not changed its position.*

### China-unification with Taiwan, "must be fulfilled"

*Washington has had a long-standing policy of "strategic ambiguity" on whether it would intervene militarily in the event of a Chinese attack on Taiwan. DAVID BROWN writes.*

CHINA'S President Xi Jinping has said "reunification" with Taiwan "must be fulfilled" - and has not ruled out the possible use of force to achieve this.

China sees self-ruled Taiwan as a breakaway province that will eventually be part of the country again.

However, Taiwan sees itself as an independent country, with its own constitution and democratically-elected leaders.

Taiwan is an island, roughly 100 miles from the coast of south east China.

It sits in the so-called "first island chain", which includes a list of US-friendly territories that are crucial to US foreign policy.

If China was to take over Taiwan, some western experts suggest it could be freer to project power in the western Pacific region and could possibly even threaten US military bases as far away as Guam and Hawaii.

But China insists that its intentions are purely peaceful.

The split between the two came about after World War Two, when there was fighting in mainland China between nationalist government forces and the Chinese Communist Party.

The communists won in 1949, and their leader, Mao Zedong,

took control in Beijing.

Meanwhile, the nationalist party - known as the Kuomintang - fled to nearby Taiwan.

Chiang Kai-shek led the Kuomintang after fleeing to Taiwan

The Kuomintang has been one of Taiwan's most prominent political parties ever since - ruling the island for a significant part of its history.

Currently, only 13 countries (plus the Vatican) recognise Taiwan as a sovereign country.

China exerts considerable diplomatic pressure on other countries not to recognise Taiwan, or to do anything which implies recognition.

Taiwan's defence minister has said relations with China are the worst they have been for 40 years.

China could attempt to bring about reunification by non-military means such as strengthening economic ties.

But in any military confrontation, China's armed forces would dwarf those of Taiwan.

China spends more than any country except the US on defence and could draw on a huge range of capabilities, from naval power to missile

technology, aircraft and cyber attacks.

Much of China's military power is focused elsewhere but, in overall terms of active duty personnel for example, there is a huge imbalance between the two sides.

In an open conflict, some western experts predict that Taiwan could at best aim to slow a Chinese attack, try to prevent a shore landing by Chinese amphibious forces, and mount guerrilla strikes whilst waiting for outside help.

That help could come from the US which sells arms to Taiwan.

Until now, Washington's policy of "strategic ambiguity" has meant the US has been deliberately unclear about whether or how it would defend Taiwan in the event of an attack.

Diplomatically, the US currently sticks to the "One-China" policy, which recognises only one Chinese government - in Beijing - and has formal ties with China rather than Taiwan.

But on Monday, US president Joe Biden appeared to harden Washington's position.

Asked whether the US would defend Taiwan militarily, Mr Biden replied: "Yes."

He also drew a parallel

between the possibility of a Chinese attack on Taiwan and Russia's invasion of Ukraine: "The idea that, that it [Taiwan] can be taken by force, just taken by force, is just not, is just not appropriate. It will dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine."

In 2021, China appeared to ramp up pressure by sending military aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defence Zone, a self-declared area where foreign aircraft are identified, monitored, and controlled in the interests of national security.

Taiwan made data on plane incursions public in 2020.

The numbers of aircraft reported peaked in October 2021, with 56 incursions in a single day.

Taiwan's economy is hugely important.

Much of the world's everyday electronic equipment - from phones to laptops, watches and games consoles - is powered by computer chips made in Taiwan.

By one measure, a single Taiwanese company - the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company or TSMC - has over half of the

world's market.

TSMC is a so-called "foundry" - a company which makes chips designed by consumer and military customers. It is a vast industry, worth almost \$100bn (£730bn) in 2021.

A Chinese takeover in Taiwan could give Beijing some control over one of the world's most important industries.

Despite the recent tensions between China and Taiwan, research suggests that many Taiwanese people are relatively untroubled.

In October the Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation asked people whether they thought that there would, eventually, be war with China.

Almost two thirds (64.3%) replied that they did not.

Separate research indicates that most people in Taiwan identify as Taiwanese - embracing a distinctly different identity.

Surveys conducted by the National Chengchi University since the early 1990s indicate that the proportion of people who identify as Chinese, or both Chinese and Taiwanese, has fallen and that most people consider themselves as Taiwanese.

## Feature

By TIMOTHY JOSEPH

## The scourge of fake news in Nigeria

FAKE news is defined as a situation where misinformation takes the form of a News story to approximate the legitimacy which society associates with real News. It can also be describe as an Information that has been deliberately fabricated and disseminated with the intention to deceive and mislead others into believing falsehoods. In this regard, it is disinformation that is presented as or is likely to be perceived as news.

Fake news is currently an issue of global interest this is because globally, discussions about fake news and its impact on global affairs are being held. This century has sadly seen the use of information as a weapon in rather unprecedented scale, the exploitation and falsification of contents have simply become rather easy with the presence of powerful new technology. This has also given rise to the use of social networks in intensifying the rate of falsehood in rather very dramatic fashions, especially as peddled by states, politicians, deceitful corporate entities and individuals who go about sharing uncritical public stories and other forms of misinformation perpetuated with the intent of seeking or gaining platforms to pursue financial gains in the advertising sector.

There is a high spread of the fake news phenomenon on the internet mainly because of the internet's connectivity nature and a major function of the masses preference for speed over accuracy. Thus, since those who provide content on the internet are in winner takes it all battle for attention and of course for the revenue that comes with advertising, they do not mind doing everything to boost traffic, which is distinct from the print publications that allow for enough time before reporting a breaking story the next day.

Publications that are made on line which are majorly reports on the space might as well go fast or go home. Hence, so many Journalist are left in an unreasonable competition for attention, where they are forced to publish information first before confirming the authenticity of their content later. This haunts our world today badly, nonetheless this is not just a Nigerian problem, it is a global scourge.

Fake news stories are usually thrilling in nature and by this factor, are very likely to spread quickly since these blogs or platforms by their nature contain a high level of followers, making the news poses an existing member of massive reader base, that have their notifications on, looking up to them for second to second information, and since these stories will most likely be believed by those who in turn share the story on social media as it is about a thing of pride to be the first to have information about a story, sadly as it is, this is how fake news goes on and on, more so painful is the fact that even after the story has been debunked, sometimes the fake news still prevails.

From the above, we can see that alternative news and misinterpretation is our today reality causing more harm than good. As the overall media landscape has changed, there have been several ominous developments. Rather than using digital tools to inform people and elevate civic discussions, some individuals have taken advantage of social and digital media to deceive, mislead, or harm others through creating or disseminating fake news and disinformation.



Fake news is usually generated by outlets that masquerade as actual media sites but promulgate false accounts designed to deceive the public. When these activities move from sporadic and haphazard to organize systematic efforts, they become disinformation campaigns with potential to disrupt campaigns and governance in entire countries with the upsurge of social media contents that are not constrained by editorial decisions. Oftentimes, fake news stories are just amplified and people just post whatever they want without limitation. Disseminated quickly though the social media simply because social media contents are not constrained by editorial directives.

A publisher with the Premium Times, Mr. Dapo Olorounyomi, says "the pervasive skepticism against journalistic truth in complementary journalism practice must be a great source of worry for every Journalist". This he lamented, was because the degree of fake news has left many people confused as they can no longer decipher the truth out there because there is doubt about what truth really is.

Mr. Olorounyomi noted that "in the haste to break the news, some Journalist disseminate inaccurate information and bemoaned that practice". To him good journalism does not entertain unverified stories or statistics without cross checking, he emphasizes that journalism truth is always provisional and never absolute, which helps readers to make pragmatic sense of their world.

The provision of information dissemination in the era of information age is crucial, but its dissemination comes with a huge task as more people crave for the ever increasing information on all platforms and mediums. The task has become daunting for Journalist because of the phenomenon of fake news, misinformation, hoaxes and disinformation which are significantly on the ascendancy.

A study conducted by the centre for Democracy development and the university of Birmingham on WhatsApp's role during Nigeria's 2019 elections cited parents and grandparents as the biggest sharers

of misinformation (avarts Africa 2019). Others such as jokers, scammers, politicians, conspiracy theorists, insiders, relatives and celebrities are among the perpetrators of misinformation (BBC, 2020). Quite a number of hoax being spread in Nigeria include: a false report after the 2019 general elections which alleged that the Independent National Electoral commission had determined the underage voting of some youths in northern Nigeria. The claim caused a serious uproar among the public and opposition parties (Amobi 2019), there was a report which claimed that the killings of people in eleven communities in Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Jos south local government areas of Plateau state on June 23, 2018 were retaliatory and credited the statement to miyetti Allah chairman Danladi Ciroma. However, the report was found to be false following the report that revealed Ciroma had actively been misquoted (Okonola, 2018).

Another example of disinformation was a tweet by president Buhari's special adviser on social media, who in the lead to 2019 elections posted a video on Twitter which showed the president's supporters at a big rally when in reality were images from a religious gathering the year before? (Paul Anderson, 2019).

This makes our democracy more susceptible to misinformation. This is why there is a general distrust of leaders, elites and politicians by majority of Nigerians, the usual absence or late arrival of official information and the high level of authoritative lies from government sources at all levels, are some of the causes of fake news in the country.

With the growth of Nigerian population at an alarming rate from about 40 million in 1960 to approximately 200 million in 2019 (world Bank, 2019). It means the quantum of information needed by the citizens to make informed choices should also be upscaled. One major problem confronting the nation is the mode of government that is shrouded in secrecy, with no timely and adequate information about the ruling of the state. Therefore, where the public cannot access factual and reliable information either from the government or from the media, it is expected that rumor, hoaxes, falsehood and outright lies fill the gap.

With the government and state actors, having muffled the public voices in the mainstream media and with the democratization of the digital space, millions of Nigerians have found willing collaborators in the social media and other enable sites to produce, distribute, share information and form communities. Government must take cognoscience that greater percentage of misinformation in Nigeria is transmitted via the internet, particularly on social media, judging from Amaobi (2019) that instant messaging platforms are among the greatest purveyors of misinformation and disinformation and that "false claims are on the rise in Nigeria, partly because of citizen journalism where there is stiff competition to be the first to publish information".

According to a data report, as at January 2020, there were 85.49 million internet users in Nigeria, a number increase of 2.2 million (at 2.6%) between 2019 and 2020. Taking from the above statistics, 27 million Nigerians were social media users as at January 2020, the take away from the above shows the high level of engagement on the part of Nigerians with the digital and social media.

For instance, statistics on social media shows that WhatsApp is the most used social media platform at (94%) by Nigerians, followed by Facebook (87%), YouTube and Instagram (76%) others include (67%) F.B messenger, Twitter (50%), LinkedIn (33%), Snapchat (26%), Pinterest (21%), Skype (14%), TikTok (13%), we-Chat (50%). This explains the high level of internet penetration in Nigeria and how viral messages can travel in the digital space within few minutes.

This features has shown that fake news in Nigeria takes the form of misinformation, disinformation and mal-information and has highlighted some case studies within the Nigeria

context adopting the concept of contextual analysis, the study shows that a great number of Nigerian population has found solace and voices on the social media to fill the gap left by lack of credible and factual information from the mainstream media and official quarters. The impact of this is underscored on how millions of social media users produce, distribute and feed the masses with unverified information to the disadvantage of the official and legitimate sources.

In the peak of COVID-19 pandemic fake news became widespread and threatened to overshadow efforts to contain the spread of the virus, while clearly dangerous, it was not the first time fake news had interfered with Nigeria management of a contagious virus. Back in

2014, when the Ebola virus hit Lagos state, the city's healthcare team had to contend with the spread of misinformation regarding its prevention and treatment. Piece of fake news flooded the country that Ebola could be prevented by drinking and bathing with salt, four days later two persons were reported dead in Jos, Plateau state. due to excessive amount of salt water intake.

In a multicultural and multireligious setting like Nigeria, the role misinformation could play in causing ethnic and religious crisis is huge, news sources develop reputations based on the quality and consistency of their news reporting, particularly when it comes to fact checking and presenting a balanced perspective of issues. There is a need for Journalist to proactively detect and uncover new cases and firms of disinformation. This mission is critical for the news media, it represent an alternative to regulatory approaches to "fake news", As an immediate response to a burning and damaging issue, it compliment and strengthen more medium term strategies such as media and information literacy which empower the audience to distinguish what is news, disinformation and misinformation.

It is also imperative for Journalist to position themselves as the source that the public can trust and help drew deeper thin line between truth and untruth from being blurred. This is because the public is constantly on the move digesting other contents and may not have the time or interest to digest other contents. Journalism is usually driven through integrity and credibility, it is also rooted in accuracy, verification, Independent and accountability with the goal of public good to underscored the need for media practitioners to verify information before publishing.

Journalists must admit that the continuous existence of fake news threatened the tenets of journalism and ultimately the journalism profession. For this reason they must be the ones to be more concern and the ones at the fore front to combat the scourge of fake news in order to safe the image of the profession.

Fake news is a problem to all of us, we need to solve it together, we each have the capacity to cut through the mock and emerge through the challenges of the 21st century. Our ability to have both functioning democracy and a functioning economy depends on us doing just that.

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

# THEY'RE SOW WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

### Why people in abusive relationships can't leave



A lot of people in abusive relationships stay in them because they love their partner and think that things will change. They might also believe their partner's behavior is due to tough times or feel as though they can change their partner if they are a better partner themselves. Never stay in a relationship in which you count on someone to change their behavior for the better.

**There is social pressure to be in a perfect relationship.**

There is incredible pressure to be in a perfect relationship, and some cultures and social media only accentuate this pressure.

**Fear of how others will react.**

People in abusive relationships often feel embarrassed to admit that their partner is abusive for fear of being judged, blamed, marginalized, pitied or looked down on. For example, in some LGBTQIA\* relationships, someone may stay with their partner for fear of being outed.

**They share a life together.**

Marriage, children, and shared finances are often huge reasons that people in abusive relationships stay in them. This dependency is heightened in

WHEN many people hear that someone is in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, their first question is, "Why don't they leave?" If you've never been through an abusive relationship, this sort of response might seem logical. Just throw the deuces up and move on with your life – right? But here's the thing – when it comes to relationship abuse, it's never as easy as "just leaving."

**Society normalizes unhealthy behavior so people may not understand that their relationship is abusive.**

When you think that unhealthy or abusive behaviors are normal, it's hard to identify your relationship as abusive and therefore there's no reason to seek help.

**Emotional abuse destroys your self-esteem, making it feel impossible to start fresh.**

Oftentimes, people in

emotionally abusive relationships may not understand that they are being abused because there's no violence involved. Also, many will dismiss or downplay emotional abuse because they don't think it's as bad as physical abuse. It's hard for those in abusive relationships to leave their partners after they've continuously been made to feel worthless and like there's no better option for themselves.

**The Cycle of Abuse: after every abusive incident comes a make-up honeymoon phase.**

Often when an abusive situation happens, it is followed by the abuser doing something nice or apologizing and promising that they will never do it again. This makes their partner minimize the original abusive behavior.

**It's dangerous to leave. Like, VERY dangerous.**

Many times, leaving an abusive relationship is not only emotionally difficult, but can also be life-threatening. In fact, the most dangerous time in an abusive relationship is post break-up. Women are 70 times more likely to be killed in the weeks after leaving their abusive partner than at any other time during the relationship.<sup>1</sup>

**It's not just hard to breakup safely, it's also hard to escape the cycle of control.**

People in abusive relationships often attempt to break up with their partner several times before the break up sticks. On average, a person in an abusive relationship will attempt to leave 7 times before finally leaving for good. People in abusive relationships often attempt to break up with their partner

several times before the break up sticks. On average, a person in an abusive relationship will attempt to leave 7 times before finally leaving for good.<sup>2</sup>

**Society perpetuates a ride-**



**or-die mindset.**

Those in unhealthy or abusive relationships might stay with their partner or get back together after a break up because they feel pressure to not give up, forgive and forget or "ride it out." Pop culture glamorizes being a "ride-or-die" for your friends and partner, making people out to be in the wrong for leaving their partner. And while being loyal is a great thing, a good friend or partner would never endanger or hurt you.

**They feel personally responsible for their partner or their behavior.**

After a conflict, an abuser will turn the situation around and make their partner feel guilty or as though they are somehow at fault. This type of behavior is known as gaslighting.

**8. They believe that if they stick it out, things might change.**

relationships where one partner is differently abled. But there are also similar factors that affect young people's decisions to stay in relationships, including shared friend groups and living situations.

There are lots of elements that influence a person's decision to stay in an abusive relationship. And while seeking help to get out of these relationships is the most important thing, blaming someone in an abusive relationship is never okay. There is a big difference between judgment and responsibility. While someone might have used bad judgment by staying in an unhealthy or dangerous situation, it does not mean that they are responsible, or asking, for the abuse perpetrated against them.

**Source: Myths and facts.com.**



# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Parenting

# Coping with the causes of 'mom guilt'

By **JASMINE KAMAL**

**What is mom guilt?**  
Simply put, it is the feeling of guilt that can overwhelm a mom, at some point, causing her to think that she is falling short or not doing enough for her children. A mom would feel like she didn't or isn't doing what she's supposed to in order to make them better, whether emotionally, physically, or even compared to other children. She begins to feel a weight on her shoulders and a heaviness in her chest, worried about her baby or children.

Does mom guilt last a long time?

Some moms struggle with strong mom guilt for a while and then it goes away. While for others, it never goes away or lasts for many years. It may even get worse, if you're unable to deal with it or process it.

**What are the causes of mom guilt?**

**1. Pressure from family and friends**

After birth, a mother is under extreme pressures, having most people around her telling her the importance of breastfeeding, that she has low milk supply (even if she doesn't), and that she has to find a solution. These are the traditional hereditary tips that have always been passed on from one generation to next. They make the new mom feel incredibly guilty about not being able to feel her baby well enough. Also, these pressures continue for years, taking on different and topics.

**2. Comparing your child to others**

As the child grows, the mom enters into a constant struggle of comparison. If she sees that a baby has started speaking or walking before hers, she immediately begins to blame

herself. Having thoughts like... "I must have done something wrong that led him/her to not do these things in time." Of course, the comparing does not end here, it can even get harder with time, comparing all the smallest little details.

**Social media**

With the spread of social media, virtual images that are not an accurate representation of reality often affect how a mother views herself. She begins comparing herself to other mothers. For example, if she sees a cute picture of a mom and her child, she would blame herself for not making a memory like this happen with her baby or she can start to believe that this mother's life is perfect, with none of the difficulties she's facing and so on...

**Lack of self-confidence**

Sometimes mothers suffer from a lack of self-confidence and insecurities, that have been there since childhood. What makes them always feel like they're not doing enough is that they think they're not good enough and they should be doing



more and better. This is also a problem that can keep growing as their babies get older.

**Her experience with her parents**

Some mothers had experiences of neglect from their own parents and might not have resolved or dealt with these issues. This can lead to her to a fear and need for control to prevent her from making the same mistakes. She could often feel like she's falling short of being a good parent, just like her's.

**Which mothers are most likely to experience mom guilt?**

The truth is, it is hard to find a mother who is completely exempt from that guilt. Yes guilt is not a healthy emotion, but unfortunately most mothers go through it. However, there are those with which it can get really unhealthy and obsessive, to the point where it really requires therapy and has to be taken seriously.

1. Mothers who struggle with mental health problems.
2. Mothers who suffer from postpartum depression.
3. Mothers who do not have enough awareness or the necessary information about everything related to motherhood.
4. Working mothers (society makes them feel like they're taking away from their child's needs for their own personal needs and success.)

**How to deal with mom guilt**  
**1. Identify the source of guilt**

We just talked about the causes of guilt, and now the first step in dealing with it is to what the source or cause is for you...

**2. Be honest with yourself**

Take a pen and paper, and write down the good things that you do for your children and on another paper write down the negatives or the things you think you're lacking in (and the source of guilt you came to understand in point #1). Try to find a link between the two paper. For example, you

think you're not feeding your baby enough and that's why they're thin, look in your other paper and see how many times you feed them a day and what nutrients they contain. Then do some research and ask their doctor to make sure you're on the right track.

**3. Avoid people who are toxic and negative**

We are all surrounded by people who have negative effects on us, our emotions and energy. So take a closer look at the people around you and distance yourself from those who don't make you feel good about yourself or are constantly criticizing you and how you are as a mom.

**4. Educate yourself about parenting**

You will not be able to determine whether you are or aren't doing enough for your children, if you don't know what should and shouldn't be done when it comes to raising them. Try to read a lot about parenting, nutrition, psychology, behavior, health and more, from different sources with different views and opinions so you can have a full rounded view and education to help you do the best you can.

**Talk to a specialist or doctor**

Always consult a doctor. You feel like you're failing their health? Take them to the doctor for a checkup.



Editorial

Stop arbitrary hike in electricity tariff

DEVELOPED nations of the world have optimal source of electricity supply and energy. Thus, manufacturing and production are key ingredients to any growing economy for the creation of job opportunities.

WHILE countries all over the world and, indeed, some countries in the West African sub-region have achieved great feat in constant and uninterrupted power supply, Nigeria is still lagging behind in this regard. Unfortunately, Nigeria has failed to put in place structures, policies and necessary modalities to make electricity available even in some urban settlements.

IT would be recalled that in September 2020, President Mohammed Buhari intrepidly defended any form of increase in electricity tariff, Service Based Tariff (SBT) emphasizing that it was the only channel to improving power supply to citizens. This didn't work out and consumers were constantly thrown into darkness because electricity generation continued to drop without any commensurate effort made to rectify the slide.

DESPITE efforts by the Federal Government to improve the power sector, it has proved abortive since it cannot keep up with the demands of providing constant supply to citizens. With a growing population, the need to make electricity available for economic growth was encouraged and states were allowed to source for alternative sources of power to meet the shortfall during President Goodluck Jonathan's regime. But that too did not help.

THE privatization of the power sector since the Obasanjo era, has had little or no impact as Nigeria has continued to experience low supply of electricity.

WHILE the Federal Government identified the lack of National Metering as one of the problems facing the sector, the CBN financed the programme of National Mass metering programme across Nigeria to ensure every household is metered, so as to reduce or stop illegal consumption of electricity and reliance on estimated billing and illegal connection. But since the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, Nigerians are still waiting in vain for the process to continue.

UNFORTUNATELY, distribution companies in Nigeria (Discos) have not been able to generate enough power to distribute, resulting in epileptic power supply.

RECENTLY, Nigerians woke up to the harsh reality that electricity tariffs have been hiked despite present day economic hardship and challenges faced by the citizenry. This hike was done without consideration for the consumers. Where is the role of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Nigeria Labour Congress and the Ministry for Power in protecting the citizens by fashioning policies that will help Nigerians in the sector?

IN as much as it is important for the investors to recoup on their investment and make profit, they need to improve on services. It needs no gainsaying the difficulties being face by citizens the economic hardship unleashed by the unfavourable government policies even at that the industry should not be left by government to do as it pleases.

WE condemn in strong terms the increase in the electricity tariff because this will burden Nigerians and bring more hardships. We urge government to address the issues of estimated billing, enforce the metering of all household, fight illegal connections and strict ensure measures be taken to enforcement of the rule. Boards and agencies responsible for checkmating Discos must redress subtle tariff increases which invariably represent removal of subsidy in electricity. Nigerians should not be over burdened with paying too much in order to get electricity supply to their homes and businesses.

THE federal government should also seek other means of generating electricity through nuclear energy, renewable energy etc. to boost power supply.

The recent resurgence of insecurity in the North and other parts of the country particularly the North West which witnessed a deadly attack on the Kaduna/Abuja bound train and the statement credited to the Kaduna State Governor Nasir el-Rufai, on the desire of North West Governors to hire Mercenaries to engage the bandits that are making life unsafe in the region if the Federal Government fails to end the reign of terror within their territories is genuine.

As a Nigerian living in the north, one can rightly understand the Governor's frustration in this regard. I also share the view with some people who belief that perhaps due to the fight against Boko Haram that has been raging on for close to 9 years in the north east and the activities of bandits and kidnapers in places such as; Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Niger states, the Nigerian Army may by now be overstretched.

But the big question begging for answers is, who are these people carrying out the attacks, where are they operating from and where is the military intelligence and how are the funds for prosecuting the war on insurgency been deployed and so on. Reports have shown that these bandits operate from forest-to-forest belt within Kaduna and Niger axis and that they easily relocate from one end of the forest to another once there is an offensive against them. Those victims who survived the Kaduna train attack disclosed to newsmen that, the bandits were between the ages of 18 and 20 and had operated not far from a military base and that they came on motor cycles and buses without a single of them apprehended neither could anyone know how they vanished into thin

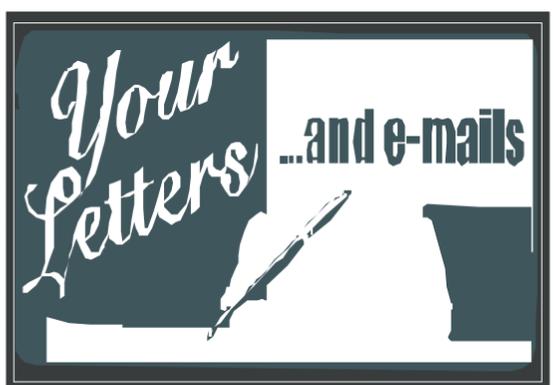
air with some of the victims. It is indeed a puzzle that if these are young rag tag boys operating within a said locations why is it difficult for the military to fully contain the situation by forming a ring around the entire forest and flush them out. It also baffles me that with the modern age of sophisticated weapons like the drone Technology, these people cannot be engaged. Then what happened to the recent national registration of SIM cards and data on all phone numbers. I would have thought that by now such a novel idea would have aided the intelligence network in getting hold of the bandits. From the foregoing, it may not be out of place to also say that, the Nigerian Army of today are not as strong as we tend to over rate them. They may have been over pampered with luxury of life. The truth is that no one wants to die for anybody. The sacrifice for the fatherland is now different from that of the T.Y Danjumas, the Babangidas, the Murtalas the Adekunles and the Abachas of this world. In a situation where those that are trained to protect the safety of lives and property of the vulnerable or armless citizens are shying away from such responsibilities what then is the hope of an ordinary Nigerian just travelling peacefully by road, train or through the airports or even at home? Therefore, if the Federal Government is overwhelmed it therefore means it is time to declare a state of emergency in those trouble spots before terrorists take over Nigeria. God forbid.

ASUU/Fed Govt, Please resolve grey areas

THE face-up between the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government needs to be resolved quickly considering the damage being afflicted on the nation's education system. It is indeed sad that the students of the various institutions are the very ones suffering the effects of the tussle due to the disruption of academic activities which is once again altering the school calendar and by implication going to affect negatively the quality of the students in these institutions. It is sad that a nation that is aspiring to be among the topmost economies on the continent of Africa is still toying with the future of it's human resources which forms the bulk of investment for its development. Worrisome is the fact that some of these students have already spent most of their adulthood within the school environ due to constant strikes by ASUU without a guarantee of either completing as scheduled their studies and not talking of going to serve the mandatory National Youth Service (NYSC) or securing a job at the long run. All these constraints have added to the burden of shouldering more responsibilities on parents and guardians as well as the society as a whole. It is a common saying that; " when two elephants fights, it is the ground that suffers." In this case, it is the Nigerian students that are the victims. Therefore, my appeal is for leaders at all levels either spiritual, community, or civil rights organizations to please intervene in this serious matter that is shattering to pieces the future of our younger generations.

Precious Yakubu writes from Barkin Ladi, Plateau state.

Kefa Nuhu writes from Naraguta, Jos, Plateau State



Standard Cartoon



## Opinion

By  
**RAHMA OLAMIDE  
OLADOSU**

# ASUU strike, students' plight and TETFund

EDUCATION is the panacea that liberates an individual from slavery while the university is the brain box of a nation. The education sub-sector especially tertiary institutions in Nigeria has witnessed in recent times incessant closures due to avoidable industrial actions. The impact of this instability is a lot.

The tertiary institution worldwide is regarded as the citadel of learning, the fountain of intellectual development and a ground for the production of leaders of tomorrow and no matter what, a university progresses when it is able to provide knowledge and value and when it is not properly managed by the administrators and staff, it then fails in its function of providing knowledge and value.

Importantly, the role of universities in human capital development, research and technological innovation cannot be over-emphasised. All over the world, investment in University education is a critical component of national development effort. Most nations today depend increasingly on knowledge, ideas and skills which are produced through research in the universities.

Undeniably, Universities have

the responsibility of producing their own corps of academic personnel, that is, the intellectual resource pool that will, through scientific research, generate new knowledge and innovation to solve developmental problems.

Tertiary education in Nigeria has thus suffered tremendous setbacks as a result of industrial actions by both the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the Nonacademic Staff Union of Universities (NASU) and the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP). This has always subjected the students to pitiable conditions, disrupting academic programs, giving students undeserved extension in their study years, poor students' concentration on academic programs and poor lecturer-student relationships among others.

ASUU, whose incessant industrial action takes a heavy toll on the academic performance of the students, has become a yearly action. The union was formed in 1978, a successor to the Nigerian Association of University Teachers (NAUT) formed in 1965 and covering academic staff in the University of Ibadan, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ahmadu Bello

University, Zaria, University of Ife (Now, Obafemi Awolowo University) and University of Lagos.

The Federal Government's failure to "satisfactorily" implement the Memorandum of Action (MoA) it signed with the Union in December 2020 on funding for revitalisation of public universities (both Federal and States), renegotiation of the 2009 FGN/ASUU Agreement and the deployment of the University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS) amidst other demands pushed the union to embark on a total and comprehensive four-week warning strike on the 14th of February, after which the union extended the industrial action by another two months to afford the government more time to address all of its demands, with the recent being extended by twelve weeks.

Although they have forced certain positive actions from government in the past, ASUU actions have caused more harm than good. A typical and very common instance is the loss of interest in continuing the academic staff in the University strike, most students have secured jobs or other means of generating money and does not

wish the strike to be called off soon, some have even planned not to return to classroom as the salary they now receive is large and they are not sure of getting such jobs after school which often occurs more among the business minded students. Other downsides are more years to graduate, toll on students' mental health, waste of accommodation rent and the most dreaded being a tremendous rush in the academic calendar.

The strike has not only affected the undergraduate students, it has also disrupted the plans of the post graduate students as well, many of whom I am part of, and currently awaiting results to either push for promotions at work or for a fresh job opportunity.

Regardless of the ongoing strike, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in its efforts to boost infrastructure in the nation's tertiary institutions recently commenced the disbursement of the direct intervention funds approved by the Presidency to public Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education in the country.

The sum of N642, 848,138.00 was allocated to each

University, N396, 780,086.00 to each Polytechnic and N447, 758,804.00 to each College of Education in the country for the year 2022.

The allocation papers were presented to heads of the beneficiary institutions at the National Universities Commission (NUC) by the Executive Secretary of the Fund, Arch Sonny Echono.

This development from the fund at this time is highly commendable and it brings ray of hope in the education sector.

Obviously, TETFund under the present management does not want infrastructure to suffer even as the strike lingers.

Even though the strike has been a major setback in the educational system as it has perpetually slowed down the already set academic calendar and has rendered students' effort to reconcile with their desired grade futile, I'll implore students to make use of this period to build themselves in their areas of interest, invest deeply in personal development, learn and nurture a skill and most importantly stay positive, be hopeful and stay out of trouble.

**Rahma Olamide Oladosu is a Staff Writer with the Economic Confidential**

By **OYIBO SALIHU**

## Stemming foreign medical tourism,

CHINESE doctors treat a child in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, at a local hospital, June 25, 2019. (Photo by Huo Wen/People's Daily)

The habit of travelling to other countries by some Nigerians in search of medical services at exorbitant cost has regularly generated heated debate in the media and medical seminars.

But most Nigerian medical tourists are genuinely unaware of the top-end medical services obtainable at home. Yet others go abroad for medical treatment as a status symbol, or just to frivolously spend part of the country's foreign currency reserves.

However, due to the availability of advanced medical equipment, the expansion in the pool of highly skilled doctors and allied personnel in all medical fields in the country, specialty clinics have sprung-up in Teaching Hospitals, Federal Medical Centres and some private hospitals. The specialty clinics offer most of the type of medical services obtainable abroad mainly four specialties of oncology, orthopedics, nephrology and cardiology. Thus, it is unnecessary for Nigerians to travel abroad to treat such health conditions.

For instance, kidney transplant was not widely available in Nigeria. But nowadays there are several teaching hospitals, federal medical centres

and private clinics that conduct successful kidney transplant in the country. The Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) pioneered kidney transplanting among government hospitals in the country in 2002. From 2002 when the first kidney transplant was conducted there, the Hospital has so far done over 60 successful kidney transplants.

The Chief Medical Director, Professor Abdulrahman Abba Sheshe said at a symposium that, "AKTH has the highest number of kidney patients in the country. It is time to move a step forward to develop and start liver transplant."

Professor Sheshe said during the symposium on liver disease and treatment that, the high manifestation of liver diseases in the country was a source of concern, which needed a comprehensive approach to stem the disease.

Public awareness of kidney transplant at the AKTH has spread in Nigeria and beyond, along with awareness of other complex surgeries that were previously unavailable in Nigeria, but which are now regularly done at the Hospital. One of such delicate exercise is brain surgery, the first two of which were conducted in the Hospital in 2019.

"The Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) has conducted a second successful Transphenodal Endoscopy re-section also known as Pituitary Tumor Surgery. It was

performed to remove a brain tumour from a 47-year-old patient, a native of Edo state," Kano Focus, an Online outlet, reported.

The patient was referred to the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital for the surgery by the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LUTH). It was conducted by a team of indigenous specialists comprising anaesthetists, nurses and ENT/Neuro-surgeons. A tumour was removed from the base of the patient's brain.

Dr. Musbahu Ahmed, the leader of the team said, "the surgery was done using an endoscope with specialized cameras that are similar to a telescope and a light source that took them directly with some piece of instrument to remove the tumour through the nose."

A consultant cardiologist said the Hospital has conducted successful cardiac pacemaker implantation surgeries on patients to "increase the heart rate to at least 60 beats per minute as against the less than 40 beats per minute."

Similarly, specialists in the

Department of Otorhinolaryngology have successfully restored hearing to patients through cochlear implant surgery, another procedure for which Nigerians previously had to travel abroad.

The Head of Communication in the Hospital, Mrs Hauwa Abdullahi said the first cochlear implant surgery was performed in 2021 by ENT specialists to restore hearing in a severely hearing-impaired, three-year old boy from Yobe state, and an eight year-old girl from Borno state.

Now that Nigerians can be properly evaluated and fully treated of their hearing impairment, their brain tumour removed, liver disease cleared or have kidney transplant at home, travelling abroad for such and other medical services, which costs Nigeria around N576 billion or \$1.2 billion annually, is no longer necessary.

**Salisu Nainna wrote from Dambatta, Kano stat**

**"But most Nigerian medical tourists are genuinely unaware of the top-end medical services obtainable at home. Yet others go abroad for medical treatment as a status symbol, or just to frivolously spend part of the country's foreign currency reserves."**

## Change of Name

<b>GARBA</b>	<b>MARY</b>	<b>ISHAYA</b>	<b>SULEMAN</b>	<b>ISAAC</b>	<b>MAREN</b>
I, formerly known as <b>GARBA MOHAMMED IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GARBA MOHAMMED</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARY DAVID</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY LHOUTURE NAPRE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YOHANNA RUTH PAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISHAYA RUTH VICTOR</b> . Correct date of birth 10/10/1996 not 10/10/1992. All former documents remain valid. . All concerned authorities and the	I, formerly known as <b>ALHASAN MUSA SULEIMAN</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SULEMAN MUSA</b> . Correct date of birth 2/1/1975 not 4/3/1977. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ISAAC LOVETH KAUNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISAAC LOVETH SEKAT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>EMMANUEL BUKATA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAREN EMMANUEL BUKATA</b> . . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>LAWAL</b>	<b>OSAWA</b>	<b>YAK</b>	<b>IBRAHIM</b>	<b>SANDASON</b>	<b>TIMOTHY</b>
I, formerly known as <b>MUS'AB ABDULMUMIN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LAWAL MUS'AB ABDULMUMIN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ENWEREUZOR AMARACHI DESTINY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. OSAWA AMARACHI DESTINY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please	I, formerly known as <b>MONDAY LAMI URAWUL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAK LAMI MONDAY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM SAEED ABBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM SAEED SAEED</b> . Correct date birth 27/08/2000 not 27/8/1999. All former documents remain valid. .All concerned authorities and the general public should please	I, formerly known as <b>JAFARU ADAMU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SANDASON JAFARU ADAMU</b> . Correct date of birth is 4-4-2000 not 4-4-1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TIMOTHY TELA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TIMOTHY BISALA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>ABUBAKAR</b>	<b>JONAH</b>	<b>LINUS</b>	<b>MUWUS</b>	<b>EZEUDU</b>	<b>SALE</b>
I, formerly known as <b>OGUNBIYI KUDIRAT FUNKE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABUBAKAR KUDIRAT FUNKE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GOLNANG GOTOM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JONAH GOLNANG GOTOM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NWANKWO CHUKWUEBUKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LINUS KENNETH CHUKWUEBUKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NYANG JESSICA YABAL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUWUS JESSICA ABALIS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>EZEUDU CHINENYE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EZEUDU PEACE CHINENYE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAGOK VERONICA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALE VERONICA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>RICHMOND</b>	<b>LILIANJANE</b>	<b>RACHEAL</b>	<b>DILLI</b>	<b>DAVID</b>	<b>ATTAH</b>
That my name was wrongly spelt on my NECO as <b>RICHMOND BASSEY</b> . Instead of <b>RICHMOND COCO-BASSEY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LILIANJANE EDMOND</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>LILIANJANE OPARAJI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>RACHAEL ZALABAKA</b> , <b>RACHAEL NONYE CYRIL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RACHEAL NONYE ZALABAKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DILLI MAIMUNA MOHAMMED</b> and <b>DILLI MAIMUNA MOHAMMAD</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>DILLI MAIMUNA MUHAMMAD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please	I, formerly known as <b>PAM ELIZABETH SAMBO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAVID ELIZABETH PAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AARON ANITA PANYIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ATTAH ANITA AARON</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>HEZEKIAH</b>	<b>ABDULLAHI</b>	<b>BULUS</b>	<b>RHODA</b>	<b>NANCY</b>	<b>VINCENT</b>
I, formerly known as <b>HEZEKIAH UMARU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HEZEKIAH UMARU PYOKLAMAI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABDU AHMED</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULLAHI AHMED LAME</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>EMMANUEL BULUS BAGIT</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BULUS EMMANUEL AUDU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JOEL RHODA GOWN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RHODA JOEL FINJI</b> . Correct date of birth 24/4/1973 not 5/4/1973. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MISS NANCY OSAMUDIAME ENEHIZENA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. NANCY OSAMUDIAME EHIABHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>VINCENT LINUS AJAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>VINCENT LUCKY IKE-UCHE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>REMIGIUS</b>	<b>NAOMI</b>	<b>TOLU-MERCY</b>	<b>BEATRICE</b>	<b>MANJI</b>	<b>SULAIMAN</b>
I, formerly known as <b>REMIGIUS IWUAGWU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>REMIGIUS IBEAWUCHI IGBOECHONWU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NAOMI GABRIEL KIM</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NAOMI SUNDAY DALYOP</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TOLUWANI MERCY AWOSEMUSI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TOLU-MERCY SOLOMON AWOSEMUSI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take.	I, formerly known as <b>BEATRICE LEKWOT</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BEATRICE BENJAMIN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CALEB NANBILIP MANGSET</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MANJI NANBILIP JOHN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABDUS-SAMAD WAZIRI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SULAIMAN ABDUSSAMAD WAZIRI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>ADAMS</b>	<b>ANZIZI</b>	<b>MUHAMMED</b>	<b>SULE</b>	<b>JULIANA</b>	<b>UMAR</b>
I, formerly known as <b>ADAMS PRISCILLA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAMS PRISCILLA YUSUF</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BULUS GLORIA (MISS)</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. ANZIZI GLORIA VICTOR</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMED Y. CHINDO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMED YAHAYA CHINDO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NANKAT SELDUN ADAMS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SULE ADAMS NANKAT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JOEL JULIANA MUTWOM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JULIANA GAPDIK DAPHAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>USMAN ADAM UMMAR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMAR ADAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>NYAM</b>	<b>DIRCIT</b>	<b>CIRDANG</b>	<b>DAPEH</b>	<b>BANGS</b>	<b>BONGNIM</b>
I, formerly known as <b>MISS JOHN ABIGAIL LONEY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS NYAM ABIGAIL JOSEPH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GAMBO BEAUTY DERMICIT</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DIRCIT FAKUR</b> . Correct date of birth is 1/2/1981. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHIRDANG BENJAMIN BATURE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CIRDANG BENJAMIN BATURE</b> . Date of birth is 5/1/1960 not 1/1/1960. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAPEH BARTHOLOMEW PHILOMENA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAPEH PHILOMENA BARTHOLOMEW</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NGOK PLANGNAN</b> <b>ገገገገገገ</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BANGS PLANGNAN PATROBAS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NIMVYAP SAMUEL PONZING</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BONGNIM SAMUEL PONZING</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>ESTHER</b>	<b>ALI</b>	<b>NENKIMWA</b>	<b>NYAKO</b>	<b>RINGBYEN</b>	<b>JUGU</b>
I, formerly known as <b>ESTHER IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ESTHER MUSA ADABO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MUSA ALI SAAD</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ALI MUSA SA'AD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NENKIMWA SHIKJI KITGAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NENKIMWA SHIKJI ISHAYA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ANGELINA GOODWIN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NYAKO ANGELINA KANGYANG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>RINGBYEN SAPKO SARAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RINGBYEN LACHANG SAPKO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DUNG BULLE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JUGU BULLE DUNG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>NUHU</b>	<b>SANI</b>	<b>IBRAHIM</b>	<b>SALAHUDEEN</b>	<b>ROSEMARY</b>	<b>ISHAYA</b>
I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMADU NUHU MOHAMMADU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NUHU MUHAMMADU MUHAMMAD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SANI ALAMIN MUHAMMAD</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SANI AMINU MUHAMMAD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABDURRAHMAN SADIYA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM HALIMA</b> . Correct date of birth is 5/01/1989 not 10/7/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAIYABU BALA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALAHUDEEN YAHAYA</b> . Correct date of birth is 7/11/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TALATU ELISHA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ROSEMARY ELISHA KENNETH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BALLE HAPPY VIDA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISHAYA HAPPINESS MUSA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

News

# Kidnapped Keffi LG chairman regains freedom

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

THE Executive Chairman of Keffi LGA in Nasarawa State, Hon. Mohammed Baba Shehu who was kidnapped on Friday along Gudi - Akwanga road in the state has regained his freedom after undisclosed millions of naira ransom paid Saturday midnight.

One of the chairman's aides who disclosed this to THE NIGERIA STANDARD on condition of anonymity due to security reasons said, the kidnapers earlier demanded for 50 million naira, but they bargained to an agreed sum.

According to him, all the kidnapers identities indicated that they were of Fulani extraction. He added that they also revealed to a reliable source that they were assigned to always carry-out such operations with their sponsors directives and orders where at the end of each operation, they get their share of the loot.

When THE NIGERIA STANDARD visited the chairman in his hospital bed where he was recuperating from the shock at the Jama'a Medical Center, Keffi. The chairman expressed his gratitude to the Almighty God for his release.

It would be recalled that the said local government council's chairman was kidnapped on his way from Keffi to attend an official function in Lafia the state capital on Friday alongside his Special Adviser on Special Duties while his police orderly was brutally shoot death on the scene by the faceless kidnapers.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** observed that the same spot where the Chairman was kidnapped was fast becoming a kidnapers, den as just recently, a member of the National Assembly Service Commission and a retired Permanent Secretary with the Nasarawa State Civil Service, Alhaji Muazu Ishaq was also kidnapped at the spot.



Shehu

The growing fear heavy security personnel particularly amongst the usual travelers along this road has made them to call for the stationing of other undesirable elements.

POLICE in Ondo State has confirmed the release of a cleric, Venerable Olu Obanla and his son, who were kidnapped along the Ifon-Okeluse Road in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State on Saturday.

SP Funmilayo Odunlami, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for the Command in Ondo State, confirmed the release of the cleric and his son.

He said that they were released on Monday around 12.30 p.m. somewhere in Edo.

"As I am speaking with you, I am in Abuja. But I can confirm to you that the victims had been released since yesterday (Monday) around 12.30 p.m. somewhere in Edo, and they have been reunited with their family.

"But I cannot confirm to you if the family paid any ransom or not before they were released," she said.

Obanla and his son were travelling along the road on Saturday when the hoodlums accosted and dragged them to an

# Police confirm cleric, son release

unknown destination inside the family were unable to raise the amount.

Meanwhile, the bandits They could only raise had earlier demanded a N1million which was N10 million ransom for the rejected by the abductors. release of the victims, but



Alkali

# KOBA earmarks 16b for infrastructural development

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

KEFFI Old Boys Association (KOBA) has stated that it has earmarked one billion Naira for the improvement of infrastructure in order to create an enabling environment for teaching and learning in the school.

The President General of the Association, Engineer Edward Ujege disclosed this during its 2021 Annual General Meeting, (AGM) held at Patient Hall, Government College Keffi, during the week.

The Annual General Meeting of Keffi Old Boys Association KOBA, drew members from across the country who occupied strategic positions in different fields of human endeavors.

Towards this end, the President-General disclosed that they have set up ten points agenda for the improvement of infrastructure, modification and improvement of the policy of operating and running of the college.

He urged members to sustain the spirit of their support to the association for the benefit of the younger generation.

Ujege however expressed the association's delight with the remarkable contributions of members and urged them to continue in that regard and also go ahead to support their members who are in need so as to build the spirit of togetherness which their college taught them.

In his remarks, the Keffi Local Government

Chairman, Hon. Baba Shehu expressed delight and said that he was proud to be a product of the

# NDLEA destroys 21 tonnes of drugs in Niger

THE National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Niger on Monday destroyed drugs weighing 21 tonnes in Maikunkule village of Bosso Local Government Area of the state.

The state governor, Alhaji Abubakar Bello, represented by Mr Emmanuel Umaru, the state Commissioner for Internal Security, who led the operation, said that "the security of lives and property is a cardinal focus

college along his colleagues from Akwanga, Obi and Doma and would continue to be its good ambassador whenever they find themselves.

He then announced the

of his government".

The NDLEA claimed that the destroyed drugs street value was worth more than N1 billion.

The Commander of NDLEA in the state, Mr Haruna Kwetishe, said that the destruction was symbolic and in line with the NDLEA Act.

"NDLEA Act mandates us to arrest drug traffickers and dealers, seize illicit drugs and prosecute all drugs related offenders

donation of items to feed line with the global trends of events.

Our man reports that equipments to facilitate the teaching and learning of science and technical General meeting came from all parts of the country.

who contravene the Act and

destroy seized drugs publicly, in fulfilment of this mandate

"NDLEA Niger Command obtained court orders from Federal High Court, Minna, for the public destruction of

the 21 tonnes of various types of illicit substances.

"Public destruction of drugs is therefore a continuous exercise in our quest to have a drug-free and secured society in the country and the world at

large," he said.

He said that the destroyed drugs included Cannabis Sativa psychotropic substances and various grammes of other banned stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine.

"Nigeria used to be a transit port because of the activities of drug cartels that import drugs from drug producing countries to the same to Europe, Asia and America", he said.



L - R: Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda, Hon. Naanlong Daniel, House Majority Leader, Hon. Livinus Kwapfuan and Clerk of the House (behind) Photo: DANLADI DUK

# PROBATE NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.

AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (21) 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
<b>RABIATU ABUBAKAR</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 13TH Oct, 2019, at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>GIDADO MUHAMMAD ADAM</b> of NO.24 Yankashi Gangare Jos. Jos North LGA. Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	<b>SUSANA PATRICK GUYIT</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th April, 2022 at Jos. Plateau State.	<b>RACHEAL BISKET BENARD</b> of Old LEG. Quarters Wild Life Park Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	<b>EDO NDARAKE AKPAN</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th Dec, 2017 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>IDARA EDO.</b> of No.4 Loyap Close Fwawei Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
<b>DUNG ESTHER TIMOTHY</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 8TH Dec, 2012 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>BALA GRACE YOHANNA</b> OF Rayfield Jos South LGA Plateau state. Lawful sister of the said deceased.	<b>SUNDAY DAVOU</b> late of Plateau state. Died on the 6th Oct, 2017 at Kuru, Jos south LGA, Plateau State.	<b>SARAH KANENG BEEDIE</b> of State Lowcost New Layout Rantya Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	<b>ORKAR JIM TARFA</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th Oct, 2021 at BHUTH, Plateau State.	<b>AKPAM DOOFAN &amp; BERENICE MDOOMMATER ORKAR ALL OF ATIKU STREET RAYFIELD JOS SOUTH LGA,</b> Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.
<b>SGT AYIKI ADIKABA</b> late of Plateau state. Died on the 8TH Nov, 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>AGUN ADIKABA &amp; AGALE AYIKI</b> of St. John Catholic Church Balak Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother/son of the said deceased.	<b>JOSEPH PAM FOM</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th April, 2008 at Rukuba, Bassa LGA Plateau State.	<b>PAM RUTH TIMOTHY &amp; FAM FELIX PAM</b> of Mazaram Rayfield Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	<b>BODUNDE KAYODE ROWLAND</b> late of Kaduna State. Died on the 2nd Jan, 2016. at St. Gerald hosp. Kaduna, State.	<b>BENJAMIN OLUWASEYI ROWLAND</b> of Uni. Jos Senior Staff Quarters Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>MACHEN MASSARAH KEFAS</b> late of Plateau state. Died on the 7TH Oct, 2021 at PSSH Jos.	<b>ASABE KURE DAUDA &amp; MATTHEW VERA YOHOPP</b> OF Angwan Baki Dadin Kowa Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/niece of the said deceased.	<b>DANJUMA EZEKIEL</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th April, 2020 at PSSH, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	<b>PATIENCE DANJUMA EZEKIEL, ELIJAH DANJUMA EZEKIEL &amp; ESTHER DANJUMA</b> of Janta Mangoro Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow/son/daughter of the said deceased.	<b>KANUNGA JAMES</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th Oct, 2019. at Gen. Hosp. Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	<b>PONKUR KANUNGA &amp; LULU KADI</b> of COCIN LCC Yangang Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/brother of the said deceased.
<b>GEOFFREY DAMULES</b> late of Plateau state. Died on the 13TH Sept, 2016 at BHUTH, Jos. Plateau State.	<b>MARK GEOFFREY &amp; MARY GEOFFREY</b> OF TUDUN WADA JOS NORTH LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	<b>LANGSHI DAMIRIM PWANGYIT</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th March, 2015. at Pankshin, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAANYASAR LANGSHI DAMIRIM</b> of COCIN LCC Yimtul, Pankshin LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>ILIYA JOHN</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 5TH Oct, 2020. at Potters Specialist Hosp. Jos Plateau State.	<b>DEBORAH ILIYA &amp; SUNDAY ILIYA JOHN</b> of Mamaiyabo Danghan Girin, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.
<b>FAUSATU ADUKE KOLAWOLE</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th April, 2022. At Jos North, LGA, Plateau State.	<b>OMOLARA KOLAWOLE &amp; ADEYEMI KOLAWOLE DONAPO</b> of No.2 Legal Avenue, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.	<b>EKELEME IFEANYI</b> late of Abia State. Died on the 3rd Dec, 2020. At Umuhia, Abia State.	<b>IFEOMA EKELEME AQUILA</b> of ECWA Staff New GRA Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful WIDOW of the said deceased.	<b>GARBA MOHAMMED</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 21ST Nov, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>MUHAMMAD ABDULRAHMAN</b> of Angwan Rogo Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>ALFRED SUNDAY EMMANUEL</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 25TH May, 2021 at At Enugu State.	<b>ALFRED MIKE ONOJA &amp; ONOJA ALFRED</b> of Angwan Jarawa Farin Gada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brothers of the said deceased.	<b>IBRAHIM TABWIR</b> late of Plateau State. Died on the 24TH April, 2008 at Shendam, Gen Hosp.	<b>KITGAK IBRAHIM &amp; MUMMY IBRAHIN</b> Of C/O COCIN Pandan Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.		

## Change of Name

<b>DONAS</b> I, formerly known as <b>MARY DONAS ABDU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DONAS MARY</b> . Correct date of birth is 17/1/1970 not 1/1/1940. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>DALYOP</b> I, formerly known as <b>REBECCA DALYOP VOU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DALYOP REBECCA KAH</b> . Correct date of birth 25/7/1994 not 25/7/1983. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>MARY</b> I, formerly known as <b>MARY YUSUF</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY YUSUF PANMUN ZUMUK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>KOBINA</b> I, formerly known as <b>KOBINA CHUKWU</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS KOBINA DIVINE ISIKERE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>VERONICA</b> I, formerly known as <b>DAKUP VERONICA NANROTMWA, VERONICA NENROTMWA DAKUP</b> , and <b>VERONICA NENROTMWA HENRY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>VERONICA NENROTMWA DAKUP</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	<b>AONDOAWASE</b> I, formerly known as <b>WASHIMA JOSEPH AONDOAWASE</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AONDOAWASE JOSEPH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	<b>VICTORIA</b> I, formerly known as <b>VICTORIA HABILA</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>VICTORIA BARDE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	Space for sale
Space for sale	Space for sale	Space for sale	Space for sale

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PLATEAU INTERFAITH FORUM FOR COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Abuja for registration Under Part "F" of Companies and Allied Matter's Act, 2020.

#### THE TRUSTEES-ARE

- |                               |   |           |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Umar Farouk Musa           | - | Chairman  |
| 2. Alh. Muhd Nura Abdullah    | - |           |
| 3. Mrs. Rhoda Jahota          | - |           |
| 4. Haj. Binta Hassan Hussaini | - |           |
| 5. Julius Arabo               | - | Secretary |

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To work together with plateau state government stake holders and other CSOs to foster understanding and co-operation between the faith communities in plateau.
  2. To increase understanding of the positive role that the faith communities can play in the society.
  3. To improve the quality of life of the people by working together on agreed projects in order to demonstrate our commitment to working in partnership between people of different faith and public bodies as well as private agencies.
  4. To work closely with Government and other health related organisation towards educating and enlightening people of different faiths for better communities.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar, General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication

SIGNED: ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

## Nigeria and its litany of misery



Victor Ali

GEORGE Orwell's classic novel *Animal Farm*, first published in England, on the 17 August, 1954 typically depicts the present Nigeria's precarious dilemma. In that novel, the author opined that, in the Animal Kingdom, some animals are more equal than the others. Nigeria can be situated within that classical scenario.

A land blessed with milk and honey, abundance of natural and human resources, the self-proclaimed "giant of Africa" seems to be in a grave dilemma on how to harness its resources for the development of the

nation and betterment of its people. Everything and anything seems to have gone haywire. While there is an obvious leadership deficit, the docility of the followership has equally compounded the already bad situation.

It is a shame that a country so bountifully endowed with God-given resources, would be cynically described as the poverty headquarters of the world. Such a label is not a laughing matter but painfully ironic. Even in the midst of this misery, characterizes by abject poverty, hunger, deprivation, diseases and unacceptable level of illiteracy, some very few are daily displaying homogenous wealth.

Our common patrimony has been frittered by these unpatriotic elites. Call it theft or more appropriately, as they like it to be said. Corruption. After all one of our former leaders was quoted as saying that stealing is not corruption. They (leaders) have graduated from looting in

millions of naira to stealing in billions of naira and even in dollars. Yet, the long arm of the law seems helpless and hopeless in tackling this moral decadence that has retarded the progress of the country.

Conversely, majority of Nigerians, yes, the lesser "animals" are at lost whether this is truly their fatherland. Whether the country really belongs to all of us. It is clearly a case of one country, two nations. The primitive accumulation of the ruling elites is not only worrisome but maddening. We have heard several ledges of fight against corruption, but this often comes to naught.

Recently, it was reported by the media that the anti-corruption agency the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) has uncovered billions of stolen naira by some Nigerians. Big question is what is to be done? Is it a resurgence of the anti-graft agency? Or would it end like other similar investigations?



Truth be told, there is hunger in the land. Despair, despondency, hopeless gripped majority of Nigerians. It is shocking that most Nigerians in this category can ill after Medicare, transportation, and house rents needless to talk of school fees and other sundry liabilities. The elites should be and must be retrospective about these myriad problems.

The fact that Nigerians are suffering and smiling (apology to the late Afro-beat maestro, Fela anikulapo Kuti) is not a guarantee that it would be business as usual. A desperate man can embark on a desperate action. Thank God, 2023 is around the corner. The poor of the poor, who wields enormous power during elections, must by now understand their folly and do

the needful because it is no longer bread and butter politics. Enough is enough!

**"The fact that Nigerians are suffering and smiling (apology to the late Afro-beat maestro, Fela anikulapo Kuti) is not a guarantee that it would be business as usual. A desperate man can embark on a desperate action. Thank God, 2023 is around the corner. The poor of the poor, who wields enormous power during elections, must by now understand their folly and do the needful because it is no longer bread and butter politics. Enough is enough!"**



By YVONNE ISHOLA

HOW time flies. It was just like yesterday that we lined up under the scorching sun to vote leaders at different levels. Recall the emotional outbursts, the name calling, fighting and even violence by which die-hard supporters expressed themselves. No one seemed to be indifferent. We all wanted our own to be there so that the goodies would flow down to us.

The preparation to any event is usually full of promise. They rolled out their manifestos and wowed us. They won us with smiles plastered on their faces. The muscles on their faces must have suffered. Their doors then were open to all, and in their homes, drinks flowed like a river and food like Christmas day. They personally welcomed every visitor. The Absoloms of our time.

## Two-faced politicians and the electorate

We felt loved because they showed genuine concern for us. They were interested in everything of interest to our families, jobs or lack of it, our comfort etc. They celebrated with us when we celebrated anything and wept with us when aggrieved. The Absoloms of our time.

When we launched a fundraising campaign in our churches, mosques, they came and generously supported us. We predicted that the incoming government would favour us.

Some of us were bought with wrappers, rice, and or as little as seasoning- Maggi/Royco or salt. They knew we had a price because we were still dazed from the blows we received from the last administration. Like Esau, we sold our birth right.

A group of peasant yam farmers told of their ordeal with a politician. He was so humble and down to earth that out of admiration for his humility, they all rallied around him, campaigned for him to enable him become a lawmaker at the national level. Their joy knew no bounds as he had a landslide victory. They saw it as their victory.

The lawmaker passed once and waved frantically at the peasant yam sellers to say thank you. However, that was

the last time they saw his face at close range. From then henceforth, anytime he was passing to or from Abuja, all his car glasses would be wound up. He never stopped again to rub minds with them or even to say hello.

They felt used and dumped. They were a means to an end to the lawmaker. It was like now they were stinking. It was

**"Out of the blues, the two faced legislator appeared. He made his entourage stop and he got out of the car to personally greet the peasant yam sellers. The lawmaker noticed their coldness and to pacify them, he bought almost all their yams and left more than half of it for them to share it among themselves. That action loosened them a little.**

**From then onwards, the lawmaker stopped on his way to Jos or from Jos to Abuja to chat with them and or make them feel important."**

as if he was ashamed of them.

They recalled all the promises he made to them to better their lot and decided to use their power as electorate to make their point. These peasants were eagerly waiting when the years quickly rolled by and it was campaign year again.

Out of the blues, the two faced legislator appeared. He made his entourage stop and he got out of the car to personally greet the peasant yam sellers. The lawmaker noticed their coldness and to pacify them, he bought almost all their yams and left more than half of it for them to share it among themselves. That action loosened them a little.

From then onwards, the lawmaker stopped on his way to Jos or from Jos to Abuja to chat with them and or make them feel important.

After a few stops, the politician started broaching the issue of his re-election. They smiled at the idea as if it pleased them. Shortly afterwards, he dropped his posters and some stipends. They didn't refuse his gift but on top of it, gave room to his competitor to come and sell himself. After weighing the two, they made their decision.

The peasant farmers used their votes to kick out the first

legislator. And they said they have no regrets. Once beaten, twice shy.

A colleague told me that after their votes ensured the victory of a lawmaker in the state, they decided to go and congratulate him as his supporters. But to their surprise, they were stopped at the gate and told that he was sleeping. And that was how it continued, he even changed security guards and brought professionals who were very unfriendly.

They forget that without people, one is nothing. That is where the Hausa man beats us hands down. He builds people, empowers people around him who become very loyal to him and ensure he never lacks and that he remains relevant all the days of his life. We forget that he who eats alone, dies alone.

Our style is for us to sit on our high horse and give out stipends every now and then. The worse case scenario is that of one who has deprived his/ her constituents the dividends of democracy and is unapproachable. How can such an evil person even come back and seek for votes a second time? Do they take the electorate for fools? If you are in this category, abeg, carry go! We need people with the heart of flesh, ready to serve not play God.

By **BULUS GAMBO**

THE recent Church of Christ in Nigeria, (COCIN), LCC Nassarawa Gwong, Jos 50th anniversary celebrations has come and gone but the sweet memories of the event will continue to linger on the minds of the members of the congregation for a long time to come. It was indeed a celebration well appreciated considering the large crowd which witnessed this epoch making event. Many people who had the opportunity of witnessing the occasion were also grateful to God for answered prayers following the several challenges the church was able to overcome in most recent times.

As it is with any historic event as such, the church right from the start was prayerfully anticipating for a memorable event worthy of praise knowing too well the hurdles which the body of Christ had passed through since its establishment in 1972. In 1970, the church started when the congregation deemed it fit to establish a prayer house to help its members who were coming from far to worship God. Back then, the prayer house was standing lonely in the sparsely populated area of Nassarawa Gwong Jos inhabited by mostly indigenous tribes including few houses of other citizens. The members back then used to trek all the way from Rikkos and Nabor to attend their usual meetings.

No doubt, the journey of COCIN as a denomination in it's entirely started after its pioneer missionary, Dr. Karl Kumm and his team through the Sudan United Missions, (SUM) formed this body of Christ in 1904. Though between 1861 and 1885, there were already records of active missionary activities which was before the emergence of the Nigerian nation state, several other areas needed such missionary activities to ensure the total liberation of the land from "darkness". Basically enduring unbearable hardship and sacrifice, Dr Kumm and his team were able to infiltrate pagan communities in Wase and its environs with the gospel of Christ liberating many souls to the glory of the Almighty God. As the gospel further proliferate into the interior areas of the Middle Belt like wildfire, many other villages were conquered for Christ and Islam was eventually stopped at the fringes.

From there, COCIN as a church continued to grow to the glory of the Lord. Gradually, the message of the Gospel of Christ continued to flourish within Jos Division and beyond. Interestingly, the gospel swept the villages of Bukuru and Gyel. This witnessed the conversion of indigenous people including Da Tok Bot and Da Dusu Gyang who subsequently received Christ without hesitations. Though COCIN Nassarawa Gwong has come a long way in its transformation journey, this victory was never recorded on a bed of roses. One of the basis challenges has been that of security. Since the ethno-religious crisis started in Jos,

Plateau State, COCIN Nassarawa with the birth, death and resurrection of our saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, many of us are equally perhaps also aware of the great sacrifices made by European missionaries towards ensuring that the good news gets to our African continent more than a century back."

COCIN Nassarawa Gwong started as a Prayer House in 1971 but later in 1972. It was established as a church. This however, Dr. Karl Kumm and his became necessary following the wonderful team took it upon

## COCIN Nassarawa Gwong Jos: Celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Christ



**Former COCIN President, Rev Prof. Dachollom Datiri, RCC/PCC Chairman, Rev. Gyang Yakubu, leading Pastor, Rev. Cletus Gwam, chairman of the occasion and Senator representing Plateau North District, istifanus Gyang and representative of the Fund Raiser, Barrister Mrs Beatrice Dakas cutting the anniversary cake**

traumatizing distance some of its members had to endure to attend services. Da. Chojo Bot Badung was subsequently appointed the pioneer leader of the Church while Da Yakubu Dung became its secretary. Ngo Asabe Yakubu Dung eventually became its first women leader. Other members of the pioneer church included Phozo Jang Babu Zoyong, Da Chungnun Sambo, Mallam Tanko Yawus, Peter Chingle, Dauda Tuwar, Da Lawrence Shom and Phozo Danshetu Sanda.

After 50 years of fellowship, the present leading Pastor, Rev. Cletus Gwam thought it wise to celebrate God's faithfulness all these years. After various consultations, various committees were formed.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the church premises was filled up as worshippers from both far and near gathered to give God glory over His faithfulness all these years. Speaking at the occasion, the Chairman Central Planning Committee of the event, Elder Jennifer Yarima explained that "I must say that celebrating fifty years in a life of an adult and or any edifice can never be a child's play both in all and every ramifications. Though we are quite historically aware of the fact that the appreciable antecedents of the of the spread of Christendom started more than two thousand years ago

themselves to visit the continent and spread the good news. In Nigeria and precisely in Wase, the team through the Sudan United Missions, (SUM) was able to set up COCIN under the euphoria of SUM which has continued to flourish till present day in history. For more than a decade today, this magnificent body of Christ and the entire body of COCIN family was given birth to several branches which many here today can attest to its wonderful testimony."

Elder Yarima noted that "to the glory of God, COCIN Nassarawa Gwong Jos which despite the gates of hell has continued to attempt to prevail against it particularly considering the complex nature of our surrounding, the church has remained dogged, more determined and well focused. Thus, the Victory Sanctuary has every reason to celebrate today because of what the Lord has continued to do for us."

Earlier in his remarks, the Chief Host who is the RCC/PCC Chairman, Rev. Gyang Yakubu Not admonished Christians to remain dogged even in the midst of contemporary challenges which has continued to bedeviled the body of Christ.

According to him, if Christians in this country remain prayerfully dogged, the devil will never prevail against the church and would remain a failure forever."



## Events People & Places

He added.

In his sermon, former COCIN President, Rev. Prof. Dachollom Datiri warned the body of Christ to continue to live an exemplary life.

Prof. Datiri noted that gone we're the days when Christians should live a life of falsehood and unacceptable to God with impunity.

He recalled his years when he was the leading pastor of the church and appreciated the zeal of the members of the congregation even in the midst of these challenges facing the entire body of Christ.

Also speaking, the chairman of the occasion and Senator representing Plateau North District in the National Assembly, Senator Istifanus Gyang disclosed that COCIN Nassarawa Gwong was among the frontline churches which have remained dear to his heart.

According to him, "the congregation have continued to do me proud and so, I will never hesitate to help them when the need arises. I want to assure you that I will continue to support this church to achieve it's set objective"

Senator Gyang then advised the congregation to remain prayerful as the only weapon to defeating the enemy.

Also in his speech, the Fund raiser, Prof. Clement Dakas, (SAN) appreciated the church for inviting him to serve and promised to support the church to grow and overcome its challenges.

Represented by his wife, Barrister Mrs. Beatrice Dakas who disclosed that they got wedded with her husband in the church also advised Christians to remain steadfast in the Lord so as to emerge victorious in the battles of life.

Even though COCIN Nassarawa Gwong Jos has everything to thank God for in the past 50 years of its journey as a church, this body of Christ still needs to overcome some challenges facing the body of Christ as at today.

Noticeably, the church intends to fortify its security apparatus in case of any threat against it.

Furthermore, there are many other demands in the church which includes repainting of the edifice and providing modern instruments and gadgets of worship to enable the church praise our creator the more.

Therefore, it is hopeful that in the nearest coming years, everything will be put in place for the church to continue propagating the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to the unreached if Christ tarries.

Rev Bot also advised Christian political leaders and politicians to distinguish themselves in their expected obligations and glorify Christ in their service to humanity to continue to please God.

He praised COCIN Nassarawa Gwong for standing out even in the midst of attacks to excel in the past 50 years while hoping for more prosperous years ahead.

In his brief remarks, leading Pastor of COCIN Nassarawa Gwong Jos, Rev Cletus Gwam expressed gratitude to God for His faithfulness over the past 50 years of the church's journey and growth.

He re-emphasized that the celebration was to appreciate God and also encourage the congregation particularly at this challenging moments of the church history.

Rev. Gwam explained that though the church has faced various challenges, through dedicated prayers, it has been able to achieve great success to the glory of God.

He further encouraged the body of Christ to continue to be tenacious and dogged to overcome the intrigues of the enemy with the help of God.

"I must encourage us all that though we will continue to face some challenges, the Lord will continue to see us through as He never sleeps or slumber. We will be victorious at the end of it all."

# IMAGES

## BRITISH AMERICAN FLYOVER

Below are different angles of pictures of the British American Junction captured by The Nigeria Standard photograph on Monday around 5:02pm



Graded lane of the British American dualization road to Lamingo round about, Jos North LGA



Aerial view at the construction site captured



Work in progress at the flyover as at Monday



Company staff on duty during the visit of the photographer



Men at work at one of the sites of the project



Bridge immediately after the flyover being constructed



Work ongoing at the bridge before the Green House



Progress of work on the flyover (British American Junction)

Photos: DANLADI DUK

**Odd World**

**'I booked the same wedding venue as my sister '**



A woman who doesn't see eye to eye with her sister has experienced further frustrations after their partners proposed at around the same time.

Shortly after announcing her own engagement, she discovered her sister was also set to be wed, and that she had booked her ceremony at the venue she herself had wanted for years.

According to the irritated bride-to-be, her 'shallow' parents have always shown favouritism toward her 'much prettier' sister, which has understandably left her feeling 'pretty bitter and distant.'

Exasperated, she brought up the venue issue with her parents, who told her sternly 'to stop being so petty.'

It was in this spirit of pettiness that she decided to just go ahead and book her longed-for venue anyway, one month before her sister's big day.

Taking to Reddit, the woman wrote: "I checked with the venue and there's no way my sister can move the wedding up (they're booked up) and if she changes venues she'll lose her deposit.

"My mother recently reached out to me and implored me to talk to my sister (I blocked her after the first call where she tried to ream me out).

"Apparently, my sister's really distraught and my mum said the least I

could do was try and work something out with my sister, especially over such a huge event. I said no, but my mum said I was being an a\*\*\*\*\* for not even trying to hear her out and for being so stubborn and petty."

The poster - who goes by the username u/Any-Description-2013 - went on to explain that this particular venue means so much to her as her beloved grandparents 'practically raised her', and she always knew she wanted to get married in the same place they did.

Meanwhile, her sister - who now insists the venue 'means the world to her' - had previously stated that she 'couldn't care less' about it, and that she had simply booked it out of convenience.

Still, after learning just how upset her sister is about the whole thing, the poster now wonders if she could have reined in her pettiness a notch.

However, others feel that her sister is in fact the petty one, having known for a long time about the special place the venue held in her heart.

One person wrote: "You were going to book that wedding venue anyway. Sure, you booked the earlier date out of spite but I find it hard to believe your sister wasn't doing the same.

**Source: The Mirror**



**Pharaohs and the rest of us**

AS a Christian, I have formed the habit of looking at historical Biblical stories with keen interest in most recent times. For sure, some of these stories of great men and women of the old have taught us a lot about the changing signs of our time.

While in some cases, such stories have taught us to guard our loins, be diligent and continue to exhibit high sense of responsibility in our anticipated obligations, some have continued to remind us that nothing in this world lasts for ever. Each of these Biblical stories have served as pragmatic source of inspiration in our journey of life.

As such, one of these exciting stories of the Holy Bible found in the Old Testament is none other than that of Pharaoh of Egypt. In the days of Moses who was called by God to liberate the people of Israel from captivity, the end of the entire episode of the liberation of the people of Israel did not turn out a child's play. While for the people of Israel, it was a perfect situation of answered prayers, the Egyptians perspective was that of anguish and sorrow. Come to think of it however, the liberation of the children of Israel in the Red Sea was one of the significant Biblical stories which has continued to remind us not to conclude that God is not interested in the affairs of men.

Pharaoh was so influential and wealthy to a point that he lost touch with reality. Aside the slaves he had working in several fields across Egypt, he also managed spontaneous wealth and power as a ruthless ruler in his time. Amid sycophants who were praising him even when he goes wrong, many were able to benefit from his acts of personal aggrandizement and wealth as the case may be. Unfortunately, he was unable to decode the fact that a moment of transition had come after Moses requested he set the people of God free. Since he had all which humanity needed and could eat and have almost everything at his disposal, he never gave it a thought about other vulnerable subjects of his who had perhaps nothing. Pharaoh had no clue that whatever had a beginning must definitely have an end. Pharaoh must have also forgotten that his time was up even as he had transformed himself into a monster and one of the wicked leaders of ancient history.

Yet, Pharaoh was too power-drunk to appreciate the reality of the fact that his time was up and that he must unconditionally let the Israelis go back home. On the contrary, Pharaoh had concluded that diamonds are forever. At the end of it all however, one of Egypt's wicked rulers was destroyed alongside his family, regiment and other unrepentant sycophants right from his city center to the epic stage of the drama in the Red Sea.

Fast forward this scenario to our contemporary times, we also had rulers in the likes of Idi Amin of Uganda, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, Gaddafi of Libya, and even our own General Sani Abacha of Nigeria who became tyrants and never imagined that power had its eventual end. Throughout their reign, these tyrants never gave it a thought that there is a time and season for everything in this fragile world of ours. Without the fear of God, these ruthless rulers decided the fate of thousands and killed many innocent souls who opposed them.

At the end, all these despots and tyrants were eventually humbled by God in a miserable way and manner. Their fall from grace to grass was a lesson which would not be forgotten for more decades to come. Unfortunately, some of them have been inducted into our history books as leaders who were barbaric and complete failures as far as their obligations to humanity for the better was and or is concern. Fast forward this development to our today, most of our politicians have not learned any lesson from these obvious experiences of the past. Many of them have continued to think that any opportunity given them by God to serve will not go with the wind someday. Some of them also think such lucrative positions which they occupy is but an opportunity to subjugate the common man and make him subservient for life. One is not surprised as many of them have been too engaged to read their Bibles and understand the benefits of becoming servant leaders. Worse of it all is that when an elected official has no developmental blueprint for the possible transformation of his immediate community; the electorates suffers the most. In this case, while such an office holder is knee-deep into looting the scarce economic resources, his people are left wallowing in abject poverty and unending lamentations. No doubt, over 90 percent of the unprecedented difficulties and challenges Nigeria is facing today is attributed to the issue of administrative ingenuity by the political class. It is also not far-fetched that the selfish interest of our political class couple with their retrogressive ideological disposition have contributed to crippling the prospects of this nation. It is unimaginable for instance that despite the huge human and natural resources this country is blessed with; we are still struggling to find our footings in the scheme of things. If one should put into use the amount of monies stolen from our national treasury since the advent of this democratic dispensation in 1999, no Nigerian citizen would have been suffering the way and manner more than half of our population are experiencing at the moment. Unfortunately, many citizens of the nation have become lovers of themselves and careless about the progress of the country. Though we all know that it would be difficult to entrench monarchical democracy and or regional political gimmick in a heterogeneous nation where everyone needs a sense of belonging, some cynics have continued to tow this path to plunge the nation in chaos and a state of anarchy. We cannot continue to dwell on issues which promotes disunity, political imposition and or disrespect to one another and think that it shall be well with us as a struggling developing nation of the world. The truth is; nothing lasts forever and even this tenure of elected political officeholders and the offices they occupy shall always pass away. I wish our political juggernauts and those who govern us with iron first including those who loot our common resources will have a rethink and fear God by doing the needful so that their names will be written in gold when they are no longer occupants of such offices. I wish that our political officeholders will see reason that Nigeria is at the moment sitting on a time bomb where any wrong move will lead to our complete disintegration. Knowing too well the various challenges this country is managing to overcome, it is becoming obvious that we must all sacrifice the little we can for the general interest of the citizens of the nation. If the late President Nelson Mandela who had the opportunity to continue leading South Africa on a platter of gold refused to do so when the ovation was high, it should serve as a lesson to many of our political leaders to emulate. Our leaders must desist from any form of manipulation which is aimed at promoting elitism to the detriment of the common man as has been the case all these years. We must begin to believe in our nation and its prospects and sacrifice the least we can towards laying a solid foundation for national integration and growth of our beloved motherland.

## View Point

# Curbing brain drain in the health sector

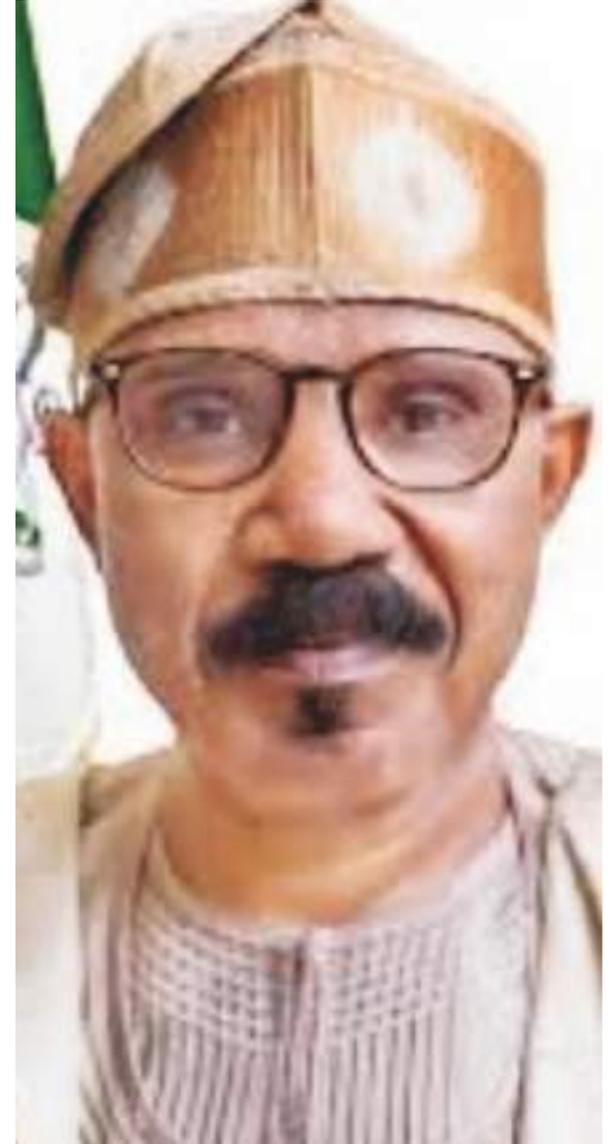
**One of the burning issues currently bedeviling health sector in the country is the phenomenon of brain drain challenge in the health sector. Between 2016 and 2018, Nigeria has lost about 9,000 medical practitioners to the Western communities. Prof. Innocent Ujah, President of the Nigerian Medical Association, (NMA), recently raised concern over the phenomenon which now manifested as brain drain challenge while speaking during the Maiden Annual Lecture of the Nigerian Medical Association, with the theme "Brain drain and Medical Tourism." GODWIN MOSES writes.**



Ujah



Osagie



Mamora

NIGERIA, a nation of over 250 million people has doctor -to-population ratio of 1 doctor to 5000 patients. This is grossly inadequate and unacceptable.

The future of Nigeria and its health sector is at stake. As a matter of urgency, government should pursue transformative policies and direction to deliver on strategic areas of needs which would foster growth and development in the health sector. To protect the interests of the country, we must fall back to engage Nigerian Medical Association, NMA, with a view to addressing issues around funding, salary remuneration, provision of enabling environment and equipment to practise.

Arguably, the political class who consistently embark on medical tourism or often go on trips abroad under the guise of scouting for foreign investors have failed to improve our health sector. This is responsible for the brain drain challenge threatening the Country's health sector. As a nation, curbing brain drain challenge in the health sector and medical tourism will continue to elude us unless something is done to restrict those presently serving in public offices or holding political positions, and members of their families by way of legislation or

policy from accessing health care services abroad till the end of their tenure as this might likely prompt them to do the needful.

The three points identified around brain drain challenge in the health sector are: Under funding. Include poor salary remuneration for medical practitioners and insufficient work equipment. Other reasons include poor work conditions such as deteriorating states of health facilities, shortage of manpower caused by brain drain and underemployment. Practically, challenges of brain drain in the health sector is surmountable in spite of paucity of funds and different competing economic sector demand.

Ethnicity, religion, judicial compromise and lack of political will are the bane of Nigeria's fight against corruption. If leaders or those in corridors of power do diligent work on prosecuting corruption cases to the letter, remove loopholes, block misappropriation and mismanagement of funds in all sectors of the economy, and ensure strategic deployment and timely releases of budgeted funds to health related areas; if they prioritise key health infrastructure projects with multiplier potentials; it will not

only curb the challenge of brain drain in the health sector, and medical tourism but will also return the country on the path of economic and institutional growth and development.

Other measures to reduce medical tourism and brain drain challenge include identifying opportunities for tapping into the potentials of Nigerian medical practitioners abroad, sustain and increase partnership with development partners, reform and restructuring of health care service facilities at all levels- Primary health Care, Cottage

Hospitals and the Tertiary health Care institutions.

Contrary to speculations, Nigeria's medical practitioners credible performance in the management of Ebola and Covid-19 pandemic is an attestation to the competency of our gallant medical practitioners. If accorded the needed motivation and encouragement in terms of proper funding, better salary remuneration, provision of adequate work equipment, they would professionally meet the medical need and expectations of many Nigerians to the point where the Country would attract

people from elsewhere for medical tourism. Till then, achieving Sustainable Development Goal; Number 5 is one of the key areas in which government needs to rebirth.

As we mark World Health Day, let's play our quota to stop pollution, desertification, and other harmful practices to safeguard our planet (environment).

**Godwin Moses is of Media Action for Health, Environment, and Sustainable Development. (MAHESD)**

***"Contrary to speculations, Nigeria's medical practitioners credible performance in the management of Ebola and Covid-19 pandemic is an attestation to the competency of our gallant medical practitioners. If accorded the needed motivation and encouragement in terms of proper funding, better salary remuneration, provision of adequate work equipment, they would professionally meet the medical need and expectations of many Nigerians to the point where the Country would attract people from elsewhere for medical tourism".***



## Visits from two APC Presidential aspirants

WITH Nigeria's political season at the corner, party candidates are busy jostling to secure the ticket for the primaries into various political seats, and with that ambience in the political arena, the APC led Plateau State seat of power at Little Rayfield received two visitors.

The two visitors who are running for the Presidential ticket in the upcoming APC primaries are Nigeria's former Minister for Transport and former Governor of Rivers State, Chibuke Amaechi and Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi.

Both Presidential aspirants who met with Governor Bako Lalong separately addressing party delegates and stakeholders at the Government House Jos said their mission was to canvass for votes support to clinch ticket and the APC Presidential flag in Nigeria's upcoming 2023 elections.

Amechi and his entourage visited Plateau on Thursday 19th May 2022 assuring of his competence to lead the nation and promising to continue to support the state by bringing development projects as he did while Minister.

On his part, Governor Fayemi and Chairman of Nigeria's Governors Forum who came



contested ticket in primary election. Governor Rotimi Fashola

aspirant Simon Lalong and Governor Bako Lalong.

visited May 2022.

to Plateau on Saturday, May 21, 2022 also assured that he will address Nigeria's security challenges using digital technology and other strategies and tackle the security challenges in Plateau and other parts of the country.

Plateau Governor Simon Bako Lalong said Plateau will support candidates who have the interest of his state at heart and described the two visiting aspirants as having the experience and pedigree to clinch the Party's presidential ticket.

### The Military experience at Nigeria Army Small Arms Championship 2022

Governor Lalong was special guest at the 2022 Nigeria Army Small Arms Championship that took place on Monday May 23, 2022 at the Miango shooting range of the 3rd Armoured Division located in Bassa Local Government of Plateau State.

The environment for the bi-annual shooting and training competition was surrounded by display of sophisticated military war equipment and weapons to be used for the exercise which drew high profile military personnel and government functionaries including the paramount ruler of Irigwe land, Bra Ngwe Irigwe, Rev. Ronku Aka, the community where the shooting range is located.

Clad in a military combat uniform, Governor Lalong who was special guest of honour at the forum had a full military experience as he took the military salute as a mark of welcome before entering the premises of the event and was equally made to ceremonially take some gun-shots to declare the championship open.

The gunshots by the competitors was a signal that the event would be one of using different firearms to display shooting skills and expertise.

Expectations at the end of the 5-day competition, which has a historic link to have been started in 1960, would have the best male and female marksmen, shooters or firers emerge and to boost their morale, Governor Lalong donated a financial package to the winners. Governor Lalong also expressed his state's readiness to host such events in the future.



## News

### NMPB bars pregnant women from performing hajj

THE Nasarawa State Muslims Pilgrims Welfare Board has warned that it would drop all identified pregnant women from performing this year's Hajj exercise.

The Executive Secretary of the Board, Mallam Idris Ahmad Almakura gave the warning during the ongoing medical screening exercise in Nasarawa and Keffi Local Governments Areas of the state.

From  
**MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI**

The Nasarawa State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has vowed to withdraw the name of any woman found pregnant during the ongoing medical screening of intending pilgrims.

Addressing intending pilgrims during the medical screening exercise in Nasarawa Local

Governments Area, the Executive Secretary who was represented by the Director Welfare and Orientation of the Board, Alhaji Hassan Shat Sale reiterated that the board will strictly adhere to the directive of NAHCON and the SAUDI Authorities of not allowing pregnant women to partake in the spiritual journey.

Idris Almakura stated that the exercise marked the end of the screening of the intending pilgrims in Nasarawa State and

ONE person was reportedly killed in Billiri LGA of Gombe State Sunday evening when the police were trying to control unruly supporters from the venue of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) primary election for Billiri/Balanga Federal Constituency.

Our correspondent who monitored the exercise which was held at Tangji, on the outskirts of Billiri town, reports that the DPO who supervised the security operations at the venue was badly stoned on his forehead, an action which created rancour that resulted in the shooting of a supporter with one other sustaining serious injuries.

However, confirming the incident, the Gombe State Police Commissioner, Ishola B

### Gombe PDP primaries: DPO stoned, one dead in Billiri

From  
**WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

Babaita, in a telephone conversation with our correspondent, dissociated the killing with the the primary election.

According to him, the killing had nothing to do with the primary election as it was far away from the scene of the primary election.

Meanwhile, the election, which was held under a very tensed atmosphere, saw Honourable Ali Isa JC polling 43 out of the 61 votes cast to beat nine other contestants. While his closest rival, Honourable Rambi Ibrahim

Ayala, polled nine votes.

Winner of the election, Honourable Ali Isa JC, who represented the constituency from 2015 to 2019, promised quality representation if elected again in the 2023 general election just as he thanked the delegates for the confidence bestowed on him.

According to him, the election was a family affair and that they will move in immediately to see how they can move together to work as a team and reconcile themselves.

He said, "you can see eighty percent of the contestants hugged and congratulated me. So I assure you that we are going to come out strong as one team, so the APC should start parking".

But in his reaction, Honourable Rambi Ibrahim Ayala, current member representing Billiri East in the Gombe State House of Assembly, who contested and polled nine votes, alleged the militarization of the whole exercise.

He said the primary election was not a war as it turned out to be. According to him, a fair level playing ground should have been allowed.

Meanwhile, reports from other parts of the state showed that the PDP Primaries for the State Assembly and House of Representatives were relatively peaceful.

### COCIN opens second campus for KKU

By **DUMAH RANDONG**

THE Executive Council of the Church Christ in Nations, COCIN has approved the dissolution of the COCIN Comprehensive College, (CCC) Gindiri in Mangu LGA to serve as the second campus of the Karl Kumm University.

This was disclosed by the COCIN President, Rev Dr Amos Mohzo at the 101st GGC of the church recently in Jos.

This followed a memo by the Board of Trustee of the University to the General Church Council, the highest

decision making body of the church for ratification.

The request for the establishment of a second campus for KKU, according to the Executive Council was to forestall further sanctions by the National Universities Commission, NUC adding that the University could not coexist with CCC Gindiri.

Others according to the COCIN President, EC has requested definition of "host community" in respect of KKU as a faith based University to

be the host Regional Church Council in which the campuses were located and to have the RCCs produce on an alternative bases, active COCIN members in good standing to serve on the Governing Council.

Dr Mohzo also gave an update on progress made to reopen the University which has remained closed since June, 2021, said discussions were ongoing towards the amicable resolution of the issues that led to the closure of the KKU.



**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 (21) days of from the date hereof.

<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> GODFREY DENAN FYAMMANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th July, 2021. At PSSH, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> DENAN MARVELLOUS GODFREY & PAULINA GODFREY DENAN All of Anglo Jos, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> SALOME EMMANUEL DATTI late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th March, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> DATTI USENI EMMANUEL of Vel Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> NWEKE ROSELINE CHIJIJOKE of Anambra State. Died on the 29th May, 2004. At Dunukofia, Anambra State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> CHRISTIANA ASIEGBU CHUKWUNYEAKA OF JF 50 Apata Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> GALADIMA AYUBA ARUM late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th October, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> GALADIMA ATONG FAITH of COCIN Church Jos, Jarawa, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> PATRICK PUTLAGHAM KWAHARENG late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th September, 2016 at Dikibin, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> FLORA GODSAVE DAMS behind Anglo Jos Police Barracks Jos south LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> LAOGUN GEORGE AKONOLA late of Abuja, FCT. Died on the 18TH February, 2022 at FCT, Abuja.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> GEORGE LUCY JWANSE of New Layout First Bank Street Jebbu Bassa, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> HALADU SHITU UMAR late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st November, 2021 at PSSH, Jos.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> SHITU MUHAYAADEEN of Filling Sukuwa Bauchi Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> LUKA GO'AR LAPKAT late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th February, 2022 at Kaduna State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> LINDA AMEH LAPKAT of Gura Topp Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> CHUKWUEMEKA CHAMBERLAIN OKONKWO late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th February, 2012 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> KENENNA OKONKWO & CHIMEKA OKONKWO No. 10 Ibekamalu close Rumulepirikom Port Harcourt. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> EMMANUEL BABAJIDE VICTOR late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th December, 2020 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> YEMISI EMMANUEL of near ECWA Church Jenta Adamu, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sister of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> INSP. CHARLES ATAMA EJIM late of Kaduna state. Died on the 4th November, 2021 at NAF Base, Kaduna State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> BLESSING ATAMA ENNENDI & USHIZIE BASSEY ATAMA of No. 16 Auta Alkali Street, Farin Gada Mado Kaduna State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> SAGIR IDRIS ABUBAKAR late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th January, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> RILWAN IDRIS ABUBAKAR of 92/10/Ajayi Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> SAIDU AUWALU ALHAJI late of Adamawa state. Died on the 3rd February, 2019 at Maiduguri, Borno State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> BUHARI AUWAL SAIDU & AISHA AUWAL SA'ED second gate Dadin Kowa Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> DAVID ISA late of Kaduna State. Died on the 18th Dec., 2019 at Kaduna State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> NANK LING DAVID of Sabon Zawan, Sanga LGA, Kaduna State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> AUTA TIMOTHY also known as TIMOTHY MGHELIA AUTA late of Borno State. Died on the 18th January, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> RAHILA TIMOTHY SUNDAY & FILAH TIMOTHY of Angware Jos East LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> CHIKELUBA BENEDITH OKWUBANEGO late of Plateau state. Died on the 14th December, 2021 at OLA Hospital, Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> ROSELINE IFEYINNA OKWUBANEGO No. W 60 Busa Buji Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> INSP. AMOS REUBEN late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd June, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> DANLAMI BLESSING DAVURUK & DANLAMI MICHAEL DAVURUK of COCIN LCC Daika Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> AYUBA KUDU late of Plateau State. Died on 16th, December, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> KUDU ANKO SHADRACH of No. 7 Dogon Dutse Nassarawa Gwong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful nephew of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> MUSA ESTHER TSI late of Plateau state. Died on the 8th December, 2013 at at ECWA Hospital, Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> ESTHONS ENDURANCE PHEEYIDI of former Utan Police Station Compound, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> ABOJE OCHAGWUBA late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th January, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> FRANCA OJOBO & ISAAC ELIA OCHAGWUBA of Apata Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> CHOJI NASH late of Plateau State. Died on 4th September, 2007 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> YOHANNA CHOJI NASH of COCIN Church Zobot Foron Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> USMAN EGBUNU NDA late of Plateau state. Died on the 10th April, 2022 at Bida Niger State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> VICTORIA AYI EGBUNU o No. 82 Lahuru Heipang Airport Road Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> YAKUBU BYENNAN BOLGANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th April, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> VENSEL GONO of No. 4A Fullier Estate Asaka Karo LGA, Nassarawa State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> SALE CHOLLOM DUNG late of Plateau State. Died on 5th December, 2021 at General Hospital Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> JAMES HABILA CHOLLOM of Dorowa Tsoho Fan, Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> PASTOR TITUS NTANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th January, 2020 at Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> NAOMI TITUS NTANG of COCIN Church Kulben Kombun, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> GBRIKA SIMON late of Plateau State. Died on 20TH Februry, 2022 at Warri, Delta State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> GBRIKA OGHENEVWEGBA EJIMIYERE of Tudun Wada Angwan Miango, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> LARAI DANLADI late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th April, 2021 at General Hospital Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> NA'ANPAN DANLADI KUTDAN of Sabon Kasuwa, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> SGT IBRAHIM WILLIAMS late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th May, 2017 at Lagos State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> EMMANUEL IBRAHIM of No. 34T Dadin Kowa Last Gate Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> DANLAMI SHEDRACH late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd July, 2020 at Langtang, South LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> PANSHAK PETER DASEN of Tingpol Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> NELSON ANDAK BAKFUR late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th December, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> YUSUFU ANDAK BAKFUR of COCIN Church Kerang Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

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

## Sports

### Valverde unhappy with Salah's comments

REAL Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde believes Mohamed Salah's comment on social media, where he said the Reds "have a score to settle" with the La Liga champions in the Champions League final shows a lack of respect for the opponent's badge.

Goal said that, the 23-year-old Uruguay international insists Los Blancos have to prove a point by winning their game against the Reds.

The Liverpool forward showed his desire to play Los Blancos in the final instead of their semi-final opponents Manchester City, hoping to avenge the 3-1 loss to the same opponents in the final in 2018.

In that defeat, the 29-year-old was forced early after sustaining a shoulder injury following a cynical challenge by Sergio Ramos.

Valverde believes the best way to reply to the Egypt captain is by ensuring they win the game on May 28 at Stade de France.

"Obviously they are words that everyone can take however they want. I'm his opponent and it's like disrespecting the Real Madrid badge, the players," the 23-year-old Uruguay international said as quoted by Anfield Watch.

"The only thing we must do is



Salah

give our best, try to show why we're in the final, and let's hope we can give another trophy to the fans and to Real Madrid."

In his recent interview with beIN Sports, the Egypt skipper explained what he meant.

"When [I said] I wish we could face Real Madrid, this was as if I said something wrong about them," Salah stated.

"I am talking about the strongest team in Champions League history, and I said that because of what happened before [in

the 2018 final in Kyiv].

"The only thing we must do is give our best, try to show why we're in the final and let's hope we can give another trophy to the fans and to Real Madrid."

Liverpool made it to the final after a 5-2 aggregate win over Villarreal in the semis while Real Madrid advanced thanks to their total 6-5 victory against the Pep Guardiola's Premier League champions.

Jürgen Klopp's side would finish with a treble of cups should they beat Madrid, having already won the

JURGEN Klopp claims second place is the "story of my life" after seeing Liverpool pipped to another Premier League title by Manchester City, but the Reds boss says his side will "go again" with more silverware for the top play for this season.

Goal said that, a thrilling end to the 2021-22 season saw the Reds miss out on the Premier League crown, but they have still enjoyed a successful season.

The men from Merseyside appeared to be in a position at one stage on a thrilling final day in 2021-22 where they could snatch first place from their north-west rivals, with Aston Villa - led by Steven Gerrard and including Philippe Coutinho in their ranks - taking a 2-0 lead at the Etihad Stadium.

Liverpool eventually completed their job by seeing off Wolves 3-1, but City staged another stirring fightback to claim a stunning 3-2 win on home soil and claim the crown by a solitary point - the second time they have achieved that feat in the space of four seasons.

Reflecting on a race that saw Liverpool fall narrowly short, Klopp told Sky Sports: "Congratulations to Man City and Pep Guardiola. Thank you to Aston Villa and Wolverhampton for making a proper game of it.

"It's not the result we wanted. It was a bit of a rollercoaster. I don't know the result exactly but I know they were 1-0 up - were they 2-0 up as well? Of course at the moment there's disappointment there as well.

### Klopp vows to 'go again' in title bid



Klopp

"If it's 5-0 to City after 10 minutes it's just a normal game for us. It wasn't our best game either, but it's all good. 92 points is absolutely incredible. We wanted it all, but now it's OK.

"[Finishing second] is the story of my life. I'm still the record holder for not getting promoted in Germany with the highest points tally. You need to get more points than any other teams, but we didn't do that. "You can't do more than give your absolute best and that's what the boys did again. We chased the best team in the world to the wire, that's absolutely special. We'll build a team again and go again."

While missing out on the Premier League title, the Reds have already lifted the Carabao Cup and FA Cup while also having a Champions League final date with Real Madrid to come on May 28.

Klopp added: "If we'd known the situation before the season I probably would have said I'll take that - although I'm not too sure with the league. If you want to win big, you have to be ready to lose big. That's what we did today.

"It's all about reacting. We can't react in the league tomorrow, but next year we can.

"I've already told them 500 million

times. This is the best group I've ever had. It's a joy to come into work every morning. We need a solid basis to react to defeats. We know why we didn't make it - we needed a bit more consistency in the first half of the season.

"There's space for improvement and we'll work on that. It's really cool when you don't need 10 changes, you just build on what you have. That's what we'll do.

"If people on the outside don't understand how special this club is, I can't help them. Hopefully now, we'll get our third trophy of the season."

Liverpool could only use Mohamed Salah off the bench against Wolves, as he came onto score and claim a share of the Premier League Golden Boot, while Virgil van Dijk was an unused substitute and Fabinho was not involved at all.

Klopp will be hoping to have all of those key men available to him against Real, but Spanish playmaker Thiago Alcantara may be missing at Stade de France after picking up a knock shortly before half-time.

"I think he'll be out of the final but I don't know," said Klopp.

"He's limping, so it's maybe not the best sign."

### Iwobi describes season as 'most mentally challenging'

Everton winger Alex Iwobi has described the just concluded Premier League season as the "most mentally challenging of my career" after his side were in the relegation battle.

Goal revealed that, the 26-year-old Super Eagle played a key role as he featured in the last 12 top-flight matches and help the Toffees keep their status.

The 26-year-old Nigeria international was in the thick of things for the Toffees and their safety was confirmed with a game to spare after they defeated Crystal Palace 3-2 at

Goodison Park last week.

Everton headed into their final game of the season against Arsenal having confirmed their safety and despite losing 5-1, Iwobi admitted he was proud to have helped the team keep their status in the top-flight.

"The most mentally challenging season of my career so far is over and I'm proud to have come out of the other side stronger, sharper, and hungrier than ever!"

Iwobi wrote on his [Twitter handle](#).

Under Frank Lampard,

Iwobi enjoyed enough play-time as he started and finished Everton's last 12 matches in the Premier League.

The 12 matches include the 1-0 win against Newcastle United, 2-1 defeat against West Ham United, 3-2 defeat against Burnley, 1-0 victory against Manchester United, 1-1 draw against Leicester City, and 2-0 defeat against Liverpool. The rest included a 1-0 victory against Chelsea, 2-1 victory against Leicester, 0-0 draw against Everton, 3-2 defeat against Brentford, 3-2 win against Palace, and the most recent 5-1 defeat against Arsenal at the Emirates.

The Super Eagle made 28 appearances overall and accumulated 2,037 minutes of playing time. He started in 22 of these appearances across their 38 fixtures and entered as a substitute on six occasions.

In total, he has notched two Premier League goals this term and chipped in with two assists. Iwobi last scored in the league in the 1-0 win against Newcastle United on March 17, netting in the 99th minute.

He opened his account for the campaign against Wolverhampton Wanderers on November 1, scoring during a 2-1 defeat. In last season's Premier League, Iwobi

featured in 30 games for Everton, scored one goal, and provided two assists.

He joined Everton from Arsenal after signing a five-year contract on August 8, 2019, and 15 days after penning the deal, he made his debut for the Toffees as a substitute for the final half-hour in place of Gylfi Sigurdsson in a 2-0 defeat against Aston Villa.

### Sports Minister hosts victorious flying eagles, scrabble teams

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare, Monday received the national U-20 male team, the Flying Eagles and the all-conquering Scrabble Team to the West African championships in Ghana at the Minister's Conference Room inside the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

While the Ladan Bosso-tutored U-20 team flew over the Junior Squirrels of Benin Republic by 3 goals to 1 in Friday's final of the WAFU U-20 tournament in Niamey, Niger Republic, the Nigeria Scrabble team proved their mettle again at the West African championships in Accra, Ghana.

The Nigerian scrabble team won the top nine places during the competition thus emerging as the overall best and Nigeria's Eta Karo emerged the championships' Most Valuable Player (MVP).

The honorable minister commended the president, Scrabble Federation of Nigeria, the technical team and the players for showing commitment, and patriotism in sweeping the nine titles out of ten.

"The Federal Government and the Ministry of Sport is

set to renew its commitment and support for the Scrabble Federation of Nigeria and its players. To be number 8 in the top twenty countries on the scrabble is not a joke as their performance in Accra Ghana has helped to validate Nigeria's position on the global scale of scrabble." The minister said.

Dare urged the team to find and mentor younger potential scrabble players to enable the country to dominate the scene of

scrabble games.

The scrabble team was received at 11am while the Flying Eagles arrived at 12pm.

While describing Nigeria as the best scrabble playing nation in the whole world, the President, Scrabble Federation of Nigeria, Chief Olobatoka Aka revealed that out of the ten prizes that were provided for about 40 participants, the Nigerian team took 9 away leaving them with one.



Iwobi



Dare

Sports

# French Open: Raducanu wins thriller in first round

EMMA Raducanu showed fight and spirit to come back from a set down and win on her senior debut at the French Open against Czech teenager Linda Noskova.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the British number one Raducanu, 19, twice trailed by a set and a break, but dug deep to eventually win 6-7 (4-7) 7-5 6-1 on the Roland Garros clay.

"It was an absolute battle. I'm proud of the way I fought," Raducanu said.

The US Open champion will face Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus in the second round.

Raducanu, seeded 12th, sealed a memorable victory on her first match point with a forehand winner that wrongfooted 17-year-old Noskova.

It left the Briton jumping for joy in celebration after coming through a scrap that ranks as one of her finest victories since winning the Grand Slam title in New York last year.

"Linda really came out there firing and as soon as I dropped my ball speed she was all over me," Raducanu said.

"It was really challenging in the second set - I'm really proud of how I fought but all props to Linda."

While Raducanu has achieved so much already in her short professional career, she continues to break new ground and the latest is playing among the world's best at Roland Garros.

The 19-year-old only made her top-level debut on the clay during Great Britain's Billie Jean King Cup tie against the Czech Republic last month, following that up with some positive performances in Stuttgart and Madrid.



Raducanu

This was Raducanu's best win on the surface yet. Not only because she came back from a losing position against a talented opponent but also considering a back injury had "thrown into doubt" her participation at the clay-court Grand Slam.

Raducanu broke serve in the first game of the match and threatened to move into a 3-0 lead before Noskova held off three break points to escape with a gritty hold.

Noskova, who won the 2021 girls' title at Roland Garros, levelled at 2-2 after a poor service game meant the Briton's encouraging start was not reflected on the scoreboard.

Conditions turned as rain started to come down on a chilly Paris afternoon and

Raducanu - because of her back issue - appeared keen to go off court rather than wait around for a decision.

"I was quite surprised we stayed on. It was quite slippery at the baseline and I just wanted to be extra cautious. I didn't want to take any risks," she said.

"I am pretty pleased with how I was out there physically and I feel really good."

Despite the shower, the players remained on court and it was Noskova who dealt better with the change of weather.

From holding a 4-2 lead, Raducanu found herself 5-4 behind and Noskova went on to win the tie-break following a flurry of winners off both wings.

# Osaka unsure on Wimbledon after ranking points decision

FOUR-time major winner Naomi Osaka is not sure she will play Wimbledon, saying that without ranking points it is "more like an exhibition".

**BBC SPORT** said that, the ATP and WTA stripped the points after Wimbledon banned Russian and Belarusian players over Russian's invasion of Ukraine.

Osaka did not criticise the move but said earning points was a motivation.

"The intention of this measure was good, but the execution is all over the place," she said.

"I feel like if I play Wimbledon without points, it's more like an exhibition. I know this isn't true, right? But my brain just like feels that way. Whenever I think like something is like an

exhibition, I just can't go at it 100%.

"I didn't even make my decision yet, but I'm leaning more towards not playing given the current circumstances."

Former world number one Osaka, 24, was speaking after her first-round defeat by Amanda Anisimova at the French Open on Monday.

The Japanese player is 38th in the world rankings after taking several breaks from the sport last year to protect her mental health.

"I would say the decision is kind of affecting my mentality going into grass. I'm not 100% sure if I'm going to go there," Osaka

said.

"I would love to go just to get some experience on the grass court, but at the same time I'm the type of player that gets motivated by seeing my ranking go up."

Players will receive ranking points from the grass-court events held in the UK in the build-up to Wimbledon, which starts on 27 June.

Poland's Iga Swiatek, who has a huge lead at the top of the WTA rankings, said: "For me, it's Wimbledon. It's one of the most important tournaments in the season. I'm OK playing without points."

"But there is war going on. So I look at it more from that way than what's going happen on rankings."

Men's world number one Novak Djokovic also said he "intends" to play at Wimbledon.

"Yes, I intend to go to Wimbledon," the Serb said after [beating Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka](#) in his French Open first-round match.

However, he added the tournament's decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players was a "mistake".

"On a personal, individual level, I have been very negatively affected by that," said the 20-time Grand Slam champion, who stands to lose 2,000 ranking points because of the decision.



Naomi Osaka did not play at Wimbledon in 2021

## US PGA Championship

# Thomas beats Zalatoris in a play-off



Justin Thomas trailed leader Mito Pereira by seven shots heading into the final round

AMERICAN Justin Thomas staged a record-equalling fightback before beating Will Zalatoris in a play-off to win the US PGA Championship at Southern Hills.

BBC SPORT said that, Thomas trailed by seven at the start of the day but posted a three-under 67 to set the clubhouse target at five under.

Chile's Mito Pereira looked set to win a first major title but double-bogeyed the 18th after hitting his tee shot into a creek to finish at four under.

England's Matt Fitzpatrick (73) and Tommy Fleetwood (67) ended three under.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, who led the tournament after a five-under-par 65 on the opening day, closed with a 68 to finish eighth at two under in Oklahoma.

Thomas was one over after six holes on Sunday but had four birdies in his final 10 holes to fire his way to the top of the leaderboard, with Zalatoris hanging on to also finish on five under and capitalise on Pereira's capitulation.

But it was the world number nine who prevailed in the three-hole shootout, making a decisive birdie on the 17th to claim his second major after also winning this event in 2017.

"It was a bizarre day," said Thomas, who equalled John Mahaffey's record of coming

from seven behind to win the 1978 US PGA title, also in a play-off, at Oakmont.

"Bones [Thomas' caddie] did an unbelievable job of just keeping me in the moment. We just tried to play the golf course for what it is..

"It's funny, I was asked earlier in the week about what lead is safe, and I said, 'no lead'. This place is so tough. But if you hit the fairways you can make birdies and I stayed so patient, I just couldn't believe I found myself in a play-off."

The nerve-shredding moments that will define this major for Pereira came on the 17th green and 18th tee.

A birdie putt that would have handed him a two-shot lead going down the last pulled up a couple of centimetres short before his drive a few moments later found water, ultimately sinking the world number one becoming the first Chilean to win a major title.

"I don't know what happened. I thought I hit it really good," the 27-year-old said of his last tee shot. "On Monday, I just wanted to make the cut. On Sunday, I just wanted to win."

As his ball was settling in the creek, Zalatoris was on the 18th green rolling in a gutsy par putt to match Thomas on five under, while the former champion immediately headed to the driving range in preparation for a play-off.

Pereira only made the switch from the PGA Tour's feeder Korn Ferry Tour last summer and his best finish of 2022 before this event

was a share of 13th at last month's Texas Open, but he started the day with a three-stroke lead over Fitzpatrick on just his second major start.

Zalatoris, also a relative newcomer but now with five top-10s in eight major starts, had wiped that out by the time he reached the sixth tee, only to bogey the tricky par-three hole in bizarre circumstances.

An errant tee shot led to a 15-minute discussion with a rules official over where to drop his ball and he eventually made a superb up-and-down from a cart path.

From there it became a grind for the leaders, with Pereira just about keeping his nose in front despite Cameron Young briefly joining the lead and Thomas appearing on the horizon thanks to his bogey-free back nine.

That was until the par-four 18th, where Pereira's unravelling led to a six that saw him miss out on the play-off, leaving Zalatoris and Thomas to scrap it out over three holes.

Both birdied the par-five 13th before Thomas drove the green at the 302-yard 17th and two-putted for a birdie that Zalatoris could not match, before holding his nerve with a par on the 18th to clinch his second Wanamaker Trophy.

"I've been knocking on the door in these majors for a little while and one's going to come soon," said Zalatoris. "To come up one short, it stings, but I know we're going to get one soon."



**Quest**



writer

**Bishop Matthew Hassan KUKAH**

FRAGMENT

**"The greatest source of tension in Nigeria has been the lack of an adequate power sharing mechanism to institutionalize and guarantee the pursuit of a good society based on justice, equity and fairness. Whereas other parts of Nigeria have tended to concentrate on democracy and the building of a secular state, the Muslims in Nigeria have focused more on some form of a theocracy and a variant of feudalism."**

**BISHOP MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH**

# Christian-Muslim relations: Nigerian situation

**T**HE institution of the Secretariat for Non-Christians on May 17th 1964 marked a major turning point in the history of the Church's view of its missionary life. The further publication of *Nostra Aetate* on October 28th, 1965 blazed the trail for the commitment of the Catholic Church to dialogue. As fallout of the Second Vatican Council, it is important to examine the impact of the Council on Christian Muslim relations.

If we are to be guided by the empirical evidence, it will be right to say that after almost fifty years, not much progress has been made in the way of dialogue. What is more, it also seems that the conversation has been unidirectional, that is, that it is the Catholic Church which has been responsible for almost all the initiatives towards with Islam.

This short paper, assessing the impact of dialogue between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria will focus first of all in briefly tracing the origins of this dialogue. Secondly, I will examine the content of the dialogue forums in Nigeria that is the key issues around which dialogue has been formulated in Nigeria. Thirdly, I will examine the agents of dialogue by looking at the institutional infrastructure for dialogue in our country. Finally, I will look at the challenges dialogue in a multi ethnic and multiparty environment as we have in Nigeria.

## Origins of Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Nigeria:

The history of the relation between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria is closely tied to the history of the Nigerian state. The tensions generated by the colonial state laid the foundations for most of the tensions that still persist today. Before the emergence of the colonial state, the relations between the peoples of what would later become Northern Nigeria were marked by the conflict, war and violence that were the hallmark of the establishment of the Sokoto caliphate

The British colonial state was built on a mutual suspicion between the colonial state and the Muslim community because of the violence that attended the process of the establishment of the state. The colonial state, for economic and political reasons soon made common cause with the conquered Fulani ruling class. To consolidate this relations and to further exploit its economic



**Rev. Ayukunle, CAN President**

benefits, the colonialists propped up the existing feudal system that they had overthrown by a power sharing mechanism that entrenched their powers by designing an architecture of power that subordinated the non-Muslim communities across the Middle belt to the structure of feudal power that would later be known as the Emirate system. Large swathes of lands and communities who had successfully repelled the Fulani ruling classes in wars were now parceled out and brought under the rule of Emirs. An understanding of the history of this injustice is fundamental to appreciating the reaction of say, the peoples of the Plateau to the situation in Plateau state today. The decision by the colonial state to further create the *Sabon Gari* (strangers' quarters) system of exclusion and separation in pursuit of a policy known as *non-interference* further deepened and widened the chasm of fear and suspicion between Christians and Muslims in Northern Nigeria

In 1964, the Muslims set up the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (Society for the Victory of Islam, JNI) as an association to defend and protect the interests of Muslims. It would later expand to include Muslims outside northern Nigeria and transform itself into the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA).

Thus, even before Nigerian independence, and after, the political struggles of the peoples of the Middle Belt were tied to



**Abubakar, Sultan of Sokoto**

unwinding these foundations of injustice: this explains the struggle for a Middle Belt Region and also accounts for why the first political association to be formed in the region was known as the Non-Muslim League<sup>3</sup>. The Northern ruling class had shown that it was not willing to create any distinction between the boundaries of Muslim culture and politics in Nigeria. The non-Muslims, feeling left out and treated very clearly as outsiders, decided to seek common cause by also defining their own identity. While the political class struggled within politics, seeking a new political space, the Christians on the other hand, sensing and feeling discriminated against on the basis of their religion, decided to also seek a platform for defining their identity and asserting their rights and freedoms.

Thus, within the Christian community, this struggle for freedom found expression in the setting up of the Northern Christian Association. Its objectives were the protection and preservation of the rights of Christians in the North. It is important to note of course that this was in keeping with the regional nature of the politics of the time. The details of this association, the subsequent politics at the national level are outside the scope of this short presentation but it will be helpful to look at how these relationships have shaped up at a national level. To do this, I will highlight

some key areas where these contestations have taken place.

## Religion and the Politics of Power sharing:

The greatest source of tension in Nigeria has been the lack of an adequate power sharing mechanism to institutionalize and guarantee the pursuit of a good society based on justice, equity and fairness. Whereas other parts of Nigeria have tended to concentrate on democracy and the building of a secular state, the Muslims in Nigeria have focused more on some form of a theocracy and a variant of feudalism.

Politics in Nigeria has been dominated by region, religion and ethnicity. Whereas others navigate around the themes of ethnicity or region, the Muslims continue to talk about one North which, intrinsically, is synonymous with Islam. The anxieties of the non-Muslim minorities still persist largely because, whereas they are geographically considered to be part of the North, they do not believe that they are getting a fair share in the power game because of their religious affiliation. And, clearly, those within the Middle Belt who have become Muslim, as it is the case in parts of Benue, Adamawa, Plateau and others, have seen a noticeable change in their bureaucratic, professional, economic or political lives. This remains an area of tension.

At the national level, the perceived monopoly and

domination of the levers of power by the Muslim North has remained a matter of concern for others in the country. For example, Nigeria has had a total of 13 heads of State. Out of this total only 5 have been Christians. Under the military, General Gowon was the only non-Muslim who became the Head of State. Some of these concerns have filtered into the discussions surrounding the Jonathan Presidency the rise of the Boko Haram insurgency which has been subjected to various interpretations. Clearly, these anxieties account for a substantial percentage of the crisis of confidence between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria.

## Religion and State Policy: The Sharia Law:

The issues of the role and place of Islamic law since the conquest and displacement of the Sokoto caliphate and the subsequent emergence of the colonial state have been a source of concern to all sides in the Nigerian project. All Constitutional debates about the future of the country have always been marred by the debate over the status and place of Islamic Law in the statutes.

While Muslims have presented the application of Sharia law as a *conditio sine qua non* for a stable polity and a guarantee of justice, non-Muslims have come to see it as a grand design to acquire, control and monopolize power by the Muslim elites. Their conduct before, during and after these debates have shown very clearly that in the main, the call for the application of Sharia law has always been at best, a gimmick for political mobilization. For the politicians on both sides, this issue has come to be seen as a platform for perceived compromise among the elites but also as a viable strategy for mobilization.

Two examples will suffice. In 1978, at the height of the Sharia debate in the National Assembly, all the Muslim delegates walked out of the Assembly. They finally came back, negotiated some favorable terms and the matter was resolved. Interestingly, all but two of the members of the Committee that resolved the crisis ended up as members of the National Party of Nigeria, NPN. A key member, Alhaji Aliyu Shagari who also walked out was later to become the President of Nigeria the following year.

**Continued next week**