

# Dadu'ut sympathizes with NUJ



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## 'Cancel zoning, bury Nigeria'



Clark

The Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum (SMBLF) has issued a stern warning to those trying to do away with the zoning of the presidency in the country, saying any attempt to end zoning, as being insinuated in some northern quarters, would spell the end for Nigeria.

The leaders condemned a statement credited to the chairman of the Northern Elders Forum (NEF), Alhaji Ango Abdullahi, that rotation of the presidency between the north and south was "dead and buried". They declared that another eight years of northern presidency, after President Muhammadu Buhari, was unacceptable.

The position of the leaders was contained in a joint statement Monday by National Leader, Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), and Chairman, SMBLF, Chief Edwin Clark; leader of Afenifere, Chief Ayo Adebajo; President-General, Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide, Professor George Obiozor; and National President, Middle Belt Forum, Pogu Bitrus.

They said they were prepared for those attempting to upturn a practice - zoning - that had sustained the country. The group warned that any attempt to kill and bury the age-long power rotation agreement between the north and south was tantamount to an attempt to kill and bury Nigeria.

SMBLF warned that the move to tinker with the

rotation of the presidency was inimical to national unity.

The Southern and Middle Belt leaders also warned Abdullahi's NEF, and wondered if the northern body was now out to dissolve the country.

The statement said, "SMBLF says it is rather unfortunate and absurd that Ango Abdullahi and his Northern Elders Forum would make such twaddle. Are they now ready to dissolve the country? What has happened that zoning, which has been a *sine qua non* in the nation's political progression, has now become a 'dead and buried' issue, in the irrational contemplations of Ango Abdullahi and his co-travellers? It has become necessary to underscore that Ango Abdullahi, with his established disposition of inconsistency and duplicity, is one of the people disturbing the polity and peace of Nigeria.

"A few days ago, this same Ango fumbled with the idea of a so-called

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# Find terrorists, eliminate them

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

This is as the Senate

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

President Buhari, while

interacting with journalists, after observing the Eid prayers at the Mambila Barracks Parade Ground, Abuja, in commemoration of the Eidel- Fitr, said it was necessary to make the country safer especially

**-Buhari**

now that the rains have started coming. He noted that farmers must be assured of their safety as they return to the farms in

Cont'd on Page 2



President Muhammadu Buhari (right) putting heads together with his Vice, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo last week during the APC NEC meeting at the State House, Abuja PHOTO: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA

## Passengers escape as fire guts plane in Port-Harcourt

No fewer than 50 passengers were rescued when fire gutted the tyres of an aircraft operated by Dana Airlines Limited in Port Harcourt on Monday evening. The incident occurred at the Port Harcourt airport with no life lost and no passenger injured.

A statement by Dana Air

spokesman, Kingsley Ezenwa, confirmed the incident.

Titled 'Press statement on Port Harcourt incident of 2/5/22', the statement explained the aircraft had been grounded pending the conclusion of their investigations.

It partly reads: "Our aircraft with registration

number 5N JOY operating flight 9J 344 from Port Harcourt to Lagos on 2nd of May 2022, was set to take off when the pilot in command noticed an anomaly which he queried with the Air Traffic Control before embarking on a ramp return in line with our strict safety operating

procedures.

"However, the impact on the brakes as a result of the aborted take-off affected the aircraft tyres which sparked off while the aircraft was taxiing to repark

"All 50 passengers onboard the aircraft disembarked safely and our maintenance team

have immediately grounded the aircraft pending the conclusion of their investigations.

"Once again, we sincerely apologize to all the passengers on the flight for the inconveniences caused due to the eventual cancellation of the flight."



## News

## Find terrorists, eliminate them

Cont'd from Page 1

-Buhari

country to secure the country's food production.

He said: "We'll continue to make the environment secure, especially when the rainy season is coming, so that farmers can go back to their farms and we wouldn't have problem of food security."

"Heads of the services; Army, Navy, Air Force, the Inspector-General of Police and so on, are very much aware of the situation. It is their duty to know where the terrorists are and eliminate them."

The President who assured of free, fair and

transparent polls in 2023 also emphasised that he would hand over peacefully to "the person that Nigerians elect".

Meanwhile, Lawan's reaction was in response to the insinuations that he may be joining the Presidential race in 2023 in an interaction with State House Correspondents, at the President at the Villa. Asked specifically to comment on his rumoured Presidential ambition, the Senate President said: "I thought you were going to ask me about what we want to do."

Cont'd from Page 1

consensus arrangement for northern presidential aspirants, he has not come out of it. Now he has sprung up with this reckless statement that zoning is dead and buried. Ango and his northern elders do not have the power to kill and bury zoning. If they want to kill and bury Nigeria, then we are ready for them."

The elder statesmen stated that the "history of zoning between the north and the south is well-known to everybody in this country and has been respected by all the major political parties in Nigeria." They recalled that all the ruling political parties from the Second Republic, such

## 'Cancel zoning, bury Nigeria'



Southern, Middle-Belt leaders

as the now defunct National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and the current opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), had adhered to the principle of zoning.

The elders also accused the national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Abdullahi Adamu, of outright dishonesty and chicanery for saying APC had not decided the zoning of the presidency.

According to SMBLF, "More so, earlier this year, the nation and global audience were told by Governor Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State on a national/satellite television station, Channels Television, that zoning of the party and political elective offices exists in the APC."

"The governor further hinted that all the positions earlier held by the north would be swapped with the south and vice versa. And this was inclusive of the presidency. That was the reason why only northerners vied for the national chairmanship of the party, which was zoned to the north and micro-zoned to the North-central, during the party's national convention in March this year."

"Sadly, we are now being

told by the new national chairman of the APC, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, that the APC has not decided on the zoning of the presidency. Such a statement at this stage, with about 30 days to the presidential primaries, is disconcerting. Who are they trying to deceive and who will allow them?"

"It becomes even more upsetting given the fact that the statement came from someone who himself emerged as National Chairman of the APC through the policy of rotation and zoning."

The southern leaders added, "It is haughty for anybody to say that this is the time to consider the quality of candidates. Where in Nigeria is deficient in quality candidates? Is it the south or the north? Everyone of the individuals from the south, who has indicated interest to contest for the presidency, both in APC and in PDP, is qualified to be President of Nigeria."

"They should stop their trickery. Enough is enough! We cannot have a northerner president for eight years and then welcome another northern president for another eight years or more. That is unacceptable to us. We, therefore, strongly caution all our governors, former

governors, and top politicians not to accept the vice presidency nomination from any northern presidential candidate.

"We urge the 17 southern governors, who unanimously declared that the presidency must come to the south in May last year, at Asaba, Delta State, to remain resolute. They have our absolute support for the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders' Forum and we stand firmly by them. This country belongs to all of us!"

"Let everybody take this as a serious warning that the issue of zoning cannot be swept under the carpet; it cannot be dead and buried, if zoning is buried, Nigeria is, then, buried. And if they are thinking that this is a joke, let it be known that it is not. If we cannot abide by the established principle of rotation and zoning between the north and the south, then we should not continue with one Nigeria; we should go back to what we were as a people before the amalgamation of 1914."

"We also earnestly call on the people of the Middle Belt Region and all minorities in Nigeria to wake up and work conscientiously with the southerners, if we do, the prospects will be pellucid. This was demonstrated at the National Conference of 2014 to the mortification of those who think this

## EFCC probes AGF's aides over Presidential pardon



Malami

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The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has commenced probe on the list of convicted inmates, currently pardoned by President Muhammadu Buhari after approval by the Council of State.

According to a report by the Cable, senior officials of the Ministry of Justice have been quizzed by the anti-graft agency over suspicion of corruption in the compilation of the pardon list.

It would be recalled that President Buhari had approved a prerogative of mercy for 157 convicted inmates, including Joshua Dariye and Jolly Nyame, two former governors, jailed for corruption, after getting the nod of the Council of State on April 15, 2022.

The Council, made up of the President, Vice-President, former heads of state, former chief justices, senate president, speaker, governors and the attorney-general of the federation (AGF).

Based on the recommendation of the Presidential Prerogative of Mercy Committee, Buhari submitted names of 162 persons to the Council for advice.

However, all except

Francis Atuche, former managing director of Bank PHB, and two others were approved.

While the decision for presidential pardon for Dariye and Nyame had generated widespread criticism, sources at the Ministry of Justice informed that several aides of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (SAN), who were responsible for the processing of the list are currently being investigated by the EFCC.

"Of particular surprise is the inclusion of Atuche on the list that was submitted

to the Council of State. There are several names that raised suspicion and the EFCC had to be called in to investigate what went down", the online media quoted an official of the Ministry.

Atuche was, in June 2021, convicted of N25.7 billion fraud and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment to run concurrently for six years.

When the name was presented to the council, it was rejected, supposedly because he had just been convicted and was yet to serve one full year.

"Mrs Leticia Ayoola-Daniels, director of the administration of criminal justice and reforms department under the justice ministry, is also being quizzed by the EFCC", the source said, adding that those invited have been subjected to lie detector tests "and many of them are failing."

Some of those quizzed attributed their failure to pass the test to "high blood pressure", the source further revealed.

## Buhari tweets for first time since June 2021

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

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

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

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

Months after the Federal Government lifted the ban which lasted till early January, Buhari took to the platform to share photos of himself observing the Eid-el-Fitr

prayer with the Muslim faithful at the Mambila Barracks Parade Ground in Abuja.

In a series of tweets in commemoration of Eid-el-Fitr, the Nigerian leader, who was

accompanied by his family and aides, spoke about the fight against insurgency.

"After a period of fasting and reflection, this year, we have cause to welcome the

occasion in hope. The battle waged against terrorists who falsely masquerade under the name of Islam is approaching its conclusion," he said.

Meanwhile, the president

## PDP reschedules NEC meeting

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has postponed the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting, earlier slated for Thursday, May 5, 2022.

A statement by the party's National Secretary, Samuel Anyanwu, said it would now meet on May 10.

The NEC meeting was expected to deliberate on the Governor Samuel Ortom-led 37-member zoning

committee, which submitted its report to the NEC through the National Working Committee (NWC) over two weeks ago.

The debate over zoning in the party heightened shortly after some members of the committee hinted that the committee recommended that the ticket should be thrown open to all contenders, a claim Ortom has since denied, noting that

only the NEC can determine whether or not the presidential ticket should be made open to all aspirants or zoned.

The party noted that the rescheduling of the NEC meeting is due to a clash with the local government delegates congress slated for May 5.

"The earlier date clashes with the local government delegates' election, involving

all members of our party. All inconveniences are regretted", it said.

Meanwhile, the Coalition of United Political parties (CUPP) has warned that PDP candidates might be excluded from the 2023 general elections if the national secretary, Sen. Samuel Anyanwu, is not removed from office over his subsisting expulsion from the party, before his emergence.





# Business & Economy

## RiNET: Blockchain Technology and Nigerian researches ecosystem

**For those who may not know, blockchain is an emerging technology that provides a secured distributive ledger platform for seamless transactions, which can lead to new opportunities that can benefit industries through greater transparency, enhanced security and easier traceability. Abbas Badmus writes.**

**BLOCKCHAIN** is not only becoming a legitimate disruptor in a myriad of industries, its technology has become so promising. Tech giant, IBM, has invested about \$200 million to boost in blockchain. About 60% of Nigerian and African startups are deep into researching blockchain options.

Acclaimed ICT experts believe who appreciates the potential of blockchain, say its technology can revolutionize government, research, finance, insurance and personal identity security.

Blockchain technology may not be crypto-currency. Yet, it enables anything of value, including currencies, identities, information, intellectual property, securities, and votes, to be stored, managed, or transferred efficiently, securely, and transparently, without a central authority or third party.

Areas where blockchain technology is applied include education, agriculture, aviation, banking & finance, entertainment, health, international trade, manufacturing, oil & gas, real estates, sports, telecommunications, and transportation.

Some examples of Blockchain companies in Nigeria include; HouseAfrica, Nairaex, Bitcoin Afrika, Buycoins, and Ellcry among others.

Notwithstanding, indigenous and budding Nigerian Blockchain firms with little or no foreign investment are performing wonder in digital researches delivery. And one of such is Research and Innovation Network (RiNET)

RiNet, the latest addition to Nigerian Blockchain startup, is a platform designed to collate, preserve, manage, disseminate, digitise and safeguard the intellectual property of research



contents.

These contents are stored in a centralized platform in order to create interconnectivity of research innovations (theoretical and technical base) that will facilitate the exchange of ideas, information, and research methodology from different demographics of tertiary institutions personnel, students, and independent researchers.

In a chat recently, Usman Murtala, founder/CEO of RiNET,

told TechDigest.ng that their startup will contribute greatly to Nigeria's tech ecosystem by promoting increased demand for made in Nigeria products and showcasing cutting-edge innovative research to prospective stakeholders and investment partners.

"We are also providing a workspace opportunity for collaborative research, small, large-scale projects and expansion of institutional visibility access apart from the

fact that we facilitate new research opportunities, give access to international grant opportunities, intervention and serve as a source of revenue generation for beneficiary institutions," the young CEO explained.

TechDigest had reported that the startup is already complementing research innovations by providing easy access to digitized research content and fostering a competitive advantage across organisations.

Blockchain has shown massive growth over time and this has prompted many blockchain startups who believe the technology is the beginning of a change in Nigeria.

Also, blockchain has pushed for tremendous growth in Nigeria which has made many even more aware and curious as to how they can be a great part of the wealth of Blockchain.

However, any new technology will always go through a hype stage. It takes a lot of time to get rid of all the challenges and use it to power the modern world. The blockchain is not different here. Although there are many possibilities, it will still take some time to get over all the challenges especially in term of adoption.

Inefficient technological design, low scalability, lack of

privacy, no regulation, high energy consumption, and criminal connection among others are challenges facing blockchain adoption in Nigeria.

Just like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain is an emerging technology, therefore no law or regulation is required to make blockchain acceptable in Nigeria.

In any case, the Federal Ministry of Communications and the Digital Economy, through the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), has published a National Blockchain Adoption Strategy that recognizes blockchain technology in the country.

The blockchain industry is capable of attracting huge foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country if government and its agency like NITDA creates more robust regulations and enabling environment.

Providing a robust regulations and enabling environment for blockchain startups would make the industry more competitive and expand to other markets.

To blockchain startups in Nigeria, now is the time for them to come up with technical innovative products that could help solve problems in many vital industries and boost country's digital economy.

**Blockchain has shown massive growth over time and this has prompted many blockchain startups who believe the technology is the beginning of a change in Nigeria. Also, blockchain has pushed for tremendous growth in Nigeria which has made many even more aware and curious as to how they can be a great part of the wealth of Blockchain. However, any new technology will always go through a hype stage. It takes a lot of time to get rid of all the challenges and use it to power the modern world. The blockchain is not different here. Although there are many possibilities, it will still take some time to get over all the challenges especially in term of adoption.**





# Business & Economy

## Take urgent steps to halt Nigeria's rising debt — Stakeholders

AS the national debt stock rapidly increases, some business stakeholders are advising the government to take steps to halt its rise.

The stakeholders who spoke advised the Federal Government to look inwards and device creative means of generating revenue rather depending on borrowings.

Debt Management Office (DMO) recently announced that the country's total debt stock as at December 2021 was N39.55 trillion.

The DMO had also said that the debt stock was likely to hit N45 trillion in 2022, as the government planned to borrow additional N6.30 trillion to finance the 2022 budget deficit.

Patience Oniha, the Director-General of the DMO, had explained that the overall deficit in the 2022 budget was N6.30 trillion, representing 3.46 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Oniha explained that the debt stock was made up of the domestic and external debt stocks of the Federal Government, the 36 state governments and the Federal Capital Territory.

She said that the country did not really have a debt problem, but a revenue



**Oniha**

problem, adding that the government was already taking practical steps to improve revenue and reduce borrowings.

A breakdown of Nigeria's public debt stock shows that 37.82 per cent is external, while the balance of 62.18 per cent is domestic.

With the country's national debt in relation to Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) at 35.51 per cent, some analysts suggested that the debt situation was still within reasonable limits.

However, World Bank research shows that a debt-to-GDP ratio greater than 77 per cent for an extended period of time may negatively impact economic growth.

THE Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) says the instability of the naira and its sliding value against globally traded currencies like the US dollars, euros and pound sterling, is a major trigger of the high cost of living in Africa's largest economy.

Festus Osifo, president of PENGASSAN, stated this when he led the executives of the oil workers' union to interact with labour journalists in Lagos. Osifo noted that the unpredictability of the naira and by extension, Nigeria's business environment, poses a threat to investors, particularly foreign investors, thus denying the economy much-needed employment opportunities.

The naira exchanges with the dollar at N415.69/\$, with pounds sterling at N522.10, and with euro at N438.42 at the official rate. At the black market, the trades at around N580/\$.

The country's unemployment rate, according to the Q4 2020 report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), is 33 percent, while youth unemployment is 42 percent. These rates are considered among some of

## 'Naira instability fuelling cost of living, unemployment'



**Osifo**

the highest in the world.

Osifo said it was, therefore, not surprising that the cost of living in Nigeria and unemployment have continued to soar with no end in sight.

He said it was high time the managers and drivers of monetary policies and the government focused more on how to stabilise the naira, such

that would-be investors are encouraged to make their projections and be attracted to stake their hard-earned funds in the Nigerian economy.

"For example, a foreign investor who wants to bring about \$1m into Nigeria will consider what becomes of that money in one or two years. If after carrying out his feasibility studies, he discovered a risk associated with the unpredictability of the naira, you don't expect him to take that plunge. No investor wants to lose money," said Osifo.

The PENGASSAN president added that the leadership of the labour movement should be more concerned about the stability of the currency by engaging the managers of the economy, much more than the N30,000 national minimum wage which value is already wiped off by inflation as a result of the continued sliding of the naira.

Osifo, who also decried increasing insecurity of lives and property in the country, warned that unless addressed, it could lead to challenges capable of affecting the peaceful conduct of the 2023 general elections.

"You know before now, labour has been calling for the decentralisation of the police system. We cannot have less than 200,000 police personnel policing the entire population of about 200 million; it is extremely ineffective."

On casualisation of labour in the oil and gas sector, Osifo said the union was collaborating with its counterpart – the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), to ensure that workers in this category are allowed to exercise their rights.

"We are discussing with NUPENG to have a workshop, where we will bring all the stakeholders together. We will come up with a communique that is implementable, with an action plan on how we will further address the issue of casualisation," he said.

## Economy key to unlocking Nigerian capital markets — experts

To unlock and tap the full potential of the Nigerian Capital market, the gap that exists between the economy and the capital market must be closed, expert says.

Eguarekhide Longe, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of NASD Plc disclosed this at the VFD Group business connect meeting hosted recently in Lagos.

The COO while speaking on the topic, "Integrating the Nigerian capital market with the Nigerian economy", stated the economy remains the root of the capital market which Nigeria must harness to achieve its goal in the market.

"It is like we are working in one direction and the economy does not really concern us and until we are able to integrate the capital market along with the

Nigerian economy, we are going to see a lot more of this epileptic development around our capital market," Longe said

He said "To extract value, we have to go to the source. I think most of what encapsulate us in Nigeria especially the capital market is the fact that we are scratching the surface and we don't go to the source and so many areas in the Nigerian economy do not concern the capital market which that has to change."

Citing Data from CEIC, he disclosed that Nigeria Capital market ranked 84 at 12.6 percent shows that more structured economies have a higher ratio and they have integrated the capital market more.

Longe said "A lot of what is done in the economies is

reflected in the capital market unlike Nigeria."

The COO stated that there is a lack of flow on the area that really matters giving example with the pension sector which is dimpling, adding that most of the money that comes in, doesn't go to sectors that needs significant development.

"We keep rotating the same prospects. I remember growing up, there was Unilever, Nigerian Breweries but when we got MTNN on the market and it was a blockbuster, everybody crowded around MTNN," he added.

## Committee on African Trade promotes free trade flow

THE National Action Committee on African Continental Free Trade Area said it has begun the development of policies in partnership with relevant export agencies for free flow of trade in Nigeria.

Mr Ogo Chukwura, The Team Lead Export market development, National Action Committee (NAC), said this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in Abuja.

He said that infrastructure development was imperative to the operating environment of business and a key driver for cost.

According to him, the policies will bring together ministries, departments and agencies that have a role in supporting the growth of trade in the country.

Chukwura said the Committee was also identifying the opportunities and developing strategies to help boost trade.

Meanwhile, speaking on NASDs orientation on capital market, the COO pointed out that there are sectoral areas of opportunities in the market.

"There are some key areas that we need to dive into and we need to go to the source and get that value. And whatever we get out of what we do, we lay at the disposal of our stakeholders and all of this is about forging partnerships.

"Another key area is being deliberate about liquidity arrangements,

because there are many people looking for money in this economy, if you knock on the door and we can't provide a solution, you knock elsewhere because I don't think it is a one-shop stop," he said

While speaking on strategic areas that need to be unlock in order to extract value, the COO, disclosed that the NASD research focused on housing, agriculture, unlocking areas like livestock, export, rail transportation which can transform agriculture and others, Nigerian automotive industry, and Fintech.

mapped out the goals, opportunities and challenges while working to proffer solutions for challenges.

"Our focus rests on creating projects and programmes that can reduce cost, increase efficiency and increase the capacity of SMEs to trade and be competitive," he said.

According to him, power availability for businesses is essential and they are working with relevant ministries and stakeholders to find out sources of power that can be made available to business communities.

He added that negotiations were on-going to ensure pricing was kept within the capacity for business owners to pay.

He said the committee was working with relevant ministries to engage on logistics in produce of business owners for effective service delivery.

"We have identified and



**Longe**





# Business & Economy

## RMAFC and new revenue sharing formula

*The leadership of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), inaugurated on June 27, 2020 by President Muhammadu Buhari, on Thursday April 8, submitted the proposed new revenue sharing formula. AFONNE EMMANUEL WRITES.*

THIS was after a painstaking effort by the commission to gather and synthesise inputs from stakeholders most of which moved for the shedding of weight by the federal government and more allocations to the states and local governments.

The president when he inaugurated the board stressed that it should not compromise the constitutional mandate of the commission for any reason.

The RMAFC was created by law to monitor the accumulation and disbursement of income from the federation account.

The commission is also to advise federal, states and local governments on tax efficiency and the methods by which their revenues should be increased, among others.

The current revenue sharing formula is as follows: federal government 52.68 per cent, states 26.72 per cent, local governments 20.60 per cent, and 13 per cent going to oil producing states. It came into force in 1992.

The proposal by the commission is for the federal government to have 45.17 per cent, state governments, 29.79 per cent and 21.04 per cent for the local governments.

After Buhari received the report from Chief Elias Mbam, the Chairman of RMAFC, he said he would await the final outcome of the constitutional review process before presenting the report of the review of the vertical revenue allocation formula to the National Assembly as a bill for enactment.

"Ordinarily, I would have gone ahead to table this report before the National Assembly as a bill for enactment.

"However, since the review of the vertical revenue allocation formula is a function of the roles and responsibilities of the different tiers of government, I will await the final outcome of the constitutional review process, especially as some of the proposed amendments would have a bearing on the recommendations contained herein," he said.

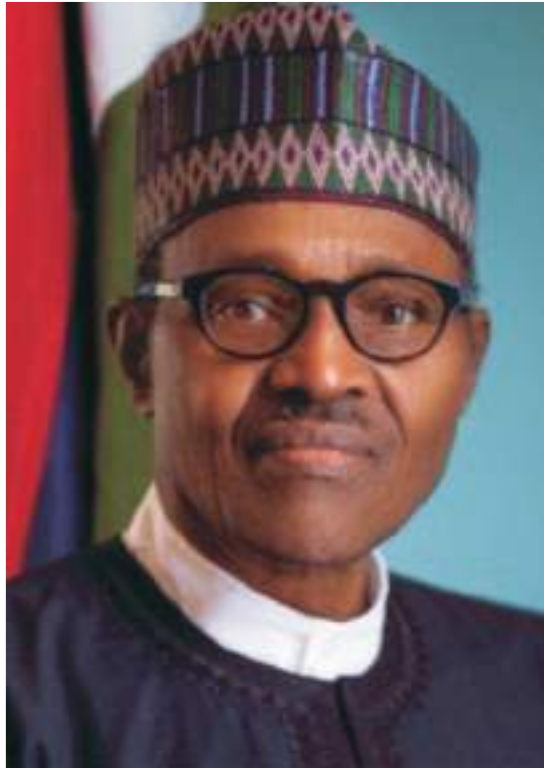
Buhari assured that the report will be subjected to internal review and approval processes, while awaiting finalisation of the efforts by the National Assembly.

According to the president, this strategy, rather than issuing an Executive Modification order, as was done in 1992, is more in line with entrenching democratic tenets.

He thanked Nigerians, especially the states and local governments, for making their inputs through the broad stakeholder engagement processes that produced the report.

"I am aware that the present revenue allocation formula has not been reviewed since the last exercise carried out in 1992.

"Considering the changing dynamics of our political economy, such as privatisation, deregulation, funding arrangement of primary education, primary health care and



Buhari

the growing clamour for decentralisation, among others, it is necessary that we take another look at our revenue sharing formula, especially the vertical aspects that relate to the tiers of government.

"This becomes more compelling as we need to reduce our infrastructural deficit, make more resources available for tackling insecurity, confront climate change and its associated global warming and make life more meaningful for our rapid growing population," he said.

According to the president, as an advocate for grassroots development, he has always remained committed to ensuring that all tiers of government are treated fairly, equally and justly in the sharing of national resources.

"I want to let you all know that I have keenly followed most of the discussions held in the geo-political consultative process and one thing that struck me clearly was the agreement that a review of our vertical revenue formula cannot and should not be an emotional or sentimental discussion and it cannot be done arbitrarily.

"All over the world, revenue and resource allocation have always been a function of the level of responsibilities attached to the different components or tiers of government.

"I am, therefore, happy to note that the discussions were held along these lines and rested squarely on roles and responsibilities as spelt out in the 1999 Constitution (as amended)."

According to the president, the proposal seeks a 3.33 per cent reduction in the current Federal Government allocation and on the other hand an increase of 3.07 per cent and .44 per cent for the states and local governments.

He added that with regard to Special Funds, the report proposed an increase of .2 per cent for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and



Mbam

a decrease of .38 per cent for Development of Natural Resources.

Mbam, who also spoke, said the leading philosophy behind the proposed review was guided "by the need for distributive justice, equity and fairness as enshrined in relevant sections of the 1999 Constitution (as amended)".

He said that the principles took into cognisance the indivisibility of the country, public opinion and weighted constitutional responsibilities and functions of the three levels of government.

He reiterated that the proposed vertical revenue allocation formula suggested 45.17 per cent for the Federal Government, 29.79 per cent for state governments and 21.04 per cent for the local governments.

Under Special Funds, he said the commission recommended 1.0 per cent for Ecology, 0.5 per cent for Stabilisation, 1.3 per cent for Development of Natural Resources and 1.2 per cent for the FCT.

In arriving at the new vertical revenue allocation formula, Mbam told the president the commission had wide consultation with major stakeholders, public hearing in all the geo-political zones and administered questionnaire.

He said the commission also studied some other federations with similar fiscal arrangements like Nigeria to draw useful lessons from their experiences.

While explaining the major reasons for the exercise, Mbam stated that since the last review was conducted, the political structure of the country had changed with the creation of six additional states in 1996, which brought the number of states to 36 and local government councils to 774 from 589.

"There have been considerable changes arising from the policy reforms that altered the relative share of responsibilities of the

position is that the more responsible a level, the more money it makes."

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, who spoke at the public hearing, said the review would allow states to meet their growing responsibilities.

The governor said the current formula for sharing revenue between levels of government, which became operational about 29 years ago, was long overdue for change.

"Nigerian fiscal federalism should be adjusted to develop more spending responsibilities with appropriate allocation of revenues to lower levels of government.

"That will enable the Federal Government to focus on issues of national interest, like security and defence, among others.

"The Lagos State government proposed a revenue distribution formula: Federal Government: 34 per cent, states 42 per cent, local government councils, 23 per cent and Lagos State (special status, 1 per cent)."

Gov. Nyesom Wike of Rivers who spoke at the South-South public hearing held in Port Harcourt aligned with his Lagos State counterpart.

He said that "the current revenue allocation formula, a result of the military decree as far back as 1992, has passed 22 years of democratic dispensation, obviously could not meet the current realities of the nation."

He noted that the Federal Government was overloaded and overburdened and could not effectively put in place a federal system as envisioned.

"It is only fair that allocations to the Federal Government be reduced.

"In this way, most of the responsibilities that belong to the Federal Government will now be taken away and given to the states," he said.

Participants at the South-East Public Hearing held in Owerri also called for greater allocation of revenues to states.

Gov. Hope Uzodimma of Imo reiterated that the current income allocation formula which was last revised in 1992 was obsolete, given the realities of the economy and developments following the last review.

On his part, Commissioner of Finance in Ebonyi, Mr Orlando Nweze, decried the imbalance in the country's income-sharing formula.

Nweze said the revenue allocation should be revised to 40 per cent for the Federal Government, 35 per cent for state governments and 25 per cent for local government councils.

The consensus during the public hearing across the country was the imperative of review. The proposed shedding of Federal Government's share by 3.33 per cent is a demonstration of the independence of the commission.

The final verdict on new revenue sharing formula is now in the court of the legislature. The national legislators are also expected to be fair to all tiers of government. (NAN).



Politics

# Tyoden's campaign tour records success

From DUMAH RANDONG, Mangu

THE Professor Sonni Tyoden aspiration to be the next governor of the state come 2023 has gained a wider acceptability across the state. This was evident at the ongoing tour of the seventeen Local Government Areas of the state ahead of the party primaries which will produce the APC flag bearer who will slog it out with other candidates in the 2023 gubernatorial election.

In his continuation visit to Local Governments in the state, Plateau State Deputy Governor, Professor Sonni Tyoden and All Progressive Congress Gubernatorial hopeful accompanied by his wife and supporters were in Mangu Local Government to seek the royal blessings and support of the Mangu Traditional Council on his aspiration.

The Deputy Governor stressed that when a child is about to go hunting, he seeks the blessings of his parents and that was what he came to do by seeking their blessings as he joins the governorship race in the state.

As Royal fathers, they are highly respected in their various communities as the custodians of the people's culture and tradition, hence the need to appeal to them to share his aspiration to their subjects.

He stressed that the credentials of the Deputy Governor were so heavy that he needs not to reel out his public service life noting that he has requisite experience, knowledge and competence to govern Plateau state.

The Royal father also said Professor Sonni Tyoden was aware of the challenges they were faced with and pointed out that with him as the governor, come 2023, most of their problems will be addressed.

The Tyoden Symbol of Trust movement was also at Riyom Local Government Area to solicit for the of the delegates ahead of the forthcoming APC primaries in the state.

Chairman of Riyom Local Government, Mafeng Gwalson said the best candidate to succeed Governor Simon Lalong was his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden.

Gwalson expressed gratitude to the Deputy Governor for coming to inform the council of intention and noted that gubernatorial hopeful was conversant with the peculiarities of the challenges being faced by virtually all the LGAs in the state and will help to address them.

Tyoden also addressed the Riyom Local Government Legislative council noting that this was necessary because they will be delegates at the forthcoming primaries and solicited their support.

Leader, Riyom Legislative Council, Moses Dadom said it



Tyoden

was the first time they were receiving a trust worthy contestant they will give their hundred percent support in the primaries.

Gwom Rwei of Riyom, Samuel Jock while receiving the gubernatorial aspirant in his Palace, assured of mobilization of his subject to support his aspiration.

The Deputy Governor also addressed APC faithful where the Deputy Chairman of the Party, Sunday Goma received him on behalf of the Chairman, Gideon Toy. A special prayer session was held for him to clinch the party's ticket.

The Tyoden Symbol of Trust Team was also at the Palace of the Atah Attend of Ganawuri, His Royal

Highness, Yakubu Chaimang to seek for his royal blessings and the support of his people.

The Royal Father who was elated with the aspiration of the Deputy Governor, said he was the right choice to succeed governor Simon Along and gave his royal blessings and his wife, Abigail.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

LEADER of Professor Christopher Imumolen Campaign Council, Chief MD Eseyi has described the foremost Presidential Aspirant under the Platform of Accord Party, Prof. Christopher Imumolen, as a "unifier and astute leader" that can unite Nigerians if elected as President in the 2023 general elections.

Chief MD Eseyin in a statement on behalf of the Campaign Council, made available to Journalists in Lokoja on Wednesday, affirmed that Prof. Imumolen is a great Nigerian youth with astute leadership qualities, viable landmark and immense achievements in both societal and human development in the country and beyond.

He said that the presidential hopeful has all it takes to deliver on his

## Campaign council eulogies aspirant's leadership quality

mandate if elected. "His choice to run under the platform of ACCORD, is because he believes that the party's ideology, which is "Oneness, Unity and Togetherness", is in consonance with his aspirations as a tool to achieving development and progress.

"In his bid to occupy the highest political office in the nation, he has centred his foremost agenda on National Unity, Security and Integrity"

He noted that the presidential aspirant has also identified other areas of concentration such as food security, education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, electrification, character reforms and rebuilding Nigeria brand globally, among others.

He added that the don had also contributed to

the development of the country which includes; "Being the first African to establish three universities in three continents; Africa, South America and North America.

"He raised over 120 millionaires in 2020, and has given educational scholarships to over 60,000 Nigerians through his various platforms.

"He has constantly engaged in free feeding projects for IDPs and poor communities. The list is almost endless".

Eseyin, who was the immediate past Special Adviser to Kogi State Governor on Youth Empowerment, Sports and Students Affairs, maintained that Nigeria could still work and its challenges surmountable..

## Taraba guber aspirant claims he's consensus candidate

BY VICTOR GAL, JALINGO

ONE time Chairman, Peoples Democratic Party in Taraba and

gubernatorial aspirant, Victor Bala Kona, has said he remains the most qualified of all the

aspirants in the State and therefore deserved to be the consensus candidate.

Kona, while fielding

questions in Jalingo after declaring his intention to run for the 2023 governorship position, also disclosed that he was not aware of any consensus candidate.

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

"I am the most qualified person among the aspirants, so, if there is going to be any consensus, I can only accept it if I am the consensus candidate," he stated.

On his plans for the state, Kona said if given the opportunity, his administration will focus on key development areas such as education, agriculture, health, provision of infrastructure, and ensuring the security of lives and property of the people.

He also believes he is the most competent for the job.

"This task now requires some level of capacity, competence and strength of character, experience and insightful understanding of politics and politicians which I possess," Kona boasted.

## Ropshik declares for Plateau number one seat

A young business mongol based in Abuja, Mr. Kefas Wungak Ropshik, popularly known as Kefiano, has declared his intention to vie for the number one seat of Plateau State on the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) come 2023.

He made the declaration Monday at the press briefing organised by his campaign organisation at the Plateau State Secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Jos, the state capital.

The Aspirant said one of the reasons that make me to come for the governorship contest was after payer and fasting, I got the conviction and decided to go and buy the form. Yes, I am the youngest, but leadership and wisdom are not by age. God gives wisdom.

I have built up myself over time to be where I am today. I want to be a role model to the youth on the Plateau today because governance on the Plateau has been a thing for the older generation and I come out

today to make this statement to the younger generation that, it is possible to make it even without any help.

With all sincerity of purpose that, if you look at the demography as far as Plateau State is concerned when it comes to leadership, there is so much recycling of the older generation and the younger generation has always been at the background doing some other things.

The things should not be relegated to the background of just giving the foundation of building the party, but be inclusive in the governance as far as Plateau State is concerned and so, I am coming to have that voice for the youth. I came out not to challenge the elderly ones, but to tell them that the world is now digital and the younger generation are the driving force of the activities of the world today," he highlighted.

According to him, 70% of world leaders today were

within the age of 30, 40 or closed to 50 leaving very few within the age 60 to 70 hence the need for Plateau youth to key into it or it would be too late when they want saying, "my coming out today is to give strength to the younger generation and to be a role model."

As a stakeholder, I am one of major stakeholders in my business coming from the private sector and I am going to use that same energy to come to leadership and tell the

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

youth of Plateau that, it is possible for them to come out now and become leaders on the Plateau", Ropshik encouraged.

He, however, observed that Plateau State from inception has governed by people coming from the public sector, but he was coming from the private sector with new ideas that would free the state from over dependance on monthly Federal allocations by engaging the youths in gainful commercial



Ropshik



Politics

APC stakeholders of Jos south endorse Dandereng

By DANLADI DUK



Dandereng

THE stakeholders engagement meeting of Jos South Local Government Area held recently and endorsed Ambassador Gideon Dandereng as consensus flag bearer for the Jos South, Jos East Federal House of Representatives constituency.

The meeting was at the instance of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Local Government Party Chairman, Dapam Mwanvwang, aimed at x-raying the progress report of the ruling All Progressives Congress in Jos South cutting across the various districts of the area.

Frontline aspirant for the House of Representatives, Jos South, Jos East Federal Constituency, Ambassador Gideon Dandereng who is the current executive chairman of Jos South Local Government Council advised all that are contesting to engage in issue based campaign and avoid character assassination for the benefit of the party ahead of the polls.

Dandereng stressed that the loyalty of the local government is hundred percent behind the leader of the party on the Plateau, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong.

Speaking, APC Chairman, Mwanvwang said the party is now in a critical moment which requires all hands to be on deck, to canvass teamwork now that the primaries is by the corner.

He noted that Jos South over the years has been a pacesetter in politics, adding that the party men should eschew politics of hatred.

And also cleared the air on zoning arrangements of the ruling party in the area, saying, the Federal House of Representatives seat is zoned to Gyel and State Assembly to Vwang in that order.

Contributing, the Deputy Chairman, Jos South Local Government Council, Ayuba Jagaba who gave progress report on behalf of people of Vwang District said the zoning system is in line with declaration earlier outlined by the founding fathers of Jos South in order to put all heads together.

One of the stakeholders, Distinguished Senator Davou Zang said they have adopted Ambassador Gideon Dandereng as a consensus candidate in Gyel under APC and read out the resolutions of the eleven man committee set up by the party in Gyel regarding consensus candidature and was adopted by the larger house.

The stakeholders engagement meeting that drew members across the five districts of Jos South Local Government unanimously endorsed Ambassador Gideon

Dandereng as sole flag bearer of the ruling APC party for House of Representatives position come 2023.

Meanwhile the Greater Movement Campaign train of Ambassador Gideon Dandereng who is also the Jos South Local Government Council Chairman, Sunday interacted with critical stakeholders of Jos East Local Government Legislative Arm ahead of the party's primaries.

Director General of Greater Movement Campaign Council for Jos East, Evangelist Daniel Izang during the parley with the executive arm of Jos East presented the APC hopeful for the House of Representatives, ambassador Gideon Dandereng and said the visit was aimed to seek their support and blessings before picking the nomination form.

Chairman Greater Movement campaign council, Pam Danzoss outlined the qualities of Dandereng, saying the aspirant has gained the acceptability of the masses as a result of his stewardship in Jos South.

While addressing the Legislative Arm of Jos East, Ambassador Gideon Dandereng noted that the arm is his immediate constituency having served

as a one time leader of Jos South Legislative Arm which according to him, he has the experience to legislate at the highest echelon he and his desire to lead at the Green Chamber is to liberate youths through massive infrastructural development.

Dandereng appreciated the Izere nation for accepting and subsequently endorsing him to protect their interest at the Reps chambers.

Making some remarks, President of Izere Cultural and Community Development Association, Azi Waziri Atu said the group will try it's best in cementing a good working relationship across various cultural groups in Izereland.

House of Reps aspirant tours constituency

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI Keffi

A Keffi based businessman cum politician Dr. Kabee Wakeel seeking to contest for the Federal House of Representatives for Karu, Keffi and Kokona Federal constituency has embarked on a tour of the three Local Governments to meet with the Chairmen and their councillors to notify them of his intentions and seek their support.

Wakeel who is contesting

under the anspices of the All Progressive Congress (APC) started with his local government Keffi where he informed the chairman Hon Mohammed Baba Shehu that he decided to join the race based on calls and "My decision to make my self available for the contest was borne out of my burning and strong

Wadada campaign team intensifies efforts

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI Keffi

member of the Nasarawa State' House of Assembly Hon Bello Ramalan Zakari advised the delegates not to hesitate in giving all their support to the aspiration of Hon Wadada given his pedigree and strong desires to serve the people in return especially that he has done it well in the past.

"You should never hesitate to give Hon Ahmed Aliyu Wadada the desired support to enable him grab the senatorial ticket and also to make it possible to continue to reap the fruits of democracy," he advised.

Various speakers during the meeting extolled the leadership qualities of Wadada and stressed the need for the delegates to elect him as the party's senatorial



Wadada

flag bearer in the Nasarawa Western zone so as to enhance the electoral future of the party to ensure democratic gains.

Our man reports that the team which is touring all the five local government areas that make up the constituency namely Karu, Keffi, Kokona, Nasarawa and Toto has some former members of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly which include Hon Mohammed Baba Iba, Hon Madaki Adah Goje, Hon Danladi Madaki among other key stakeholders.

Similarly, the group is also made up of the immediate past secretary of the state government Hon Aliyu Tijjani, Local Government Council Chairmen, councillors and others within the constituency.

Sen. Gyang screened at PDP secretariat

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

IN adherence to the electoral law, Senator I. D. Gyang of Plateau North was at the Plateau State PDP secretariat, Jos, to undergo screening in preparation for the forthcoming primary elections.

This was contained in a press statement by Precious K. Nyako Special Assistant on Media to Senator I. D. Gyang Esq.

Being the first aspirant to be screened, Senator Gyang commended the diligence with which the committee is carrying out the assignment.

He praised the national chairman of the PDP, Senator Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, the National Working Committee, Board of Trustees, the NEC and the leadership of the party at the state level, for their efforts in ensuring that the party complies to every provision of the electoral law.

Gyang described the exercise as the beginning of a process that will see to the emergence of the kind of leadership that Nigeria deserves. He expressed

optimism that the PDP will take over power come 2023 and salvage the nation from collapse.

In his response, Chairman of the National Assembly Screening Committee commended the Senator for his service to the people and the party saying, "we are aware you have been doing well and urge you to continue doing the best for our people. We wish you well."

The State PDP Secretariat Jos was a beehive of activities as National and State Assembly aspirants presented themselves for the screening.



Gyang

that their support would strengthen him and serve as a source of inspiration and love.

Responding, the Keffi Local Government chairman Hon. Muhammad Baba Shehu assured him of level playing ground, prayers and support to enable him achieve his aspiration successfully especially that he is a qualitative material for that position.

Similarly, the aspirant was also in Garaku, the headquarters of Kokona Local Government Council where he met with the Chairman Hon. Auwalu Adamu and members of his council and told them of his aspiration and then sought their support in that regard.

He assured that if elected he would do his best to ensure that the people get the best and popular representation in the green chambers that would yield to them the dividends of democracy in proper perspectives.



# IMAGES

## MAY DAY 2022 CELEBRATION

The Nigerian Labour Congress, Plateau State Councils in collaboration with Trade Union Congress celebrated the 2022 May Day with the theme: "Labour, Politics and the quest for good Governance and Development in Nigeria" at the Rwang Pam Township, Jos on Sunday



Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State, represented by Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat, mni, Head of Civil Service (left) with the State Council Chairman, NLC, Comrade Eugene Manji



Comrade Titus Mallo, Chairman, Trade Union Congress (left) with Barr. Augusta Omachonu, Comptroller, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Jos



Plateau State Governor, represented by the Head of Service, Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat, mni taking salute from the Nigerian Workers



Nigerian Labour Congress, Plateau State Council matching during the 2022 Labour Day celebrations



Comrade Paul Jatau, NUJ State Council Chairman (2nd right) flanked by EXCO and members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists at the May Day celebration



Comrade Dolnaan Emmanuel, RATAWU State Chairman (right) with NLC Officials at the celebration



Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat, mni, Head of Service (right) putting heads together with Mr. Ishaya Turba, Permanent Secretary General Administration



A cross section of pensioners at the 2022 May Day event

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



## Politics

# Dariye's return and the future of Plateau politics

**On April 14, 2022, news filtered in town that two term governor, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye has been granted presidential pardon by the Council of State which is an advisory body to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The news report were initially scanty until I read the Press Release made by Plateau Youth Council (PYC). From largely unreliable Social Media reports, conventional Media platforms later carried the news and this established the authenticity of the State pardon. AYUBA YILGAK'HA writes**

THE details of the report indicated that out of 162 applications presented before the Council of State, 159 were confirmed and approved with the Ex-governor and his Taraba colleague, Rev. Jolly Nyame who was serving a 12 year jail term on the favoured list.

The mood in Plateau State was largely that of jubilation but not without reservations from perceived political opponents. Since the news broke, no official statement had come either from Dariye himself, his aides or the family. However, the Pardon of Sen. Dariye is a reality that has come to stay and this is a cheering news to family, friends and political associates.

Which ever way anybody look at it, Distinguished Sen. Chief JC Dariye is a force to reckon with in Plateau politics. Since this son of the State, popularly called Khawung Mushere, gave a shot at the governorship seat of the state in 1996 under the platform of the United Nigerian Congress Party (UNCP), his name has continued to ring bell in the political firmament of the state and, by extension, Nigeria.

He won and became Governor elect under the UNCP but the coming of the Abacha military regime scuttled the consummation of the democratic transition program in the country and Plateau State. Dariye was later re-elected governor of the state and was sworn-in as Governor of Plateau State on May 29, 1999. In 2003, he won a second tenure which lasted till 2007 with so much obstructions and difficulties.

Chief Dariye's political sagacity earned him the nickname, "Headboy of Plateau Politics!" Even after going through the treacherous experience of his illilegal impeachment and the suspension of political structures under the guise of emergency rule, the former governor eventually ended his tenure and later became two term Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria representing the good people of Plateau Central Senatorial District.

I stumbled on His Excellency, Chief Dariye, a political enigma in 2007 when he featured at the grand finale of the campaign of the then, little known political toddler, Major Satty Davis Gogwim (rtd) who eventually defeated the then Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Nasiru Mantu of blessed memory to be a Senator of the federal republic of Nigeria. Mantu was, at the time, a very influential political colossus but Dariye's input amongst others greatly contributed to the victory of the former.

Let me recount here that at the



**Dariye**

rally at Pankshin, I stood close to an old man whom, I guess, came from Kanam. This grey-haired man, overwhelmed by the thunderous applause Dariye received when he stood up to address the marmoth crowd that graced the rally, broke into tears as he said in Hausa, "Mutane biyu din nan ne party a Plato, amma damuwa ya shiga sakaninsu" which translated in English means, These two men - referring to Ex-governor Dariye and Late Sen. Mantu who were formerly best political friends but later fell-out with each other and became strange bed fellows. Emotion failed the Kanam man (if I got it right) over Dariye's intimidating political cloud.

Indeed, Sen. Dariye is an index of a fine political juganaut. His sense of empathy is second to none. Khawung Mushere is a very generous man and his open arm disposition has put smiles on the faces of many in the state. Dariye knows how to time his political moves and his presence at public functions always create lasting impression in the minds of people. I will sample at least three occasions to buttess this point.

First, was a story my father told me about one of the rallies he attended at Rwang Pam Township Stadium in Jos. My dad said while they were on their way to Jos, some of their co-travellers were complaining about Dariye's leadership style. However, when the then Governor arrived at the

venue, the stadium was entirely thrown into wild jubilation and even those that were complaining could not hide their joy but rail roaded into dancing and celebrating this magnetic governor. That is Dariye for you.

Again a man shared an experience he witnessed at the Federal Secretariat Jos with me. He said, Dariye used to be a subject of complaint in their office but one day the governor visited their office and gave them huge sum of money that they overwhelmed with joy. After the visit, the "Head boy" became the toast of the office and the former accusers could engage in physical fight with anybody in defence of chief Dariye. Point is, Dariye has what it takes to turn a political enemy into a political friend and that is the hallmark of a seasoned politician!

The third experience I witnessed myself was at Church of Christ in Nations (RCC) Kabwir, Kanke Local Government. It was a retirement/inauguration service which Governor Dariye attended. While giving his Goodwill message, the governor donated a car to the retiring Reverend to the utter surprise of the audience. The retiring celebrant, Rev. Siman Komye could not hide his joy and some us whom the Reverend had pastored returned home with exceeding joy. These experiences were just specimens of several other experiences many have had with

the man at different places.

Dariye has been a great benefactor to may people out there. However, the man had gone through daunting challenges in life. He has suffered betrayals of all sorts from political associates and friends; suffered unbearable treatments, even from his kinsmen. For instance, the impeachment and state of emergency Dariye's regime suffered was largely plotted by political associates whom he had sacrificed alot for.

Dariye's father was abducted twice and was eventually killed by blood thirsty criminals who perpetrated the heinous act in active collaboration with his kinsmen. However, not deterred by the tendencies of ingrates, the man has continued to make history in philanthropic gestures. He is still a kind man with a forgiving heart.

Let it be categorically stated here that Sen. Dariye is not perfect. There is nothing to suggest that he is error proff. Part of Dariye's shortcomings manifested when he was charged with corruption cases, found guilty and was convicted to serve 10 year jail term by the supreme court of Nigeria. Being infallible, he offended the state and possibly individuals, that is human. We, all, have defaulted in our ways too. Thank God, Dariye has been granted State pardon. Perhaps, the best news for Dariye's family, political associates and well wishers in the year 2022 came from liberating state pardon.

When Dariye's freedom was announced most of the reactions I got on Social Media and even verbally, indicated that the man's freedom will change the political chemistry and permutations of the state, especially, as it affects the 2023 poll. How this insinuation plays out is a matter of conjecture which is hinged on the womb of time. Whatever it is, Dariye's freedom, I guess, is the most important for him and family. It takes freedom to make a difference in the land of the living.

The implications of the state pardon, from the point of law, is that the sins Sen. Dariye committed against the state have been totally forgiven. He can expressly and confidently aspire to occupy the highest office in the land, if he so wishes. Therefore, what is left for him is to pick the pieces of his life and face the task ahead.

Nobody knows what Dariye's plans are but one thing is certain, his presence alone could possibly shape the political permutations and combinations of Plateau State. The Headboy is still active and I do not think he will stand aloof

to political happenings in the State and Nigeria. Because he is involved, he will be involved. Politicians do not quit, they only fade away and I do not think Dariye has faded away as far as politics is concerned.

The prevailing anxiety everywhere in Plateau State is the question of who will be the next Governor of the state? Can the incumbent Governor, Lalong break the jinx and single handedly install his successor or needs the input of political heavy weights like Dariye? Should these two men fall apart, what will happen? Is the state expecting a surprise? Who knows, time shall tell. What is known is that politics is a game of corporated relevance which is perfected through alignments and re - alignments of forces. If the political forces in Plateau State fail to align properly, the next Governor in the state might emerge through protest votes.

He who fights alone, dies alone and especially so in the game of politics. When Dariye and Mantu fell apart, a Jang emarged; should Lalong and Dariye fall apart, it will be politically risky for both men. The Jang - Jeremiah groups have to put there house in order to give a good fight. Do not underestimate the role the number six citizen in Nigeria, Rt. Hon. Idris Maje; Hon. Minister for Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Kedem Tallen OFR and other critical stakeholders will play. Their roles could possibly make a difference, especially, when majority of them come with one voice. Time shall, also, tell.

If I were to advice, however, I will challenge Sen. Dariye to use his political experience and cloud to mentor young politicians in the art of development politics. He has seen it all, so, the task of providing credible political leadership, especially in the state is what is remaining. The Headboy has all it takes to step into the oversized shoes left by the duo of elder statesmen like JD Gomwalk and Baba Solomon Daushep Lar, the Emancipator of blessed memory. Baba Jang would have been but sadly squandered the opportunity, last minute, on the altar of tribal politics. I hope Dariye will take caution to avoid him the booby trap that could cause his chances.

If Dariye fails, opportunity has come for another plateau son to take over. Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong, the current governor has ample opportunity to give a shot at becoming the myth of the state's politics but it depends on how he ends his tenure.

Welcome home your excellency, Sen. JC Dariye, "Ikon Allah", the political cat with nine lives!



## NEWS

## Mikang chair urges citizens on peaceful co-existence

Chairman of Mikang Local Government Council, Augustine Bako has felicitated with the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Simon Bakolalong, his Deputy Professor SonniTyden, speaker of the State Assembly, members and the State Executive Council on the completion of the Holy month of the Ramadan fasting and the Eid alfitr celebrations.

In a statement, Bako described the occasion as another great moment for the citizens to join hearts in offering prayers against all odds that have negative effects on citizens of the state at all levels.

The chairman equally saluted the chairman and members of the state traditional council, political party leaders and stake holders on the Plateau peace building project.

He admonished Islamic leaders for teaching their members the true virtues of the religion which is build on self secrefies, tolerance and sharing with neighbors the joy of the celebration not withstanding religious defences.

The Executive Chairman urged them not to relent but to continue to maintain and to improve by living lives worthy of emulation as demonstrated by the Prophet Muhamad in his various teachings.

Honorable Bako expressed support to both the state and Federal governments for putting in place security structures that will bring to an end some of the security challenges and advised against those who may use



Bako

the occasion for unethical practices which could ignites confusion and uncertainties within communities.

In a similar development, the Executive Chairman of Mikang Local Government Council, Augustine Bako has hailed Nigerian workers for their determination to put in their best for the development of the nation despite the harsh global economic challenges

The recommendation was contain in a good will message to members of the various labour unions in his local government during the 2022 may day celebration.

He assured that their selfless sacrifices would not be in vain and prayed that God will soon intervene, saying that the staff welfare remains one of the cardinal points of his administration and called for continues good working relationship focus on

positive changes.

Meantime, the Mikang Local Government Council Chairman joined his Pankshin and Kanke counterparts, Audu Katmena and Henry Jan Gotip to continue to sustain the historic celebration of the Ngas Festival of Arts and Culture, tag "Pusdung 2022."

In a statement the chairman also congratulated the Tehl tribe of Montol District in his Local Government Area for the successful celebration of the KiimTehl cultural festival which was held at the famous Singapore event center in Tunkus recently.

He emphasised that such historic events will give every tribe the opportunity to regain its lost cultures.

Hence, he appealed to other ethnic groups in the state to borrow leaf from this ethnic groups so as to bring back to life the rich cultural heritage of their ancestors for the younger ones to continue to practice.

delivery, providing the dividends of democracy and good governance.

"We will continue to strive to ensure that our workers get the best and their welfare will continue to be our priority. I therefore urge you not to relent in your support for this administration and to always discharge your duties efficiently and effectively", he added.

He assured that his administration will continue to do it's best to live up to its responsibilities and cater for the workers within available resources, calling for collective sacrifice and solidarity in the midst of daunting socio-economic challenges.

He said, "Since our assumption of office, we have kept to our commitment to prompt and timely payment of workers' salaries even now with 30,000 naira minimum wage implementation as well as retirees' pensions and backlog of inherited gratuity despite our meager allocation, a clear departure from what obtained in previous administration, and what currently obtains in some other states across the country".

"I have recently granted approval for the recruitment of 1000 teachers, the largest of its kind in the state's history. I have also approved the transfer of

A gubernatorial aspirant in Bauchi State, Musa Babayo Talba, has unfolded reasons why he wants to take over Bauchi Government House after 2023 general elections, to enable him pay back what has been invested in him by state that made him what he is today, particularly in sponsoring his primary, secondary and Tertiary education.

The Aspirant made this public recently at the state Secretariat of All Progressive Congress, (APC) in Bauchi when he led members of his campaign team to declare his interest in the governorship race, where he said all his educational pursuit was shouldered by the Bauchi state government, confirming that it was only during his Master's degree that he enjoyed foreign scholarship.

He recalled that he had his early education in Azare, Katagum Local Government before he proceeded to BACAS in Bauchi and subsequently Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria where he bagged a degree in Business Administration.

The gubernatorial aspirant who also has a career in Banking said he was once appointed the chairman of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TetFund) in 2008 which brought several reforms and development in the education sector of the country.

He commended the Bauchi Emirate for giving Katagum Emirate the opportunity of producing the first Executive Governor of the state in 1979 in the person of late Abubakar

## 'It's payback time for me'

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

Tatari Ali, adding that it has fostered the good relationship between the two emirates.

Talba urged the APC Executives in the state, to exhibit justice and fairness in the conduct of all party activities.

"I have the confidence in the leadership of the party in the state to conduct the affairs of the party in such a way that every member will have a sense of belonging and benefit. So, I am calling on the executives to serve the interest of the party, If you fail, only Allah will judge you. I urge you to give a level playing ground to all the aspirants vying for elective offices in the state" he begged.

In his response, the State chairman of the party, Alhaji Babayo Aliyu Misau assured that APC in Bauchi state will ensure justice, fairness and equity to all

members of the party, irrespective of religion and ethnic differences.

He solicited for the cooperation and understanding of party members, especially aspirants vying for various elective positions, stressing that they should embrace the spirit of sportsmanship as only one Aspirant will finally win the governorship position.

Misau assured that the party will not fail in carrying out its responsibilities, saying that it will give a listening ears to all parties concerned and wishes of all the stakeholders of the party in the state and country at large.

Highlights of the event included the presentation of a newly constructed office of the secretariat to facilitate the smooth running of party affairs in the state.



Adamu

## May Day: 'Workers most important agents of positive change'

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

Dr. Jamilu Isyaku Gwamna, a Governorship hopeful in Gombe State has stated that workers are the most important drivers of positive change as he felicitated with them on the 2022 workers day celebration.

The front line PDP aspirant who said that the contributions of workers to the emergence and subsequent development of Gombe State can never be written off in the history of the state, pledged to bring good tidings to them by ensuring workers' welfare and wellbeing is prioritised.

A release made available to our correspondent in Gombe by Ibrahim Sani Shawai, Director of Publicity, Dr. Gwamna Campaign Organization said, Jamilu identified himself with the workers on this auspicious occasion.

## 'Uphold teaching of Islam'

MUSLIMS have been told to uphold the teachings of prophet Mohammed learned during the month of Ramadan.

Sheikh Yahaya Jingir made the admonition at the Eid el Fitr prayer ground at Bauchi Road Motor Park, Jos.

Thousands of Muslim Faithful gathered at the Eid prayers ground of Sheikh Yahaya Jigir at Bauchi Road Motor Park to observe this year's Eid el Fitr prayers.

In a sermon, Sheikh Yahaya Jigir challenged the Muslim faithful to show love to one another.

The Islamic cleric called on the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASSU to end the ongoing industrial action for the progress of education in the country.

Jingir reminded Muslims to ask Allah for his mercy where they have did wrong during the period of Ramadan.

He prayed for President Mohammedu Buhari and Governor Simon Lalong to end their separate stewardship well.

The cleric also called on security agencies to be professional in the discharge of their duty.

Plateau State Governor Simon Lalong represented by state Commissioner of Transport Mohammad Abubakar said, his administration remains committed to sustaining peace in the state.

The Governor appreciated Muslims for praying for the state to over come all challenges bedeviling it

Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Shehu Usman stressed the need for Muslims to cooperate with the present administration in order to achieve the three policy thrust of Governor Simon Lalong's administration.

The chairman assured that his administration will continue to support the two major faiths to practice their religion without let or hindrance.

Usman promised to continue to work closely with security agencies to protect lives and prosperity of citizens of the locality.

## 'Workers' welfare remains our priority'

GOMBE State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has felicitated with workers in the state as they joined their comrades the world over in celebrating the 2022 International Workers' Day celebrated every 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The Governor, in a goodwill message, described workers as partners in progress, assuring that his administration will continue to sustain and deepen the existing friendly working environment and industrial harmony in the state.

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

He said, this is with the aimed of increasing productivity of the workforce in particular and improving good governance in general.

He described as apt and timely this year's May Day theme, 'Labour, Politics, and Quest for Good Governance and Development in Nigeria'.

According to him, "Workers have been partners in progress with our administration in service



Yahaya



News

# Kaduna Irigwe suffers attack

IRIGWE people in different villages of Kuru LGA of Kaduna State came under massive attack by alleged Fulani militia men again where 17 people were killed, with many sustaining varying degrees of injuries, others still missing, countless number of houses razed down, harvested food crops burnt down and many valuable items and property were massively looted.

In a statement signed by Davidson Malison, National Publicity Secretary, IDA said the attack was carried out simultaneously in all the villages which started around 5pm and lasted for over five hours unhindered before the arrival of security personnel.

It is no doubt that it was a coordinated attack

From **DORCAS PANKYES ABUJA**

targeted at achieving the expansionist agenda and the total annihilation of Rigwe people irrespective of where they live.

The national leadership of Irigwe Development Association, (IDA) is deeply saddened by this unfortunate development once again and condoles with the immediate family and the entire Rigwe nation.



El-Rufai

## Bello approves car refurbishing loan for workers

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has approved Car Refurbishing Loans of N500,000 for each worker in the state civil service.

The refurbishing loan which will be disbursed in batches will be implemented before the end of year 2022.

The Governor announced the approval while speaking at this year's May Day celebration held in Lokoja, the state capital.

The Governor who was represented by the Secretary to Kogi State government, Dr. Folashade Ayoade, asked the organized Labour in the state to see government and labour as partners in progress.

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

Gov. Bello also promised continued regular payment of salaries and pensions to workers and pensioners in the state.

Gov. Bello thanked the organized labour for their commitment to industrial peace.

While pointing out that he remained a strong advocate of better pay for workers, Bello said that informed his reason to implement the new minimum wage for workers.

The Governor who acknowledged the payment of percentage salaries to workers at the LGA level, said it was due to the heavy level of over

staffing which he assured will be addressed soon.

Gov. Bello dispelled the rumour making the round that the state government was planning to retrench workforce and, expressed sympathy with Nigerians and workers that since 2019 cost of living has been tough, particularly for workers in the public sector owing to the rising cost of inflation in the country.

Particularly for workers in the public sector owing to the rising cost of inflation in the country.

Gov. Bello commended Kogi State workers for their sacrifice, maturity and patience, assuring that he intends using any opportunity available to embark on palliatives provision that would cushion the pains of the workers in the state.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Onu Edoke gave the assurance that the prevailing cordial relationship and understanding between labour and government would be sustained.

He called on the state government to end percentage payment for local government workers and primary school teachers in the state which he said had lingered for too long.

The labour leader maintained that the nasty development has inflicted untold hardship on victims of percentage payments.



Bello



## The need for justice and fair play

THESE past few years have been trying moments for our dear country and state. So many things seem to be happening at the same time and with so much speed. Mass polgroms have become the order. And we seem to have lost our humanity as nothing bothers us anymore. From the North to the South, peace seems to have taken flight. Chaos seem to be the norm and we are not doing anything concrete to put a stop to this madness.

We pray in our various places of worship for peace to reign yet we forget that prayers without works amount to nothing. Our holy books are very clear on this, that no manna will ever come from heaven. We forget that miracles only happen these days when we deliberately put in place measures for them to work and not just spending our time in prayer houses praying for what we have refused to work towards.

As a people, it is time for soul searching. A time to ask ourselves if we are on the right course or if we have veered off the mark and need to redirect our steps. Since the return to democracy in the last

twenty two years, things have gone from bad to worse for our country and our people. We have often transited from one crisis to another. Our lives seem to be defined by the many crises that have plagued and come to be a part of our society.

The Niger Delta catastrophe that was handed to the democratically elected Obasanjo government was the first litmus test for our democracy. When we were not able to get it right and handle it properly, it opened the doorway for other agitations. Because justice was not served, others felt the best means to attract attention was to resort to self help. And by self help, it meant forcing the attention of the state by causing it to notice your activities, albeit forcefully. The language of force became the norm as if we were all waiting for the military to retreat so that we unleash and vent our bundled anger on ourselves.

This, however has been so because we have failed to serve justice and fairness at the right time. Some people have been treated as unequal partners in the enterprise called Nigeria while other

have had to struggle to make life worth living without safeguards being provided for them to thrive. Resources meant to serve the generality of the public were cornered by a few, leaving the majority to wallow in abject poverty and want. State funds were and, are still being used to the advantage of a few. The rest are considered as the dregs of the society, who deserve nothing but suffering.

The enterprise of governance has been cornered for the enjoyment of a few. And nothing is done to correct this contradiction by those whose business is managing the resources of the state on behalf of the majority. It is these contradictions that have brought the country to this pass where everyone seems to be on their own and God for all of us. We

are at the point where brutish force seems to be the only way to survive. This jungle we have deliberately created is a sure path to perdition for us as a country and a people unless we retrace our steps.

How can we return to the path of growth and unity? Justice must be served to all manner of people. The people must be treated as equals not one tribe lording it over others. Our leaders must rise to the protection of the people whenever an injustice is done to anyone not just their own. They must not allow people to begin to agitate before doing what they are paid to do nor should they be compelled to act when performing their statutory functions. This would have doused the tension.

Leaders must be blind to religion. They must not be tribal bigots nor should they be regional enthusiasts. They must see the country as their constituency and act like the nationalists of days gone by who we often talk about in glowing terms. We must ask ourselves whether our founding fathers would be happy and proud of the country we inherited from them.

To build a strong and new nation therefore, we must retrace our steps. We must emphasize those things that bind us rather than those that divide us. We must put in place deliberate measures to help unite us. And, we must put in place a leadership recruitment process which will give all the young people the opportunity to aspire to any office of their choice without let.

The young people must realize too that they must take responsibility and show seriousness. Unless they arm themselves with requisite and new skill sets they are not likely to compete. The days where you spread falsehood on the social media expecting manna to come from heaven are over. They must be up and about. They must seize the moment and work their way up the ladder of growth.

**“ We pray in our various places of worship for peace to reign yet we forget that prayers without works amount to nothing. Our holy books are very clear on this, that no manna will ever come from heaven. We forget that miracles only happen these days when we deliberately put in place measures for them to work and not just spending our time in prayer houses praying for what we have refused to work towards. ”**



## News

### Dadu'ut sympathises with NUJ over attack

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

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

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

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

Senator Dadu'ut who was represented by her senior legislative aide, Mrs Rufina Gurumyen appreciated God Almighty for intervening in the situation that no life was lost in the incident.

She also thanked the council for allowing its



Dadu'ut

members in that number to cover the programme of that magnitude.

She assured journalists that the senator would soon come to have an interface with them.

In response, the council's Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau expressed sadness over the incident that happened in

Qua'an Pan LGA describing

it as unfortunate, traumatic.

He thanked the delegation for the visit and assured the delegation that NUJ would continue to talk until everybody listens to them.

Jatau also appreciated God for no life was lost during the ugly incident and he prayed that the synergy established today would continue.

A Philanthropist and President of Enemona Josh Humanitarian Foundation, Ambassador Gabriel Onoja has stressed the need for spirited individuals and organisations to continue to provide for the less privileged within their immediate communities.

Ambassador Onoja in his Sallah message affirmed that the gesture will go a long way in bailing the poor and vulnerable people out of their difficulties.

He therefore, urged Nigerians to show love to their fellow brethren who may not be able to afford anything to celebrate with this period.

Onoja noted that Ramadan symbolizes the Almighty Allah's way of teaching humanity on the existence of people who are weak, appealing to Muslims particularly, to allow the

### Philanthropist stresses need to provide for less privileged

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

lessons of the holy months dwell in them through charity, compassion, love and works of mercy.

He said the message of sacrifice as preached by the Holy Prophet of Allah can be well situated by providing for those who are hungry, adding that more blessings will be received from Allah by those who care for the widow and orphans.

While urging Nigerians to seek peace at all times with all men irrespective of religion, tribe and social status, Onoja

called on Nigerians to promote tolerance, respect for all and exhibit discipline at all times to enable them benefit richly from the blessing of the Holy month of Ramadan.

High point of the message was the distribution of food items to widows across the three senatorial districts of Kogi to celebrate Eid-El-Fitri.

He gave an assurance that his foundation will continue to do the needful to see that the poorest of the poor in Kogi State benefit from the foundation's periodic interventions.

### Inuwa charges Muslims to remain prayerful, resolute

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

As Muslims all over the world celebrate Eid-el Fitr, marking the successful completion of the Ramadan fast, Gombe State Governor, Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya has called on faithfuls in the State to remain prayerful and resolute in the face of current challenges.

The Governor gave the charge in a goodwill message to the people of the state through the Director General, Press Affairs, Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba



Yahaya

Misilli. He urged the Muslim Ummah to sustain the lessons of the holy month and replicate them in their daily lives for the good of the society.

The Governor enjoined the Muslim Ummah to sustain the devotion and other acts of worship performed during the holy month as well as to imbibe the lessons learnt during Tafsir sessions for the good of the religion, society and humanity. According to him, "Nigeria is in dire need of good people with excellent moral standings to overcome the evils being perpetrated by some few who do not mean well for the country.

"Eid el-fitr festival connotes sacrifice, selflessness, love and obedience to the tenets of Islam. I therefore enjoin us to draw enduring lessons from the Ramadan and show love to one another as well as promote harmony and peaceful coexistence among our diverse people.

"The same way we all remembered the less privileged and those afflicted by poverty during Ramadan, I implore us to carry over these attributes beyond Ramadan", he emphasized.

Governor Inuwa also tasked the citizenry not to lose sight in

face of the current socio-economic and security challenges bedeviling the country but to remain resolute and prayerful with faith that the nation's trying moment will be over and Nigeria will emerge stronger and more united.

He said his administration will not condone any act that will undermine the corporate existence of the country but will remain focused in delivering the dividends of democracy to the people of the State.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya then called on the people of the state to always take advantage of the various Federal Government empowerment programmes to uplift their economic status for the good of their individual selves and families.

While urging the traditional rulers, religious and community leaders to sustain the prevailing peace and security for the socio-economic development of the state, Governor Yahaya assured that his administration remains committed to the provision and implementation of viable projects and programmes aimed at taking the state to the next level of prosperity and development.

### Clerics call for unity among church leaders, members

SOME Redeemed Christians Church of God (RCCG) pastors have called for unity among its leaders and members to edify the church, glorify God and build the nation.

The clerics made the call at a youth programme organised by the Church titled "togetherness", on Monday, in Abuja.

The Regional Youth Pastor

of Region 10, Pastor Odun Emasealu, who quoted from Psalm 133 verse 1 from the Bible, said unity in the church draws anointing.

"Once there is unity, there is a blessing reserved. God said their is a blessing reserved for people that pray together in unity.

"It is different from general blessings. So, what we are aiming at is to access

that reserved allocated blessing for those that dwell together in unity.

"I am trusting God that at the end of today our destinies will change forever," he said.

Pastor Akin Meseko, in charge of Youth Province 6, said the voice of togetherness could move mountains.

"The event is to bring all the youth and young adults together, so we can all come together as various units of the youth.

"We recognise that together we move, together we are a team, together we increase, so we are coming together into greatness and we are carefree.

"When we bring our strength together, we are much more than the ordinary, we are much more than what others see in us.

"Our strength enhances our togetherness and that is why the vision was built," he said.

Pastor Tunde Benjamins-Laniyi of the Throne Room Transcrop, advised the youth to take charge and conquer.

"I will advised the youth to take responsibility, take ownership and let's walk together.



Ayokunle



## Foreign News

### South Africa's Ramaphosa abandons May Day after booing

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa had to leave a May Day rally after workers stormed the stage where he was speaking.

Chanting "Cyril must go," they held up signs demanding a wage increase during a ceremony in a stadium near the north-western city of Rustenburg.

The protesters, who worked at a local mine, have been striking for weeks.

President Ramaphosa tried to address the miners' concerns but was greeted by booing.

The workers want an annual salary pay rise of 1,000 rand (\$63; £50) - a demand which President Ramaphosa addressed directly.

"We have heard that message and we will be dealing with that matter," he is quoted as telling the miners by the IOL news site.

He also pledged to speak to the relevant authorities to meet their demands, IOL reports.

In a two-minute video of the disruption, the president can be seen making repeated attempts to calm the workers down, only to be greeted with further jeering and booing.

President Cyril Ramaphosa trying to calm the angry Sibanye-Stillwater workers.

At Sunday's event, which had been organised by South Africa's trade union federation Cosatu, police had to step in while a bodyguard led the president away from the venue.

The workers were from Sibanye-Stillwater, which is a metal mining company and the world's largest primary producer of platinum, according to its own website.

South Africa's economy has been hit hard by the Covid



Ramaphosa

crisis, and unemployment is now around 35%.

Mining is one of South Africa's most important sectors - accounting for 8-10% of national income and employing almost 450,000 people - but it has been in decline in recent years.

May Day is a key event in the yearly calendar of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and its trade union allies, and usually draws huge crowds. The fact that what looked like just a few hundred workers turned out to see the president speak was an indication that he was not welcome.

Questions are now being asked about how and why security assessments did not pick up that this might happen.

But perhaps the more important question is why the

ANC and Cosatu leaders seem to have been surprised at the level of anger on the ground. It suggests a level of disconnect between the experiences of ordinary people, and those in power.

It is worth noting that some of those who jeered President Ramaphosa at the rally were members of the union he helped to found. Mr Ramaphosa was the first general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers.

This is a year in which the ANC holds elections which will decide who leads the party into the country's next general election. This sort of reception from a key constituency - workers - may foreshadow some of the challenges Mr Ramaphosa could face in seeking re-election.

KENYAN President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced an immediate increase in the country's minimum wage by 12 percent to help workers cope with a surge in consumer prices, driven in part by the war in Ukraine.

"There is a compelling case to review the minimum wage so as to cushion our workers against further erosion of their purchasing power," the president's office quoted him as saying at Labour Day celebrations in the capital, Nairobi.

The rise, he said, was necessary because the minimum wage had not been reviewed in three years and the cost of living has increased.

Kenya's current minimum wage is 13,500 Kenyan shillings (\$116.68) per month.

As in other countries across the region, Kenyans are grappling with a surge in prices of commodities, including cooking oil and fuel, aggravated by supply

### Kenyan President increases country's minimum wage by 12%



Kenyatta

concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24.

Inflation in the East African country rose to 6.47 percent year-on-year last month from 5.56 percent in March, the statistics office said.

Last month, the country suffered shortages of fuel, with traffic in some parts of Nairobi coming to a standstill as motorists joined long queues outside petrol stations.

### Mexico's Foreign Minister accuses Texas governor of 'extortion'

The Mexican foreign minister has accused the governor of Texas of "extortion" following an imbroglio over long wait times for commercial trucks at the United States-Mexico border.

In an interview on Sunday, Marcelo Ebrard accused Texas Governor Greg Abbott of increasing state police inspections of commercial trucks entering the US from Mexico in April to pressure the governors of several Mexican states to increase security on their side of the border.

"Let me put this in quotation marks, it's an extortion

scheme, or rather it is extortion - I close the border and you have to sign whatever I say," Ebrard was quoted as saying by news network Milenio during a visit to the state of Nuevo Leon. "That's not a deal, a deal is when you and I are in agreement on something."

He added, "We're not prepared to have a governor extorting Mexico. I will never allow that."

Abbott, a vocal critic of US President Joe Biden's border policies, had instructed state police to increase inspections following a surge of border

crossings of undocumented migrants in March.

The move by the Republican governor came as the Biden administration sought to end a public health policy that allowed border authorities to turn away most asylum seekers amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Biden administration planned to end the controversial policy, called Title 42, by May 23, although a federal judge has since halted those plans.

The increased inspections created a massive backlog at arterial routes along the US-Mexico border in Texas, leading to protests and eventually individual agreements with the governors of the Mexican states of Nuevo Leone, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Tamaulipas.

In mid-March, Abbott hailed the agreements, saying Texas authorities would return to doing less obstructive random searches of vehicles.

"While President Biden ignores the ongoing crisis at the border, the State of Texas will continue to work with heads of state in Mexico to further strengthen our comprehensive border strategy," he said.

The White House had decried Abbott's actions, with Press Secretary Jen Psaki saying the "unnecessary and redundant inspections" caused "significant disruptions to the food and automobile supply chains, delaying manufacturing, impacting jobs, and raising prices for families in Texas and across the country".

In an interview, Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador called Abbott's conduct "a despicable way to act".

"With all due respect," he added, "states have no legal authority to do agreements with a foreign country."

## Spain detects spyware on PM, Defence Minister's phones

AUTHORITIES say the phones of the two top officials were tapped in an 'illicit and external intervention' last year.

Spanish authorities have

said that the mobile phones of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Minister of Defence Margarita Robles were tapped using Pegasus spyware in an "illicit and

external" intervention.

"It is not a supposition, they are facts of enormous gravity," the minister of the presidency, Felix Bolanos, said, confirming the news on Monday.

"We are absolutely certain that it was an external attack ... because in Spain, in a democracy like ours, all such interventions are carried out by official bodies and with judicial authorisation," he said.

"In this case, neither of the two circumstances prevailed, which is why that we have not doubt that it was an external intervention. We want the justice ministry to investigate," Bolanos added.

He did not say whether the Spanish authorities had any indication yet where the attack originated from or whether another country was behind it.

Bolanos said that Sanchez's phone had been tapped in

May 2021 and Robles' in June of the same year.

A woman checks the website of Israel-made Pegasus spyware at an office in the Cypriot capital Nicosia.

"A determined amount of data" was extracted from both phones, he added. "There is no evidence that there was other tapping after those dates."

Pegasus spyware silently infiltrates mobile phones to extract data or activate a camera or microphone to spy on their owners.

The Israel-based NSO Group, which owns Pegasus, claims the software is only sold to government agencies to target criminals and terrorists, with the green light of Israeli authorities.

The company has been criticised by global rights groups for violating users' privacy around the world and it faces lawsuits from major tech firms such as Apple and

Microsoft.

Monday's announcement followed intense pressure on Spain's leftist coalition government to explain itself after Canada's digital rights group Citizen Lab said more than 60 people linked to the Catalan separatist movement had been targets of Pegasus spyware.

After the allegations of spying on members of the Catalan separatist movement, the minority government's key ally in parliament, Catalonia's leftist pro-independence party ERC said it would not support the government until Madrid takes measures to restore confidence.

The European Union's data protection watchdog has called for a ban on Pegasus over allegations it has been used by client governments to spy on rights activists, journalists and politicians.



Sanchez



## Foreign Commentary



### IDR Congo-UN, others working against Armed groups

There are much more promising strategies that could help bring sustainable peace to the region. Congolese army soldiers protect their faces from projections when a United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) helicopter lands in the restive eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, on October 10, 2020. NIC HAILEY writes.

On May 1, 2021, President Félix Tshisekedi announced an "état de siège" – effectively martial law – in Ituri and North Kivu, two eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Since then, the Congolese army, Ugandan forces, and the UN's largest peacekeeping mission, MONUSCO, have all been playing their part in a big push against the region's myriad armed groups.

The état de siège has been prolonged no fewer than 22 times. But violence continue to worsen: abductions have more than doubled and destruction of property has tripled over the last year, according to the Kivu Security Tracker project coordinated by Human Rights Watch.

Green and rich in minerals, this part of the Congo has been plagued by conflict for decades. By some estimations, DRC has seen the deadliest conflict globally since World War II. More than five million people

remain displaced. Elections set for 2023 could escalate violence further.

All DRC's eastern neighbours have interests in its security, and are far closer to the conflict than DRC's capital Kinshasa. Uganda, for example, is keen to secure the route of a pipeline destined to export its rich but landlocked oil reserves. The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a particularly vicious armed group, has ties to ISIL (ISIS) and to similar groups in northern Mozambique, raising fears of a wider arc of instability. So East Africa's leaders are sharpening their military strategy.

A summit chaired by Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta on April 21 agreed to deploy a new regional force in eastern DRC, issuing an ultimatum to the armed groups to engage in dialogue or face the consequences. But another military surge risks another failure. If the tide of the conflict is to be turned

towards peace, three bigger shifts are needed.

The first starts in Kinshasa. Leaders in the distant capital have long struggled to make the Congolese state's presence and authority felt in the east. They urgently need to. Building stronger civilian institutions is crucial. So is a more serious push to reform DRC's corrupt security forces.

Analysts suggest that for every three Congolese soldiers supposedly deployed in the east, only one is actually fighting: of the other two, one is fictitious (their salary used to pad officers' pockets), and one deployed to guard a mine, securing the army's revenues from DRC's mineral wealth.

There is little chance of DRC's security forces winning either the fight, or the public's trust, as long as this continues. Kinshasa also needs to deliver long-promised plans to offer the east's armed groups

incentives to disarm, demobilise, and reintegrate productively into their communities.

The second big shift would see the region's leaders tackling the underlying factors that keep eastern DRC in conflict. DRC's recent accession to the East African Community could open up new economic opportunities, but action is needed to reduce the risks of a flood of cheap imports and the exit of local businesses to more favourable environments.

Most importantly, though, DRC's neighbours must break their dependence on the shadow mining economy. The east's estimated 1,000 artisanal gold mines produce probably 8-10 tonnes of the precious metal each year, but only two percent of that is legally exported from DRC itself, according to the United Nations.

Much of the rest is smuggled across borders and sold there, boosting the neighbours' tax receipts and the wealth of the well-placed smugglers.

The necessary action to legalise and regularise this trade will therefore come at a cost. But the cost of conflict funded by illegal and shadow mining is far greater. Both the European Union and the US have implemented conflict mining regulations, and the Dutch government is supporting work to certify artisanal mines in eastern DRC as compliant so they can benefit from legal, conflict-free exports. The many international businesses whose mineral supply chains go back to DRC need to step up here too.

The third and most important shift in eastern DRC must be from military force to community peace-building. Relationships between communities and the armies engaged in the état de siège are starting to sour as promised security fails to materialise. Ituri's and North Kivu's members of parliament walked out of the chamber last month rather than endorse the état de siège's further extension.

Military action shifts the problem elsewhere, as armed groups simply move to new areas. It does not solve it. But Congolese peace-builders have shown that courageous, patient work on the underlying issues – often village by village – can change the context. Communities have come together to implement local security plans, financed by their mining revenue. Involving young people in serious dialogue within communities has seen recruits turn back from the armed groups and hand in their weapons.

Restoring traditional leadership structures has given communities a point around which to rally, and seen commerce and economic opportunities return. It would be foolish to pretend that the solutions to violence in eastern DRC are easy. Spend time speaking to the people and communities most affected by the conflict, as I have been doing this year, and that quickly becomes clear. But after a year of the état de siège, and with little end in sight, it is surely time to start listening to their answers about what might finally build peace and security in the region.

***"A summit chaired by Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta on April 21 agreed to deploy a new regional force in eastern DRC, issuing an ultimatum to the armed groups to engage in dialogue or face the consequences. But another military surge risks another failure. If the tide of the conflict is to be turned towards peace, three bigger shifts are needed."***



## Feature

# Approaches to biodiversity and protection in Plateau State

**The mystery of biodiversity, its composition and interactions is beyond our understanding but since humans are the main culprits who often cause damages to the environment through harmful activities, solutions to restoration of same is in the hands of humans. Writes Godwin Moses.**

BIODIVERSITY refers to enormous variety of life on earth. It includes every living thing plants, bacteria, animals and humans, and a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

The need for conservation of biodiversity has become a global concern. Attitudinal change towards protection of the environment is a good place to begin this expository. We must be ready to act beyond paying lip service. Everyone needs to play their roles as individuals, group, families and government.

Objective assessment and holistic review of policies, founding and administration of robust environmental laws are key. Other fundamental roles include raising (cultural, social) consciousness and awareness amongst people living in these rich biodiversity areas and the use of effective strategy in the enforcement of legal codes (laws) and sanctions. Multidisciplinary synergy among critical stakeholders at all levels from relevant sectors can enhance climate resilience, protect lives (biodiversity) and livelihoods, and deliver socio-economic benefits too.

The tropical region of the world is known to harbour a high percentage of the world's biodiversity. African alone holds about 20% of the world's bird species total of which 90% are African endemic (Dowsett & Forbe-Watson, 1993). Large species are found in the tropics, including 93% of 902 threatened forest birds (Birdlife International, 2000).

Situated in tropical zone, Plateau State is located in Nigeria's middle belt, between latitude 8°24'N and longitude 8°32' and 10°38' east with an area of 26,899 square kilometres. Its altitude ranges from 1,200 metres (about 400 feet) to a peak of 1,829 metres above sea level in the Shere Hills range near Jos. Though situated in tropical zone, higher altitude means that Plateau State has a near temperature of between 18 ° and 22°C, Harmattan winds cause the coldest weather between December and February. The warmest temperatures usually occur in the dry season months of March and April. The mean annual rainfall varies from 131.75 cm (52 in) on the southern part to 146cm (57 in).

It has rich biodiversity and mountainous areas in the north of the State with captivating rock formations. Bare rocks are scattered across the grasslands, which covers the Plateau. Years of Tin mining have also left the area strewn with deep gorges and lakes. The state harbours high density of humans in north central of the country, most of which tend to be ignorant of these natural resources.

Over 300 species of bird have been recorded in Amurum Forest Reserve, located 15km north-east Jos Plateau, including two of Nigeria's endemic bird species (restricted to Nigeria), the



RockFirefinch ( *Lagonosticta sanguinidorsalis*) and its brood parasite the Jos Plateau indigobird (*Vidua maryae*). The Jos indigobird is a small bird about 12cm in size, discovered in 1968. The bird is black finches, with pale bill and not indigo in colour.

These birds are found in Panshanu Pass. Taboru Hill near Jos and Kagoro. They birds cannot incubate their eggs; they depend on other birds- usually lays its eggs in the nest of RockFirefinch which helps incubate the eggs of the Jos indigobird. The population of the Jos indigobird is said to be decreasing.

Loss of biodiversity in Plateau State can be attributed to natural disaster or activities which include farming, fuel-wood collection, building of infrastructure, pollution, and logging. Other activities are hunting for caged bird trade, egg- collection and cultural use.

As the duo of illegal logging and deforestation persist, some reptiles and birds sought for shelter in people's homes as a result, defacing buildings particularly high-rise buildings with faeces. This had caused Locals to resort to the use of poisonous substances to get rid of such unwanted creatures. Deforestation under the guise of fuel-wood collection is no justification for such an increase rate of felling (immature) trees without replacements in our communities. This unacceptable practice is fast depleting the (forest) trees and biodiversity.

There is need for State actors to refocus and strategies to meet up with SDG's goal No.13, and also making biodiversity conservation a priority. The statutory mandates of the concern Ministry, department and agencies or other gate keepers as regards forest management and reserves are clear. However, functional forestry department require a well-trained and motivated human resources and financial commitment for efficient operations.

The role of environmental laws and enforcement cannot be

overemphasized therefore, both State and none State actors should pay closer attention to environmental laws.

The State legislative alms should liaise with relevant government establishments, environmental professionals, and civil society groups (CSO) to strengthen or amend "Obsolete" environmental laws, and other primary laws in respect to licencing of loggers and sanctions to reflect current realities. Sanctions, penalties or punishments to be meted to those who contravene such laws should be stiffer or intense. The law if deployed without compromise can mitigate environmental degradation and pollution that is causing loss of biodiversity in the State.

Also, there is need to promotes awareness of biodiversity issues across all media platforms through unique program of education and public outreach. This will empower people to bring urgent information to the frontline responders including community leaders for necessary action to safeguard biodiversity. The use of educational campaigns and sensitization slogan such as " Investment in the environment, is an investment in our health "

should be heard everywhere. The idea is to cause a paradigm shift from being passive to being active. The media as an effective tool for mass mobilization and education should be leverage on to change the mind-set of the populace.

Farmers should encourage and assisted to deploy the use of modern technology in farming and land clearing as well as control use of pesticides, herbicides, preservatives and other chemical in such a manner that environmental friendly farming activities are being practice with minimal environmental degradation so as to prevent erosion, pollution, deforestation, desertification, loss of biodiversity and other adverse impact of climate change.

As a State, we must fall back to improve our development control policies and begin to do the needful as the frontiers of infrastructural development and urbanization increases. Development control measures should be holistically enforced rather than compromised when private property developers or government infrastructural development such as roads and many others are erroneously or deliberately pushed or cited on

green area or forest reserves.

Similarly, there is no better approach to issues of deforestation than robust afforestation. State actors as well as Partners should not only take the lead but be seen as practically committed and involved in consistence planting or re-establishment of forest in strategic areas in urban and rural communities as guided by baseline studies. The enforcement unit of relevant authorities must ensure to implement policies like the one which require persons directly or indirectly involved in legal or illegal felling of every single tree to plant three in same vicinity.

Globally, leaders and professionals are in the forefront of the fight to safeguard the planet- environment from the adverse impact of climate change. In Plateau State our traditional leader as well as opinion leaders should equally act in that regard. Such leaders must roll off their sleeves and deliberately get involve by personally setting the pace through design and support of a measurable and attainable work plan aim at creating awareness to ensure that large percentage of the people understood the need to take care of the environment and the dangers of failure to protect biodiversity in their respective domains. And periodically taking stock or an overview of the journey so far on what the community has done right or has failed to do right since they have a key role to play as the custodians of the people.

Again, we need to remain focused and continue to emphasize the fact that birds are useful indicators of the state of the environment and are key species for education and public awareness. This may be because of their high mobility, which make it easy for them to move from an unsuitable area to another. Bird serving as indicators if protected can lead to the protection of the biodiversity. The conservation of the species therefore, will lead to conservation of other biodiversity (including Mammals like humans, Reptiles and invertebrates).





# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

### Parenting behaviours in romantic relationship

By **SILVIA SMITH**

MY wife treats me like a child!"  
 "My husband never picks up after himself!"

Do these complaints sound familiar? Do you feel like you are being treated like a child in your relationship?

There is a word for treating someone like a child – it's called parenting!

Many couples have a parent-child dynamic happening in their relationship, but that doesn't mean it's healthy. Having excessive rules and babying your partner can suck the fun – not to mention romance- out of your partner.

Nobody wants to feel like they have to boss their partner around. Similarly, no spouse likes being treated like a child in a relationship.

Not sure whether your relationship is suffering from a parent-child dynamic?

Keep reading to find out the signs of parenting behaviors in romantic relationships and tips on how to get back on the same playing field.

Are you a parenting partner who can't seem to stop babying your spouse?

As a mother or father, you're used to keeping your kids on a schedule. You wake them up, make their meals, remind them of their school assignments, and drive them around. These are all responsible things you do to keep them on track.

But remember that you are not your spouse's parent. And people usually do not appreciate being treated like a child in a relationship.



You love your partner, and you mean well when you help them out, but there are some behaviors that – while fine for your children – should never be done to your spouse without their permission.

Here are some behaviors that show your relationship has crossed a boundary:

**·You always feel like your partner is doing something wrong**

·You buy all of their clothes/dress them

·You make them chore/to-do list

·You keep track of their belongings

·You keep track of their social events

·You keep track of their spending

·You give them an allowance

·You're always picking up after your partner

·You dish up your spouse's meals

·You notice yourself frequently belittling your

spouse

·You constantly cater to your partner

·You find yourself embarrassed of your spouse and frequently apologize for them

·You fill out your spouse's legal forms

Not all of these are inherently bad. Your spouse may appreciate that you serve them food or help them keep track of their business or social gatherings. But when you parent your spouse so often that you start to believe they are helpless without you, you create an unhealthy thought process for both partners.

Your spouse may start to feel like they can't do anything. Your constant reminders that they would be lost if you weren't around may start to eat away at their self-esteem.

On your end, you may start inadvertently disrespecting your spouse or thinking less of them.

**Why treating your partner like a child can destroy your romance**

Being treated like a child in a relationship is not the sexiest feeling in the world. Here are just some of the reasons why treating your partner like a child will doom your relationship:

**You are exhausted**

When you are with your partner, you want to relax. You

don't want to be lectured about doing the dishes wrong, not getting up on time, or saying the wrong thing.

On the other hand, constantly nitpicking your spouse or worrying about them is exhausting. You don't want to be a nag or a parent to your partner.

A spouse's childish behavior is exhausting and can make you feel like you're turning into someone you don't like.

**You feel disrespected**

If you are the one being treated like a child, the constant lectures can sometimes feel degrading. You do not want to walk on eggshells around your partner.

If you are the parenting partner, you are likely to feel disrespected and may feel that your spouse doesn't listen to you or respect you enough to help out and lighten your load.

**It takes the romance out of your relationship**

Nobody wants to be reminded of their parents while in the bedroom.

Being treated like a child in a relationship/viewing your partner as incapable of taking care of themselves is the least sexy thing you can bring into a relationship.

Not only will such behavior ruin your sex life, but it'll also suck the romance out of your relationship.





# EVERYONE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# How to tell if you have anxiety

EVERYONE feels a little anxious from time to time, but for some people, feelings of anxiety begin to interfere with daily life. If you have anxiety symptoms that you cannot seem to overcome, you may have an anxiety disorder.

The good news is that there is treatment available for anxiety. Here, learn the answer to "How do you know if you have anxiety?" and what you can do to alleviate your symptoms.

However, how to tell if you have anxiety? Watch out for the signs.

An anxiety disorder is a mental health condition in which a person has ongoing worry and fear. It is normal to experience anxiety when going through a stressful time occasionally. Still, for people with an anxiety disorder, feelings of anxiety are constant and may even get worse over time.

### What are the symptoms of anxiety?

So, how do you know if you have anxiety? Often, identifying anxiety symptoms can help you determine if you have an anxiety disorder.

While symptoms can vary among the different types of anxiety disorders, as well as from person to person, in general, anxiety is associated with the following symptoms:

- Intense fear or worry that is out of proportion to the thing causing it
- Feeling unable to control or manage feelings of worry
- Struggling with sleep disturbances as a result of worry
- Irritable mood
- Physiological symptoms like sweating, pounding heart, or trembling
- Feeling restless or unable to concentrate
- Feelings of fatigue
- Difficulty interacting with other people or fulfilling demands at work or school

A mental health professional, like a psychologist, clinical social worker, or doctor with training in mental health can assess your symptoms to determine if they meet diagnostic criteria for one of the anxiety disorders.

If you have wondered, how to tell if you have anxiety, check if you have any of these symptoms. If yes, it may

be alright to seek professional help.

### You just can't sleep

If you're living with anxiety, you are likely to find that you can't get the restful sleep you need to look and feel your best. Maybe you wake in the middle of the night, tossing and turning as you worry about the next day's responsibilities, or perhaps you cannot fall asleep at night because your thoughts are racing.

### Muscle tension

The anxiety symptoms are not just psychological; they can also affect the physical body. Muscle tension is thought to be the physiological manifestation of anxious thoughts. If you're living with anxiety, it may feel as if your muscles are always stiff and sore from being contracted in response to stress.

### Concentration problems

If you're constantly worrying, you may find that you have a hard time concentrating. Instead of being able to focus on the task at hand, your mind may begin to wander, as anxious thoughts run through your head.

In a sense, anxiety can become a source of distraction, taking you away from meeting your responsibilities or enjoying life.

### Constantly feeling restless

One of the signs you have anxiety is that you simply can't seem to relax. You'll feel like you're always on edge or "keyed up." As soon as you sit down, you need to get up and move around again, as your body will not let you slow down.

Suffering from anxiety can make you feel quite agitated or irritable, which is understandable, given that you seem to struggle with worry and fear constantly. Feelings of anxiety can also motivate you to try to control your environment, such as by obsessively planning or preparing for the worst possible situation.

### 6. Physiological symptoms

Symptoms of anxiety disorder can lead the body to become aroused, leading to the appearance of some physical or physiological signs of anxiety. These can include sweaty palms, racing hearts, and trembling hands.

The body reacts this way to anxiety because the brain has received a message that there is some sort of



danger. In some cases, people who live with anxiety or panic may believe that they have heart attack symptoms because of the physiological symptoms that come with anxiety.

### 7. You cannot control your worrying

With anxiety disorders, worrying is excessive, meaning that you don't just worry about stressful events, like an upcoming exam or presentation. Instead, you constantly worry, and the worry is out of proportion to the present threat. For example, you may worry about the worst possible scenario in every situation.

For people suffering from anxiety, worrying seems to be out of control.

### 8. You're constantly tired

People who live with anxiety are likely to feel tired. You might find that you're simply exhausted, even if you are going to bed at a reasonable time. This is because the sleep disturbances that come with anxiety can cause you to miss out on sleep, even if you're spending a total eight hours in bed at night. If you take a while to fall asleep or wake several times throughout the night, you aren't getting the full eight hours needed.

### 9. You avoid social situations

Not everyone who has anxiety fears social situations. Still, for those with social anxiety disorder, the fear of being judged negatively or humiliated in front of others can be so debilitating that social situations are avoided altogether.

### Bouts of panic

If you have a type of anxiety disorder called panic disorder, you will experience recurring panic attacks, which are intense bouts of

fear that cause you to feel as if something terrible is about to happen. Even if you don't have full-blown panic disorder, anxiety symptoms can lead to occasional panic attacks.

During a panic attack, you will feel as if you have lost control, and the panic may come on suddenly, with no apparent trigger. Symptoms of panic include sweating, pounding heart, shortness of breath, and trembling.

There is no perfect cure for anxiety, but anxiety disorder treatment can reduce anxiety symptoms, so they do not interfere as much in your daily life. The following are often considered effective anxiety treatments:

### Medication

There are several types of medications that can treat anxiety disorder symptoms. A class of drugs called benzodiazepines is commonly used to treat anxiety, but they are only meant to be used over the short term because they can lead to tolerance and withdrawal symptoms, and they may not work as well over time.

Antidepressant drugs can also be used to treat anxiety to improve mood, and reduce stress. Finally, some people may benefit from taking beta-blockers, which lower blood pressure and can address some of the physical symptoms of anxiety.

In therapy, counselors talk through patients about their emotions and stressors, and they help them devise strategies for coping. Therapy sessions can provide you with the tools to make anxiety symptoms more manageable.

A specific type of therapy called cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) is especially effective for managing anxiety. In this type of therapy, you can learn to overcome negative, anxiety-provoking thoughts and replace them with more balanced ways of thinking. For instance, if you tend to jump to the worst conclusion, you can learn to think in a more balanced manner during CBT sessions, thereby reducing your anxiety levels.

### Self-help techniques

Some people find that anxiety is easier to manage if they also practice self-help techniques.

In some cases, doing these things to manage anxiety may alleviate your symptoms so well that you do not need to seek professional intervention.

Some anxiety reduction strategies include getting plenty of exercises, practicing yoga or meditation, and eating a balanced diet. If you are prone to anxiety, you may benefit from reducing your caffeine intake to reduce anxiety symptoms. Giving up cigarettes and alcohol can also alleviate anxiety.

Self-help techniques can be beneficial, but if you find that anxiety is persistent and interferes with your daily life, it's probably time to reach out for professional intervention.

### Conclusion

When considering the answer to, "How do you know if you have anxiety?" it is helpful to keep in mind that there are several different types of anxiety. While symptoms can vary among the different anxiety disorders, what they all have in common is that they cause intense worry or fear, which causes dysfunction in daily life.

Source: [Medicalnews.Com](https://www.medicalnews.com).





**Editorial**

**Youths must stop shielding criminal elements**

**NAMU Community in Qua'an Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State was recently in the news for the wrong reasons, after youths of the area demanded the release of an alleged notorious gun runner who was arrested by security agents.**

**THE youth in the area according to reports on hearing the news of the arrest of the gunrunner embarked on rampage, blocking access roads destroying business premises, several valuables, the official vehicles of the Senator representing Plateau South, Senator Nora Daduut, and a Hummer bus belonging to members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State council.**

**AS if that was not enough, the rampaging youths who threatened fire and brimstone if their demands were not met, further went on a looting spree destroying business premises including other strategic public facilities to the displeasure of many concerned persons and citizens of the state.**

**FOR the records, this sad and condemnable development which happened in Namu has been one out of many incidences where some hoodlums have formed the habit of shielding criminally minded individuals. In most cases, some of these youths, fed with fallacious and baseless information hold societies hostage by embarking on destructive sprees which sometimes ends in the destruction of innocent lives and properties and valuables in our society.**

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

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

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

**WE make bold, therefore, to demand that government must ensure that all these youths who have been terrorizing communities and, or, allow themselves to be used to shield criminals from prosecution are apprehended and sanctioned so as to serve as deterrent to others. While commending security agents for not bowing to pressure by releasing these notorious criminals, arrested in Qua'an Pan Local Government Area and other parts of the country, we must also solicit for more educative and enlightening programmes for our youths to come to terms with the reality and severe consequences of shielding harden criminals from prosecution. This if and when done would encourage these youths from staying aloft from acts capable of creating chaos, anarchy and total lawlessness in the country.**

THIS is to draw the attention of Plateau State Government to the indiscriminate activities of the mobile shop sellers in and around the Jos and Bukuru metropolis which have become a thing of great concern.

Initially, it was assumed to be the normal shop where cigarettes and other little consumables are sold. It will interest you to know that not only cigarettes and common consumables, but illicit drugs are the most patronized commodity by the users and have grossly affected the live of majority youths.

What usually takes distance to get is now at our doorsteps because of how rampant these mobile hawkers walk around our streets and it has increased and become a common practice. Some station themselves at every junction, advertising their products to passers-by.

Other items sold by these mobile shop owners are Man-power, condoms, codine, pacaline, alabokum and other abused drugs and hardly would anybody suspect that such harmful and life consuming activities are going on around our neighborhood.

Therefore, it is necessary for government and other agencies to take drastic steps against these hidden activities so that, we will be able to reduce the high rate of drug consumption in our communities. The Men of



**Mobile shop sellers and high level of drugs consumption**

Nigerian Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) should redouble their efforts and arrest any of these hawkers who sell illegal drugs among them.

Nobody is against the sells of cigarettes, sweet, chocolates, chewing gums, bitter cola and other legal items, but smuggling of illegal drugs is what the law should stop. It is also obvious that not all of these Mobile Shop owners sell illegal drugs, but out of 10, only 3 can possibly be innocent.

Since those engaging in this illegal sales of these drugs are always on the move, the agency

saddled with the responsibility of arresting them should proffer w new ways of dictating their movement to ensure those supplying them with these drugs be arrested.

NDLEA and the NPF can embark on a stop and search style where as they move around the city, they would have no place to hide but be arrested. This will grossly reduce the sales of these products because the law enforcement action will further discourage them from selling such drugs when two or three of them are arrested through stop and search.

*From Gohii Tuwan, Jos.*

**Kudos to COCIN for raising political awareness**

PERMIT me space in your widely read newspaper, The Nigeria Standard which serves as voice of the common man, where issues of interest are being highlighted to the benefit of the masses to express my excitement on the need for political awareness to our leaders.

I wish to use this medium to appreciate the church of today for bringing to the fore issues that affect masses and their leaders. It is no longer news that Nigerians are weeping over some of their leaders who have obviously turned their backs to the plight of the people they govern and have left them to fate

This possibly happened because the people probably did not adequately seek the face of the

Lord for godly and righteous leaders that could take the interest of the people at heart. The country today has been challenged with many ills like insecurity that has heightened, hike in prices of food items beyond the reach of the common man, banditry and other unpalatable mishaps that have dragged us to where we are now.

I wish to commend Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) for the very sensitive and all important theme it has chosen for its COCIN week titled: "The unity of the Church: Politics of the righteous, which portrays the church as an agent of transformation because when righteous people are carefully elected or appointed into

government offices, they will no doubt be agents of change without the righteousness of God, one cannot do anything remarkable.

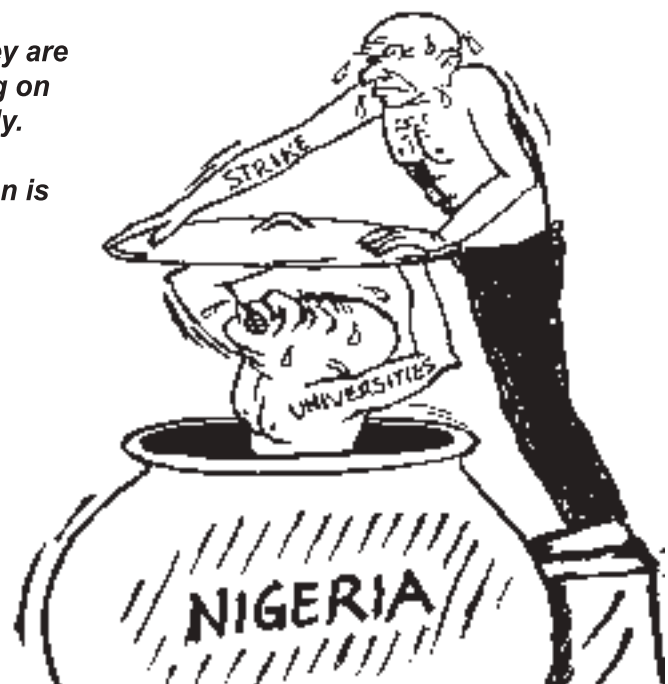
The focus is not just on the leaders but also on the electorate who should avoid the politics of money and exercise their franchise accordingly. Electorate were educated through the teaching to know their voting rights and maintain their spiritual lives.

The Holy Bible affirms that when the righteous is on the throne, the people rejoice with this knowledge, god fearing people should be supported to any leadership position.

*Goodness Wakili writes from Jos*

**Standard Cartoon**

*Na wa-o imagine they are busy concentrating on 2023 election only. (Shi kenan!!!) in Nigeria education is watin be this*



YTLBISA



## Opinion

### Privatisation of public schools may aggravate poverty

By FELIX ASHAKAH

THE Nigerian public education system has challenges ranging from unions' unending demands, strike actions, facilities deterioration, poor funding, and staff inadequacy. The Nigerian government is almost confused; not too sure how to deal with the myriad problems confronting and emanating from the public education institutions.

The government may have thought of privatising the Nigerian public education institutions as a lasting solution to the multiple problems confronting the education system in Nigeria.

A question of great interest that would come not only from an academic point of view but also from economic policy and public perspectives relates to the consequences of the privatisation of the Nigerian public education system. Privatising the Nigerian public schools would increase poverty, dropouts, and criminality.

Privatising public education

institutions in Nigeria may result in higher school fees. Many fixed-income earners in Nigeria are groaning due to high commodity prices in the markets and higher school fees paid to most public education institutions.

Many parents are sacrificing to pay higher school fees to Nigerian public education institutions. Their incomes have not increased for over three years, but commodity prices and school fees have increased geometrically.

Privatising Nigerian public education institutions may aggravate poverty in Nigeria; many parents may not be able to feed themselves once a day and clothe themselves. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, 83 million Nigerians lived in poverty at the end of 2020.

According to the World Bank, about seven million Nigerians

were poor in 2021 due to high inflation. Privatising Nigerian public education institutions may drag about 20 million people into poverty.

Privatising the Nigerian public education system may throw millions of Nigerian youth out of school, and increase inequality, criminality, and other vices. Social vices would make Nigerian society uncomfortable for the political class and the rich.

Privatising the Nigerian public education institutions would increase youth unemployment in Nigeria. Increased unemployment has the full potential of lowering the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate, citizens' well-being, and government revenue in the economy.

There are many ways to handle the many problems confronting the Nigerian public education system. The public education system is crucial for economic

growth and development because it is the centre for innovation and human capital development.

The Nigerian government must shift attention from jumbo elections expenses to the education system by providing adequate funding. The Nigerian education sector has not been adequately funded. It gets meagre allocation from the federal government budget annually. From 2014 to 2022, the sector got the highest allocation of 10.7 percent of the budgeted total expenditure in 2015.

The funding of the Nigerian education sector falls below the recommended international standard of 15-20 percent of the national budgeted expenditure by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Nigerian academics and non-academics are among the least-paid workers globally, while the Nigerian political class is among the top highest paid all over, according to Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The Nigerian government must reduce the cost of governance, salaries of political office holders, and corruption. The Nigerian fiscal system is fraudulent, says Godwin Obaseki, governor of Edo state.

The Nigerian political officeholders should develop a love for Nigeria. We have only one Nigeria. A persistent fraudulent

fiscal system has the full potential of making Nigeria a colony for the second time.

The Nigerian government should be involved in the functioning of the Nigerian education system. The number of children of the political class and the rich who study in world-class universities abroad may be inadequate to propel the Nigerian economy on the path of growth and development.

The Nigerian government should formulate effective and efficient education policies to check the happenings in the education system. Several education task forces should serve as a control in the Nigerian education system.

The Nigerian government must fund the education sector adequately to provide the necessary facilities for learning and for the recruitment of the required number of academic and non-academic staff for effective performance.

The Nigerian public education system has series of challenges. The Nigerian government must shift attention to the education system by providing adequate funding, effective policies, and getting involved through dedicated committees to deal with the myriad problems confronting and emanating from the public education institution

Felix Ashakah is economics lecturer at Western Delta University, Oghara.

**"The Nigerian government should formulate effective and efficient education policies to check the happenings in the education system. Several education task forces should serve as a control in the Nigerian education system. The Nigerian government must fund the education sector adequately to provide the necessary facilities for learning and for the recruitment of the required number of academic and non-academic staff for effective performance."**

### Inadequate moral values an children breeds disrespect

By FIDELIA OKOSODO

EVERY society is built on certain values. In Africa, respect for elders is among the core cultural values. This respect is expected to flow from the younger person to the elderly, whether they have family ties or not. In many instances it does not attract reciprocity.

However, as societies evolve, certain phenomenal changes take place, with culture having taken a hit in recent years.

Many analysts say that the growing rate of disrespect among the youth has become a threat to this critical pillar upon which African societies is built a development they said, if not addressed may give rise to future adults lacking in self-respect and respect for others.

"Youth are the leaders of tomorrow. Parents and guardians should prioritise inculcating good moral values in their children.

"The society too has a major role to play in curbing the act of disrespect among Nigerian youths," a parent Mr Christopher Ewalefo said.

Prof. Albert Bandura, a Canadian-American psychologist at Stanford University, in his social learning theory, argues that today's societies curiously appreciate abnormality and have no negative reward for it.

He postulated that as children grow to adolescent and to other stages of growth in their lives they become aware of the attitude of the people in the societies such as what the environments appreciate and what they frown at.

According to him, a society where immorality and indiscipline are celebrated most likely will produce immoral and undisciplined young people.

Mrs Blessing Shaka, a sociologist and a civil servant said because values can be transmitted from generation to generation it is important that parents are conscious of how they raise their children and wards.

Dr Kingsley Ehimuan, a lecturer in Ambrose Alli University in Edo, opined that many youths of nowadays are disrespectful to their seniors as they find it difficult to even, greet their elders as a sign of respect.

He said it is unfortunate that they don't allow elders to guide and advise them neither do they take advice or instructions from their elders.

Ehimuan blamed some parents for the disrespectful behavior among young people because they have failed to inculcate good moral values in them.

"I remember how my mother will beat me and my siblings for not greeting our elders or when we are reported to our parent for misbehaving in public. In some cases the offended elderly person will even beat before reporting us to our parents", he said.

Ehimuan also said that in some instances, some parents go to the extent of fighting teachers whenever their children are being punished for wrong doing at school. He said that such acts create the impression that the offending student is above the law.

According to him another disturbing trend, is when youths worship or give respects to only who they consider affluent or influential.

"So many youths disregard elders or their seniors who are not rich or can be directly influential to their future such as helping them to secure jobs.

"When youth are disrespectful they become difficult to control, advice or guide. Such a trend can increase crime rate in the society", Ehimuan said.

Ehimuan called on government, parents and NGOs to help in correcting this

anomaly through education by introducing subject such as cultural and moral studies in our primary and secondary schools.

Dr David Oamen, a lecturer in Ambrose Alli University, Edo, said disrespect among youths is as a result of emulating social trends which he or she read or watch on television.

Some of the trends, he said are keeping bushy hair, wearing clothes riddled with holes, fighting in public places, sagging of trousers and piercing of body parts.

Oamen said some of the disrespectful youths lack home training as parents serve as role model to their children.

"Respect begins at home. If you respect your parents it becomes natural for you to respect others in public" he said.

Oamen said many educational institutions have also failed in their responsibility to instill respect for older persons in young people.

"We have an educational environment where discipline has been ignored because teachers are scared of meting out punishment as result of fear of the aftermath of such action as losing their jobs or falling out with the school authorities.

"Respectful conduct should be a norm in the society. It advances co-existence between the elders and the young" he said.

Miss Deborah Adeniyi, a student of Ado-Ekiti Federal Polytechnic, blamed some parents for lack of respect among youths because they do not discipline their children and wards when they misbehave or speak rudely to them at home.

"Even the Bible says train up a child in the way he should go so that when he is old he will not depart from it. So, parents should always have this sacred injunction in mind" she said.

Adeniyi also identified peer influence as a major factor in disrespectful behaviour among youths and advised parents to guide their children on the kind of friends they keep.

Mr Gabriel Aninkwo, a businessman, said many youths, because of their exposure to the internet and education are arrogant and claim to be more intelligent than young people with such mindset.

Prof. Omorobe Steven, a sociology lecturer at Ambrose Alli University Edo State, said youthful exuberance could make youths disrespect their elders.

He said it is an abnormal behavior, which is a departure from African values and norms.

According to Omorobe, this deviant behaviour occur in societies that can no longer provide the required moral directions for their members.

"In a society where values and norms are not solid the youths become frustrated and disenchanted, behaving the way they like.

According to Omorogbe this is in line with societal realities where individuals learn from cultures which in turn shape our behaviours.

Omorogbe advised parents to emulate other parents who are strict in training their children to be responsible adults, adding that where the children are deviating it is the responsibility of parents to redirect them to the right path.

As the society confronts the reality of concern over the behaviour of many youths, it is imperative that relevant stakeholders such as governments, parents, guardians and teachers should continue to strive towards inculcating the right moral values in the leaders of tomorrow. (NANFeatures).



## Change of Name

### JWANWAL

I, formerly known as **TERDING HOSEA JOHN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JWANWAL DANLADI JOHN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

### MRS. JOHN

I, formerly known as **MISS DUNG VENESSA GYANG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. JOHN VENESSA MANDUNG**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

### MANGA

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

### ADOYI

I, formerly known as **LEVY ADOYI or ADOYI, LEVY F.D. or LEVY F.D. ADOYI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ADOYI, LEVY FRIDAY DANKANO**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

### FELICIA

I, formerly known as **VICTOR FELICIA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FELICIA KANGYANG NYAM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

### IROANYA

I, formerly known as **IROANYA JULIET IROANYA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IROANYA JULIET NWAMAKA**. All former documents remain valid. Access/Diamond bank Plc and the general public should please take note.

### PAM

I am **CHRISTAINA JOHN PAM**, that my date of birth is 19/12/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

Space for sale

### MOSES

I, formerly known as **BLESSING UKABAT MPAK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOSES UKABAT MPAK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

### AMEEN

I, formerly known as **AL-MEEN AMEEN AMEEN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMEEN AL'AMEEN AMEEN**. Correct date of birth is 5/10/1988 NOT 10/5/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

### IZEVBIGIE

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

### ABDUL-RAZZAQ

I, formerly known as **ABDUL RAZZAQ ISMAIL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDUL-RAZZAQ SHANONO ISMAIL**. All former documents remain valid. Eco Bank, other concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

### YUSUF

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

### YOHANNA

I, formerly known as **DAUDA NORO MWANKWON**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YOHANNA NORO DAUDA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

### NVOU

I, formerly known as **NVOU MWANTEP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NVOU D.N.MANJAH**. All former documents remain valid. Access/Diamond bank Plc and the general public should please take note.

Space for sale

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### GLOBAL UPPER ROOM REVIVAL MINISTRY CAC/IT/NO:35517

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

#### THE OLD TRUSTEES ARE:

- |                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Pastor Joseph Sunday Chumang | - Retained |
| 2. Mrs Julie Kayode Falana      | - Retained |
| 3. Mrs Aishatu Garang           | - Retained |
| 4. Mrs Salome Langs             | - Removed  |
| 5. Hon Isaac Arin               | - Removed  |
| 6. Barr. Sani Paul Zaruma       | - Removed  |
| 7. Mrs Rabi Gyang               | - Removed  |
| 8. Mr Godsave Dakahap           | - Removed  |
| 9. Mrs Sophia Chioma Okwuasaba  | - Retained |
| 10. Mrs Victoria Michael Pam    | - Removed  |

#### THE NEWLY APPOINTED TRUSTEE IS:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Simon Yusuf Tsok | - Trustee Appointed      |
| 2. Simon Yusuf Tsok | - Appointed as Secretary |

#### AIMS & OBJECTIVES REMAIN THE SAME

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the registrar, General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi

SIGNED: SECRETARY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### OLEHOI FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the corporate affairs commission for registration under part c of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

- TRUSTEES:**
1. CHIESHE TONYIN SIMON
  2. SADIH SUNDEY THOMAS
  3. OJOMI S.A.JE
  4. ADEJUN FACHALE AGBO
  5. OKPHELI OGBOLE SAMUEL
  6. WOI CIRILLA NWAIDUOYE

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote social, cultural and economic inclusion of persons with mental, neurological and substance use conditions.
2. Protection of rights of persons with mental, neurological and substance use disorders/conditions.
3. Provide comprehensive welfare services of persons with mental, neurological and substance use conditions.
4. To provide a forum where persons with mental, neurological and substance use conditions would come together to share their experiences to their mutual advantage.
5. To develop links with other associations and individuals within and abroad having interests similar to those of the association.
6. To raise and receive funds by way of contributions, donations, legacies, bequests and endowments, and pursue any other lawful methods of fund raising for the realisation of the aforementioned objectives.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General of the corporate affairs commission, plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi ironi street, Faisano, Abuja, within 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Secretary

## News

# CJ commissions remodeled Kwande Magistrate Court

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA-Kwande

THE Plateau State Chief Judge, Justice David Mann, has inspected and commissioned a newly remodeled Magistrate Court by former Permanent Secretary, Miskoom Henry Kwotoe Lankwap (Shinbuu Longkwo), to bring justice closer to the people of Kwo Chieftdom. The ceremony which started with a medical outreach on Thursday later culminated into a courtesy visit to the Long Kwo, HRH Miskoom Fidelis Attahiru 1, Friday, in commemoration of his one year in office where the CJ thereafter commissioned the newly remodeled Magistrate Court Complex.

The Chief Judge said he was elated that he who has been the first Chief Magistrate the newly remodeled Court from 1986 to 1988 was now present to commission a remodeled one. He

commented Miskoom Lankwap for the wonderful sacrifice to the course of justice. He prayed God to continue to protect him and give him the wisdom to do more to the society and promised to grant, requests earlier made by the Permanent Secretary while delivering his address at the opening ceremony at the premises of the court in Kwande of Quan-Pan LGA.

While at the Long Kwo's Palace, the Chief Judge congratulated the paramount ruler on the occasion of one year in office describing him as a man full of ideas and prayed God to give him the strength and wisdom to pilot the affairs of Kwo Chieftdom and people. Earlier, the philanthropist who is a former Permanent Secretary, Shinduu Long Kwo, Miskoom



Justice Mann,

Henry Kwotoe Lankwap, while serving as Permanent Secretary, Local Government Commission for the benefit of society. "Based on this, the blown off Magistrate Court which was damaged beyond human habitation was identified and a letter was put forward to the Chief Judge of Plateau State on October 26, 2021 seeking approval for its renovation. His Lordship, Justice Yakubu Gyang Dakwak, the former Chief Judge granted permission without hesitation on the 29th October, 2021. "My Lord, as you commission this Court today, we solicit for the immediate posting of a Magistrate and other relevant staff to kick-start business and forestall further hardship suffered by our people. We appeal to the Plateau State Government to assist us in the following areas: Fencing of the Court premises to provide adequate security within its premises, provision of solar powered lighting and borehole for a conducive working environment for the Magistrate and staff. Solicit that the recruitment of supporting staff should take cognisance of our people to give us a sense of belonging and ownership of the facility as well as consider and renovate the dilapidated Area Court That is also in bad shape", he enthused.

There were goodwill messages from Central Planning Committee Chairman, Kurgui Mairiga Baamshal, NBA Chairman, Shendam Branch, Barr. Vincent Orifunmishie and Chief Registrar Plateau State High Court, Barr. (Mrs) Ladi Madaki.

# Bassa, Jos East throws weight behind Tyoden

From Dumah Randong, Bassa

The Local authorities in Bassa and Jos East have assured Plateau State Deputy Governor and frontline gubernatorial aspirant on the platform of the All Progressives Congress, Professor Sonni Tyoden that they will work assiduously to ensure that he wins the primaries of the party. Chairman of Bassa Local Government Council, Andy Stephen and his Jos East counterpart, Ezekiel Yakubu gave the assurance, when Professor Tyoden visited the two councils separately to solicit for votes ahead of the primaries of the All Progressives Congress.

The chairmen of the two councils who were elated with the visit by the Deputy Governor and Symbol of Trust teaming supporters disclosed that Professor Sonni Tyoden throughout his public service life has been a very humble

and experienced personality who is the best to govern Plateau State after the expiration of the tenure of Governor Simon Lalong.

Stephen and Ezekiel noted that Plateau State has never had it this good in terms of the relationship between the Governor and his Deputy.

Earlier, the frontline gubernatorial aspirant Professor Sonni Tyoden said he was at the separate councils to solicit their votes ahead of the primaries of the All Progressives Congress, having gathered enough experience as a Professor of Political Science, former Vice Chancellor and have been with Governor Simon Lalong as Deputy Governor for seven years.

Similarly, Bassa and Jos East Legislative Councils have assured the Plateau State

Deputy Governor, Professor Sonni Tyoden that they will massively vote him during the primaries of the All Progressives Congress.

Leader of Bassa Legislative Council, Williams Wujeh and his Jos East counterpart, Samuel Iliya through the Deputy Leader, Jonathan Azi said they are confident that with Tyoden as Governor in 2023, he will be able to address some of the challenges being faced by their people, knowing fully that he has been part of the administration for seven years.

Tyoden had on arrival at Bassa, visited the Bra Ngwe Rigwe and Acting President, Bassa Traditional Council, Reverend Ronku Aka to condole the paramount ruler over an attack that claimed the lives of some of his subjects.

At the Palace of the Agwom Izere, Reverend Isaac Wakili, the laughter that resonated from jokes by the royal father and the peace therein was no doubt a feeling of brotherliness occasioned by a long standing relationship between the Mwaghavul and the Afezere people.

At both Bassa and Jos East Local Government Areas, the frontline gubernatorial aspirant, Professor Sonni Tyoden had interface with with party officials and stakeholders of the party where he assured that he will not fail citizens of the state if given the mandate to lead as the number one citizen.



# News

## Jos North chair eulogized on peace promotion

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Lalong has praised the leadership style of the Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Usman in promoting religious harmony and peaceful coexistence among the two major faiths in the area.

Governor Lalong gave the commendation at the Jos North Unity breaking of Ramadan fast held at the Council Secretariat in Jos.

The 2022 Jos North Unity Breaking of Ramadan Fast organized by Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Usman brought together the two major faiths to further strengthen the bond of peace, love and unity among the citizens of the area.

Governor Simon Lalong represented by Secretary to the Government of the State, Professor Danladi Atu said, he has always admired Shehu Bala Usman's style of governance and used the occasion to appeal to citizens to pray for Nigeria as the general election is around the corner.

Lalong assured the people of the state of his administration's readiness to complete and commission the British- American interchange road network before the end of his administration.

Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Shehu Usman flanked by his wife Farida, explained that the Unity Breaking of Ramadan Fast was an annual programme initiated by his administration to reinforce harmonious relationship between people of the two



Lalong

major faiths in the area.

The Chairman told Governor Lalong that he had stepped down the peace building mechanism introduced by the Leader of the Rescue Team to the citizens in order to restore confidence and trust in his locality.

Chairman JNI, Plateau State, Dr Muhammadu Sambo, represented by Lawan Ishaq, his CAN counterpart Reverend Father Polycard Lubo as well as the local CAN Chairman Father Polycard Gana commended the initiative.

Present at the Unity Breaking of Ramadan Fast

were the state Commissioner of Transport Mohammad Abubakar, APC Chairman of Jos North Local Government Sani Gangare, former Management Committee Chairman of the Council Theresa Azi, Deputy Chairman Ezekiel Shina Agada, Leader of the Legislative Arm, Yakubu Atsen, elected Councillors as well as political appointees of Jos North Local Government Council.

Special prayers were offered for permanent peace in Jos North, Plateau State as well as the country by the CAN Chairman Reverend Father Alubo.

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Shehu Bala Usman has praised the resilience and perseverance of workers for their hardwork, and understanding.

This, the Chairman explained has made workers of the council dear to his heart for translating his programs and policies into action.

Usman stated this in a statement marking the 2022 workers day celebration noting that the valuable contribution of

## ...As workers receive praise over resilience to work

the Nigeria workers towards the progress and prosperity of the area is unquantifiable.

He maintained that his administration has enjoyed the support, cooperation and love from the workforce and urged them to sustain the tempo.

The Chairman who conveyed his goodwill message to the Council staff on behalf of his Deputy, Leader and members of

the council Legislative and Executive Arm as well as the Traditional rulers, congratulated staff of Jos North Local Government Council on this auspicious occasion.

He commended Governor Simon Bako Lalong for prioritizing the welfare of the workers in the state and assured them of better days ahead.

## Bogoro council boss urges Muslims, Christians on peace, unity

THE Executive Chairman of Bogoro Local Government Council of Bauchi State, Hon. Iliya Habila has urged Muslims and Christians in the area to maintain peace and unity to ensure its development. Habila made the call during the breaking of fast and Iftar prayer in Bogoro with Muslims and other stakeholders in the area.

He commended the people of the local government for the harmonious relationship existing among them and called on them to sustain it to achieve rapid development. According to him, Bogoro has been known for peace, unity and togetherness, thereby making it outstanding for visitors and indigenes to be engaging in their businesses without hindrances. He enjoined Muslims to ensure that they kept the Islamic injunctions of the period of Ramadan so as to reap the blessings and benefits attached to it.

Habila stated that since he assumed leadership in the council, he had taken deliberate efforts to ensure religious harmony and peaceful coexistence among the adherents of the two faiths. The Chairman recalled the hosting of Muslim children to dinner last Sallah with the aim of carrying



Habila

every segment along in the scheme of things. According to him, he has also in a similar vein, introduced annual Christmas Carol and Lessons as a way of bringing Christmas closer to God, especially during the Yuletide season. Habila said the various programmes and engagements among the tribes and religious groups had assisted in the sustenance of peace and progress in the area. He said the council welcomed visitors who came to

the area to engage in genuine business and other activities but warned the citizens against harboring people with suspicious characters and means of livelihood. Chairman of Council of Ulama Bogoro Local Government Iman commended the Chairman for carrying all faiths in the activities of the council and prayed God to continue to bless and guide him. He said the iftar which was the first to be organized by any chairman coincided with the period within commencement of the night of majesty, adding that it would forever remain indelible in the minds of the Muslim Ummah. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Barrister Jidauna Tula commended the Chairman for the initiative which he described as unprecedented. Former Chairman of Bogoro Local Government, Mr Ashriel Zabbs commended the Chairman for the initiative, especially as it was the first of its kind in the area. Guest who attended the iftar prayer: included Imams, representative of Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) stakeholders, politicians government functionaries and other religious leaders across the 13 wards of the area.

## Monarch admonishes subjects on respect for constituted authorities

AHEAD of the 2023 General Election, stakeholders in Jos East Local Government Area have been admonished to speed up effort at educating their subjects who have not registered to take advantage of the ongoing voters registration.

Executive Chairman of the Council, Hon. Yakubu Izang Ezekiel gave the admonition during stakeholders meeting organised by the Independent National Electoral Commission in the area at the MDGs Hall, Angware.

The chairman who was represented by his Deputy, Hon. Ishaku Ayuba Ajang noted with dismay the lukewarm attitude of the people towards the exercise which led to the poor performance in the previous elections and however prevailed on the stakeholders to intensify effort at educating the electorates.

Hon Izang Ezekiel, while commending the INEC Electoral Officer in the Area, Hajiya Aishatu Isa and the team for timely organizing the Stakeholders meeting,

pledged the Council's willingness to accord support to ensure the exercise achieve the desired feat and however called on the Stakeholders to put behind the issue of clans but rather cooperate with the INEC Officials to deliver on their assignment.

Earlier on, the Electoral Officer, Jos East Chapter, Hajiya Aishatu Isa disclosed that the meeting was aimed at brainstorming on possible ways of encouraging youths that have attained the age of 18 years old, those that lost their voters cards and those seeking transfer of voting centres to take advantage of the exercise to register and or table their problems appropriately.

Responding to questions from the Stakeholders, the Electoral Officer, revealed that already, about 900 voters have been transferred to their nearest polling centres adding that for multiple registration, the machine dictates and expunged automatically and for lost of voters cards, the commission verifies based on request and issue new cards.

Contributing, leader, Legislative Council, Hon Engr. Samuel Iliya Azi made a case for the creation of more registration centres across the local government area and called on all and sundry to accord the necessary support

the exercise, while assuring of the entire legislators backing in other to record a huge success.

In his remarks, the Agwom Izere of Izere Nation, Rev. Dr. Isaac Azi Wakili, as represented by the District head of Maigemu, Adagwom Ali Azi Ibrahim commended the untiring effort of the Electoral Officer and her team for sacrificing their time and

energy to ensure all illigible voters were registered and called on the whole stakeholders to mobilize their subjects to register and to close ranks with the INEC Officials in other to give a boost to the exercise.

Questions and contributions came from Political Party Chairmen, Youth representatives and religious leaders among others.

## PDA sympathises with NUJ, condemns attacks

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

National President of Pan Development Association (PDA), of Qua'an Pan Local Government Area (LGA), Mr. Na'anank Garba has sympathized with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State Council.

He stated this during a courtesy call at the NUJ Secretariat in Jos, on Monday over the incident that led to the burning down of the council's bus in Qua'an Pan.

He said that what happened last month April 28, 2022 in Jep Jan of Namu in Qua'an Pan LGA, was grossly unfortunate.

He added that as an association of the Pan nation, the executive felt it necessary to visit NUJ council to register their displeasure over what was meted to the journalists

that came to cover the programme of Senator Nora Dadu'ut, representing Plateau Southern District at the National Assembly, to commission the ICT Hub/E-Library in the locality.

He maintained that the Pan nation is made up of peace loving people and do not promote any form of criminality in any way.

Garba reiterated that we don't have any business harbouring criminals in our community and they are not happy with the breakdown of law and order meted on the Journalists and the looting of shops of innocent citizens, including men handling passers-by on that fateful day.

He appealed to the state government to take security measures in the community to forestall any further occurrence.

Mr. Paul Jatau, council's chairman responded that the he thanked the Pan Development Association for the visit to sympathize with journalists over the unfortunate incident.

He said that the council has written to the commissioner of Police and the Directorate of State Security Service (DSSS), command for them to get to the root cause of the situation and bring those perpetrators to book.

He stated that we cannot continue to accept situations where journalists are being targeted and lynched by criminals.

Jatau, urged the Pan association to talk to their people, that Journalists don't segregate and "we listen to everybody in the society."

He assured the association that journalists are people that want development in their society and the country at large.



Izang



## News

### Extend Ramadan spirit into everyday life - el-Rufai

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai of Kaduna State has felicitated with the Muslim faithfuls in the state on the occasion of Eid el Fitr, while he urged them to extend the Ramadan spirit into every day life

This was contained in a statement by the Special Adviser, Media and Communication, Muiyiwade Akeke.

The governor congratulated them on the successful completion of Ramadan, praying Almighty Allah to accept the acts of worship, abstinence and charity that many citizens undertook during the period.

While extending his wishes for a peaceful celebration of Eid el Fitr, the governor urged the Muslim faithful to extend the Ramadan spirit into everyday life, practicing faith and worship in the most noble tradition, and treating fellow humans with charity and generosity



el-Rufai

of spirit. He urged citizens to keep hope alive amidst the current challenges.

The governor appealed to all residents of Kaduna State to continue to do their utmost for peace and harmony in all our communities. He assured

residents of the state government's unwavering commitment and determination to rally every resource to address the security challenges and make our communities safer for life, liberty and livelihoods.

THE National Council for Women Societies (NCWS) has greeted Muslims on the occasion of the 2022 Eid-el-Fitr and called on the Federal Government to address the security challenges bedeviling the nation.

NCWS National President Lami Lau made the call on Monday in a statement issued in Abuja while congratulating Muslim faithful for a successful fasting.

Lau advised Muslims to imbibe the lessons of the fasting while wishing that the Almighty Allah accept their prayers and make them among those who had gained from the event.

She said that the period of fasting meant self

### NCWS congratulates Muslims, urges on security challenges

From DORCAS PANKYES

denial, adding that prayers were the key for fasting and the reason for the fast as a sacrifice to God.

Lau advised Nigerians and women in particular to embrace the sacrifices for the greater good of their families and the nation at large.

"Our earnest prayer as Nigerian women is for the Federal Government to do all possible to address the security challenges in the country that has hindered development.

"As women, the state of the nation is of great

concern to us. Our sons, daughters, husbands and fathers are either being killed, kidnapped every day and we are very pained.

"We pray for the Federal Government and all security agencies that all their efforts will bear fruits," she said.

Lau also expressed optimism that the affirmative action would be implemented as ruled by the high court.

She advised women to remain relentless in their prayers for Nigeria, especially as the 2023 general polls draw closer.

### Groups advice on zoning presidential ticket

THE National Youth Mandate Group (NYMG) in collaboration with North Central Youth Council of Nigeria (NCYCN) have advised all political parties to zone the 2023 presidential ticket to the

North Central.

The National Coordinator and Convener of the groups, Mr Abba Abba, gave the advice in a statement on Tuesday in Abuja.

Abba said that zoning the

presidential ticket to North Central would balance political equation in the country.

The youth leader insisted that the North Central had been sidelined in the scheme of things for long, as per the issue of presidency was concerned.

"North central is the region hosting the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, the administrative headquarters of Nigeria, and at no time any political party thought it wise that North Central should produce the President of Nigeria.

"What is our offence that we are not always considered? We shall mobilise, canvass support and engage stakeholders to understand the reasons why north central should be given the presidential ticket," he said.

Similarly, Abba called on the National Working Committee of All Progressives Congress (APC) not only to zone their presidential ticket to North Central, but also to give the party's ticket to Gov. Yahaya Bello of Kogi.

"Gov. Yahaya Bello represents the youth mandate in Nigeria and we are ready to mobilise support for his election as President of Nigeria.

"He has done well as governor of Kogi and gather much desired experience to lead our great nation.

"We will continue to campaign for Gov. Bello in all the nooks and crannies of Nigeria, trusting God, that Bello will emerge the next President of Nigeria," he said.

### Kanam adopts Tyoden as their candidate

From DUMAH RANDONG, Dengi

THIS followed a motion on the floor of the House moved by Councillor representing Dengi Ward, Shuaibu Abdullahi and seconded by the Deputy Leader of the House, Muazu Usman at plenary presided by the House Leader, Abdulrahman Bako.

Shuaibu Abdullahi explained that the pedigree of the Deputy Governor is not in doubt as such he is the only aspirant they have adopted as the candidate to fly the flag of the All Progressives Congress in the state.

The House Leader, Abdulrahman Bako also corroborated this by pointing out that Professor Tyoden has been an obedient, loyal, trustworthy and humble party member which were the hallmarks of a quality leader hence the need to give him the opportunity to lead Plateau people as the number one citizen.

Chairman of Kanam Local Government Council, Dayyabu Garga who received the 'Symbol

of Trust' Captain, Professor Sonni Tyoden in his office said he has worked with the Deputy Governor closely since 2015 and found him to an embodiment of trust and loyalty. He expressed the hope that Governor Lalong would reciprocate these virtues by supporting Tyoden to succeed him.

The Emir of Kanam, Muhammadu Muazu Babangida also received the Deputy Governor at his Palace in Dengi.

The Royal Father who narrated how he received University education under Tyoden's tutelage in the University of Jos said he is the only credible candidate in the Central Zone of the state to succeed Governor Simon Lalong and gave him his royal blessings to contest the primaries.

The frontline gubernatorial aspirant, Professor Sonni Tyoden speaking separately to the Chairman of Kanam, the Emir of Kanam, the Legislative Council and a cross section of party

officials at the APC Secretariat at Dengi, said he was in the locality to solicit their votes and support ahead of the primaries of the All Progressives Congress.

The Deputy Governor noted that when given the mandate, he will consolidate on the gains achieved in the state so far.

Professor Sonni Tyoden also paid similar visits to the local authorities of Kanke and Pankshin as well as their Legislative Councils where he said he was committed to taking the mantle of leadership from Governor Simon Lalong, having worked harmoniously for seven years promising not to fail Plateau people if elected.

Chairman, Kanke Local Government Council, Henry Jan represented by the Council's Secretary, Walbe Seth and his Pankshin counterpart, Kakmena Goteng assured Professor Sonni Tyoden of their unflinching support towards actualizing his aspiration to govern Plateau State.



Tyoden

Similarly, the Leader of Kanke Legislative Council through the Deputy Leader Dakom Golau and his Pankshin counterpart assured Tyoden that he has the needed experience to govern the state and assured him of their support.

The gubernatorial hopeful also addressed

Party officials at Kanke and Pankshin and as well paid a visit to the District Head of Amper Nde Emmanuel Jatau to seek royal blessings and noted that despite the number of aspirants in his locality, credibility should be considered in choosing who emerges the flag bearer of the party.



# 2023 and the looming danger



Victor Ali

predictions without any basis? Come to think of it, the spate of insurgency in virtually all parts of the country, kidnapping for ransom, banditry, armed robbery that occurs in Nigeria have simply overwhelmed the security personnel in particular and the security architecture in Nigeria. There seems to be no hiding place for Nigerians anywhere. The activities of these miscreants, dastardly as it is and condemnable as it should be have suddenly become the norm rather than the exception in the Nigerian society.

ANOTHER round of general elections in Nigeria is around the corner. Already, the electoral processes have since kick-started with the sales of expression of interest and nomination forms by some of the political parties across the length and breadth of the country.

It is the first step for aspirants to unveil their desire and intention to contest for one elective position or the other. Indeed, 2023 is just by the corner and just like tomorrow. How time flies!

To say that there has been apprehension, outright worry about the 2023 general elections is stating the obvious. Many political analysts' nay social commentators have opined, whether correctly or not, that they see gloom and doom at the end of the horizon. Others have mischievously predicted Armageddon. Are all these postulations and

soils, mayhem of setting ablaze of people and abduction (or kidnapping whichever you prefer) by unknown gunmen or bandits (again, whichever you prefer) for ransom in remote and not too remote communities of Plateau, Kaduna, Niger, Benue, Nasarawa amongst several others. This is one misdemeanor too many. The presidency, with a veiled assurance said, there was ongoing re-equipment and reorganization of the security and intelligence forces.

Nonetheless, with the 2023 general elections around the corner and with the known penchants of Nigerian Politicians playing it their-crude manner, do-or-die, the political turf may literally become battle with adverse effect on the polity and citizenry. It is often said that, when two or more elephants fight, it is the

grass that suffers. The Nigerian situation may not be different. When the politicians battle it at the ballot and something goes awry, you can guess who the ultimate losers are. Of course the children of the poor and vulnerable who become cannons fodders as thugs".

That is not to mention the spate of killings of innocent



grass that suffers. The Nigerian situation may not be different. When the politicians battle it at the ballot and something goes awry, you can guess who the ultimate losers are. Of course the children of the poor and vulnerable who become cannons fodders as thugs.

Just recently, a member of the House of Representatives representing Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency (otherwise known as the Green Chamber) had the "misfortune" of convoy running unto to these miscreants on his way back home, Kwall. Reports indicate that, two persons,

Timothy Weyi and Na'omi Bitrus lost their lives in the incident. Not too long, the convoy of the Senator representing Plateau Southern Senatorial zone of the senate, Senator Nora Ladi Daduut was attacked in Nam, Quaan'Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State.

With no political meaning under tone intended, since investigations by the relevant security apparatuses are ongoing, it is safe to assert what these portend. Some ominous signs for the 2023 general elections. There all the hands must be on deck to avert the hovering looming danger ahead.

**"Nonetheless, with the 2023 general elections around the corner and with the known penchants of Nigerian Politicians playing it their-crude manner, do-or-die, the political turf may literally become battle with adverse effect on the polity and citizenry It is often said that, when two or more elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. The Nigerian situation may not be different. When the politicians battle it at the ballot and something goes awry, you can guess who the ultimate losers are. Of course the children of the poor and vulnerable who become cannons fodders as thugs".**



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

THE word stress, means different things to different people, what may cause stress in one person, might be of little concerned to another.

While, some people can handle and managed stress than others, the human body is designed to

experience stress and react to it either positively or negatively.

Stress can positively "enstress" such as getting a motivation from a Job promotion, being given greater responsibilities to handle with incentives, giving a commendable report on individual or group which usually keeps people alert and ready to do more.

But when stress becomes negative "distress" is a situation when a person faces continuous challenges without relief, as a result that, the person becomes overworked and other stress related activities can be dangerous.

Similarly, stress also becomes harmful when not being managed properly and when people use drugs to relieve their stress, unfortunately, instead of relieving the stress from the body to a relaxed state, these substances tend to keep the body in a stressed condition and cause more trouble to the body system

Again, stress can play a part in

## Stress, silent killer

problems such as headache, high blood pressure, heart problem, diabetes, skin conditions, asthma, arthritis, depression and anxiety etc

Research has shown that stress can bring on or worsen symptoms or diseases mentioned above, if care is not taken to address or manage them properly.

A couple of months ago, I was hospitalized at the Jos Teaching Hospital(JUTH) as a result of an acute asthma attacked, I was placed under a life supporting machine(Oxygen),I never imagined myself been in that pitiable condition, until that fateful day.

Needless to say that "Things can fall apart, which means when the centre cannot hold ",the body system could not function very well, so I was admitted in the hospital to be examined and to

administer the right drugs.

In most cases, an emergency case requires a pragmatic approach in other to save lives, if not done in time, it may result to colossal loss of lives.

It is important and a welcome idea that the Plateau State Government established the contributory Health Care Management Agency(PLASCHEMA) to enable every citizen of Plateau state to access medical care.

However, some of the hospitals that are registered under the scheme don't have the facilities to handle some cases, moreso, when there is an emergency case, mostly, such cases are referred to secondary or Tertiary hospital like Jos Teaching Hospital (JUTH) which is not among the coverage of PLASCHEMA.

On this note, who bears the financial burden, when your case is being referred to a Tertiary hospital that is not within the coverage of PLASCHEMA? While deductions are made monthly to the health scheme.

It is commendable that even while in JUTH, the medical personnel tried to ensure that patients gets the best medical attention needed, in spite of the shortaged of medical personnel. The few that are available are also overwhelmed with work.

Sadly, the rate of sudden deaths

of people in the country is alarming people are dying without any sign or illness, part of it is attributed to stress whereby people endure the pains without steps to seek for medical attention, which mostly results to a kind of pile up of fatigue.

When one is stressed up without proper medical attention, it kills every day, Nigerians go beyond their limit to put food in the table, they stretch their bodies just to survive the economic challenges. The state of health care in Nigeria today is declining every hour of the day.

However, stress can be managed by taking the right steps to create time to rest well after work, avoid drugs, eat healthy food, get enough sleep, our body needs time to recover from stress, seek medical attention when things are getting out of hand and keeps a positive attitude, rather than negative.

Government should provide an enabling environment for primary, secondary and tertiary health institutions with the right facilities that can guarantee accessibility by the citizens to good medical care.

When citizens live in good health it brings about rapid development to the society, which can only be done by giving quality health care services to the populace.

PLASCHEMA, should ensure the hospitals that are registered under the scheme should have the required facilities before enrollment. Life is precious.

**"Similarly, stress also becomes harmful when not being managed properly and when people use drugs to relieve their stress, unfortunately, instead of relieving the stress from the body to a relaxed state, these substances tend to keep the body in a stressed condition and cause more trouble to the body system"**



By JIDAUNA DARING

IT is true that the unabated increase in crime or social vices has become the order of the day in Nigeria, particularly with the springing up of different bad syndicate groups which have remain very worrisome to innocent Nigerians who are on daily basis either kidnapped or killed without any provocation.

Some of these heinous or dastardly acts are of course perpetrated under the influence of drug or substance abuse, this act can only be curtailed through a concerted efforts by all and sundry, irrespective of religions background, geopolitical zone or tribe.

It is believed that loss of core values as a nation can be attributed to whatever challenges Nigerians have passed through or are still passing through when it comes to the issue of social vices bedeviling the country.

It was in view of this that the National Orientation Agency (NOA), in furtherance to its mandate of promoting positive values and attitudinal change in Nigeria, organized a one day security sensitization and re-orientation programme against political thuggery, kidnapping, drug addiction, radicalism, violent extremism and irregular migration tagged " Campus Focus" which took place at the NTA College Jos, recently.

Director General, NOA, Dr. Garba Abari who was represented by the state Director NOA, Plateau State, Mrs. Kaneng T. Pam- Hworo challenged students of tertiary institutions to shun all forms of social vices and imbibe the Nigerian core values of integrity, patriotism, Discipline, Self-Reliance, Dignity of Labour, Social Justice and Religious tolerance. Abari gave the charged at a one day security sensitization and Re-orientation programme.

He said that the programme was a continuous nationwide sensitization campaign aimed at the attitudinal re-orientation of students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, adding that the agency has over the years implemented same in over 50 tertiary institutions across the six geopolitical zones of the country.

He pointed out that any immoral society filled with impurity is a threat to the progress of any nation, therefore stressed the need for students to embrace the core values of our nation as contained in chapter 2, section 23 of the Nigeria constitution and work together to ensure a moral society.

The Director said that the interaction would provide a veritable platform for continuous engagement with different stakeholders on how together they can proffer durable solutions to the challenge of erosion of our moral values as a people and a nation.

He noted that the campus focus programme has become highly imperative due to the myriads of vices that have bedeviled the Nigerian Tertiary institutions among which are cultism, Drugs and substance Abuse, Irregular Migration and

Trafficking in persons, and sexual and Gender Base Violence (SGBV).

Abari further explained that the objectives of the programme was to re-awaken the consciousness of students of tertiary institutions on the dangers of drugs and substance Abuse, Irregular Migration and Human trafficking and Cybercrimes, to sensitize students on the national core values and the need to embrace

also think about those good things that they can do for the growth of the country.

Buba noted that the problems being faced today is because of the lost of core values. He emphasized that as custodians of people, the traditional rulers equally work towards promoting the country's core-values at all times.

Presenting a paper on

## NOA promoting positive values in Nigeria



them, to create sustainable synergy between NOA, development partners and tertiary institutions for value re-orientation among others.

The Director also expressed the agency's profound appreciation to the International organization for Migration (IOM) for the gracious Support given to the agency towards the implementation of the programme, stressing that IOM has been the agency's strong partner through their tremendous support especially on the agency's efforts to raise awareness on irregular migration and human trafficking.

Earlier in his remarks while declaring the programme open, chairman Plateau State Joint Traditional Council, His Majesty, Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba who was represented by His Royal Highness (HRH) Gwom Rwey Heipang, Paul Tadi Tok urged students to imbibe the spirit of developing themselves and

"Overview of social vices on campus" by Dxecutive Director, Centre for Advancement, University of Jos, Mr. Yakubu Gomos said that the overall increase of social vices in institutions of higher learning in Nigeria has brought pain, sorrow and death to students, staff and the entire institutions, communities across the country.

Gomos also warned students to refrain from indulging in examination malpractice, stressing that parents should serve as role models to their children by inculcating good moral teachings in them so that they would not become way ward children. He advised parents to stop imposing choice of study on their wards when it comes to admission.

Also presenting a paper title, " The meance of Drugs and substance Abuse and its implications on National Development" by state Commandant, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency

(NDLEA) Plateau State, Mustapha Umar who was represented by Assistant commander, Drug Demand Reduction Unit, Mrs. Grace Goyal said that the menace of drug abuse has permeated into all ramifications of the society.

The commandant remarked that the drug abuse has succeeded in breeding out criminal gangs such as kidnapping, arm-robbery, cultism and terrorist group among others. He challenged students to stay away from any form of drug or substance abuse, saying that many youth have become way ward in life in the society and strongly called on students to say no to drug abuse for the sake of their live as future leaders.

Earlier in her remarks, state Director NOA Plateau State, Mrs. Kaneng T. Pam - Hworo who was represented by Mrs. Grace Tabuwa thanked all the guests and participants for honouring the invitation and urged the participants to step down what they have learned

to other students.

Mrs. Pam-Hworo said that if students on campus can key into all the said core values early in life, Nigeria will no doubt experience growth, development and stability it desires. "We will also see the emergence of a nation we can all be truly proud of as well as witnessing the restoration of our good name among the committee of nations".me. He said that students ha

Rector NTA College Jos, Professor Barnaba, Gbam expressed joy and appreciated NOA for chosing the college for the programve their future in their hands, hence the need for them to be of good character at all times both in school and at home.

**SUNDAY STANDARD** reports that the programme featured theatre for development by NOA, and other paper presentations by NDLEA, Nigeria police Force and NAPTIP.



# IMAGES

## SALLAH HOMAGE

*The Nigeria's President, Muhammadu Buhari on Monday received on Sallah homage, Vice President, Senate President, members of the Federal Executive Council and others after the Eid-el Fitr celebration at the State House, Abuja*



*President Buhari (middle) with the President of the Senate, Dr. Ahmad Lawan (right) and Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo*



*Minister of Labour, Dr. Chris Ngige (right) showing something of interest to the President*



*Nigeria's President Mahammadu Buhari (left) shaking hands with the Secretary to Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha*



*A cross section of invited guests listening to response by the President*



*President Buhari responding to the Sallah message*



*Lady photographer to the Vice President in selfie shot with the President and Vice*



*Adviser on Media and publicity to the President, Mr. Femi Adesina in a handshake with his Boss, President Buhari*



*A cross section of dignitaries applauding the President's remarks*

PHOTOS: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA



## Odd World

### Twin sisters who spent to look identical

A pair of twins who have spent £140k away we did like how our lips looked on surgery in an effort to look identical when they were fuller and we did think, have revealed how they hope to have "What else can we get next?" 'We matching designer vaginas. realised it was quite easy to get things done.'

Dolly and Daisy Simpson, 25, from However, things progressed to having a Stockton-on-Tees, appeared on This nose job and a boob job together during Morning today alongside their mother Christina to discuss their decision to go the pandemic, with the pair deciding to have the procedure on the same day and under-the-knife after having matching nose and boob jobs. and with the same surgeon.

The sisters confessed they hope to Daisy added: 'Dolly has had a have matching labiaplasties and are also labiaplasty and I actually haven't yet.'

Meanwhile, their mother was surprised Dolly responded: 'Daisy is booked in by their suggestions, saying she found but she hasn't been able to go yet because of Covid-restrictions.'

Dolly and Daisy appeared on the programme today, with host Phillip Scofield asking: 'So you want to make yourselves look identical but you both have very different faces.'

Daisy confessed her face was 'a bit rounder', adding: 'You can't change bone structure can you. But we try our best with what we can do.'

Dolly added: 'And when we go to the surgeon, we do ask for the same look and to try to get the same result.'

Their surgery journey began with lip fillers at 18, with Daisy saying: 'Straight

When they were fuller and we did think, "What else can we get next?" 'We realised it was quite easy to get things done.'

However, things progressed to having a nose job and a boob job together during the pandemic, with the pair deciding to have the procedure on the same day and with the same surgeon.

Daisy added: 'Dolly has had a labiaplasty and I actually haven't yet.'

Dolly responded: 'Daisy is booked in but she hasn't been able to go yet because of Covid-restrictions.'

When asked by Phil why they need to look alike, Daisy said:

*We don't need to look alike, it's just we both have that insecurity. Dolly said it was about 'becoming their ideal selves, while Daisy added: 'We both didn't feel confident so getting things together, you get that support as well.'We do want to look similar, and we want the same surgeons, but she's a little more extreme than me. I don't want to look exactly the same as her.*

Dolly said: 'We have similar ideals but not completely...I'm more extreme.'

Daisy added: 'I do want a bit more done. I would get bigger boobs but she wants a BBL and stuff, I don't.'

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### Between Anti-kidnapping bill and us

ONE bill which was recently passed by the Senate and is presently anticipated to be signed into law by the President Muhammadu Buhari administration but generating controversy in Nigeria is the amended Anti-kidnapping bill. Though the members of the National Assembly have found it quite expedient to facilitate the actualization of this bill into law as speedily as possible for the president to assent to it, many citizens of the country are still skeptical of its ability to achieve any success.

It will interest you to know that the members of the upper chambers in the past few months have rigorously embarked on this painstaking excise to perhaps bring succor to the traumatized citizens of the nation who have been held captive by these unscrupulous elements popularly known in contemporary times as kidnapers.

We must appreciate the fact that section 14 (2), b of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) indicates glaringly that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. In the light of this, the government is therefore obligated at all levels to ensure adequate protection of the citizens of this country by any means necessary. In most recent years however, the unabated security challenges experienced has put to test the capacity and capability of the leadership of the nation in protecting its citizenry.

Since the assumption of office of President Buhari, some of the hiccups which have continued to test-try his leadership competency has been banditry, terrorism and kidnappings. In the past few years, the kidnapping industry has continued to flourish with impunity causing grievous hurt and incapacitation of many citizens.

In a bid to discourage the rising spate of these kidnappings and abduction for ransom however, the Senate this time around sought through the bill to outlaw the payments of ransom to abductors, kidnapers and terrorists for release of any person who is a victim of such criminal act. Despite the passage of the bill with due consideration of a report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; experts also noted that the bill was also triggered by the National Task Force on improving Nigeria's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism to ensure that it align with the required standard as obtainable in other jurisdictions.

Sad enough, despite all assurances by the government in most recent times, the menace of kidnappings have continued to proliferate across the nation in most recent years. In most cases, these criminals sometimes tagged unknown gunmen have continued to ransack vulnerable communities causing great havoc on innocent citizens in rural areas.

In some states of the nation, such laws intended to discourage kidnapping related activities have not recorded tangible successes towards reducing this menace in the country. For instance, the Lagos State House of Assembly in 2017 passed its law on the prohibition of kidnappings while Bayelsa State Kidnapping and Allied Offences Law were enacted in 2013. Though several other states in the northern region eventually followed suit, the impact of kidnapping on the economic fabric of the nation including the daily lives of the citizenry

have been quite devastating. It is important to note that in 2020 alone, a Kaduna State government document disclosed that about 937 people were abducted in the state and in the first quarter of 2021, 949 persons were reportedly kidnapped. Equally, the kidnap-for -ransom data also indicated that this nefarious activity has been on the rise annually across Nigeria since 2018.

Some of these notable incidences included the abduction of 39 students of the College of Forestry and Mechanization Afaka and that of the Greenfield University in Chikum area where the perpetrators of this heinous crime demanded for the sum of N100 million for their release. In the North Eastern region, about 279 girls between the ages of 10 and 17 were abducted at Government Girls Science School, Jangebe in Zamfara State not forgetting another 300 students also abducted in Kankara, Katsina State.

Most recently, a commuter train plying Abuja-Kaduna State was blocked and more than 100 of its occupants were taken away to only God knows where. Though reports subsequently indicated that some of these hostages have regained freedom after huge ransoms were paid, security experts have continued to blame the government for not doing enough to protect its citizens. While we must appreciate present efforts put in place to ensure that we as a nation finding lasting solutions to this problems, the question we must ask authorities concern is; will this move to discourage ransom payments for abducted victims reduce the mounting rate of these nefarious activities in the country? Will Nigeria have any relief after President Buhari signs this bill into law?

For yours sincerely, both the Federal and state government still have a lot to do to curb the menace of kidnapping and or abductions in the nation. For the avoidance of doubt, several nations of the world have been able to tackle criminally related activities not by adding more pressure on its citizenry but by doing the needful. Beyond these Acts of legislation, the government must be pragmatically seen to employing efficient contemporary mechanism of putting this menace in check.

In the aftermath of any of such kidnap incidents there are recorded where more than hundred victims are taken away. I am always tempted to asking of the hidden space such these large number of persons could be kept and not dictated. I am also left to wonder how on earth a group of armed criminals could house such a large number of hostages away from the radar of the law.

Yet, rather than addressing these fundamental issues, this bill will only but add more sorrow to the relations of such victims. This is because; if what we have continued to see is that our kidnapped loved ones are always forgotten in history, why should instead of remedying the situation our lawmakers will only seek ways of adding pressure on relations of kidnapped victims by refraining them from paying for the release of such victims?

Me think, it lays on the onus of the federal government and other stakeholders to refocus their energy on implementing a workable security framework which would address headlong the menace of kidnapping in this country rather than towing this path of submission.





## Feature

# The economic challenges of insecurity in Nigeria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The vicious circle of insecurity in Nigeria has diminished public

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

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

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

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

country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





## A humble wedding

PLATEAU Governor Simon Bako Lalong was a part of the wedding of son of Late Brig. Gen John Shagaya, Nigeria's former Minister of Aviation and daughter of Maj. Gen. Haladu Hananiya, First Nigerian Corps Marshall.

The simple but classy wedding had a few guests. It took place at the St Pirans Church GRA Jos attracting well-wishers and friends of the couple.

The reception of barely 200 guests took place at the Shagaya home-garden with a few guests and a lot of side attractions including a wine bar, traditional dances and entertaining sights.

At the beginning of the reception, Simjul and wife humbly went from table to table to greet their guests. While the MC urged the guests not to keep the couple too long on their table, because they have a long journey ahead of the day's evening event.

The groom is a part of the Plateau Economic Advisory Council and played a key role in working on the demolition of parts of the Jos Main Market which is about to be rebuilt, said Governor Lalong as he glowingly praised him for making his state Plateau proud as a 'worthy son' in the world of technology and e-commerce.

He described him as one with a passion for innovation whose innovative initiatives have attracted investments to Plateau State while his achievements remain inspiration to many.

Lalong who represented President Muhammadu Buhari, attended the event with Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, former Governors of Plateau State, Rear Admiral Simon Bitrus Atukum and Air Commodore Dan Suleiman among other personalities.

The groom, popularly called Sim Shagaya has an interesting CV and is one who has indeed made his state proud. His rich profile rings a bell within and outside the country. He is a Nigerian media and technology entrepreneur and business mogul, founder and CEO of Lesson Education - an app built to make education available to e- learners across Africa, the founder and former C.E.O of one of West Africa's largest electronic commerce website Konga.com and founder of E-Motion Advertising - a leading out-of-home Media Company

acquired in 2019 by Loadstad Media.

In 2014, he was named in Forbes' list of "10 Most Powerful Men in Africa". In 2012, before Sim started DealDey and Konga.com, he created several websites like Alarena, Jobclan, Gbogbo and Nollywood which were relatively unsuccessful, but in March 2011, DealDey was launched after he convinced the board of the billboard company he owned to invest in DealDey.

On 3 July 2012, he founded Konga.com with a capital from Swedish investment firm Kinnevik. Sim had in various interviews said the primary aim of Konga.com is to "aggregate the youngest and fastest-growing market that was dispersed, under-served and that traditional retailers were simply failing to reach".

Prior to the establishment of DealDey and Konga.com, Sim worked as a banker in South Africa under Rand Merchant Bank. He later moved to Nigeria where he became Google's head for Africa and went on to found a Lagos-based billboard advertising business called E-Motion in November 2005.

Sim sits on the Economic Advisory Council of Plateau State, Nigeria. He cites Hakeem Bello-Osagie as the "biggest impact" in his career. He had served in the Nigerian Army after completing the Nigerian Military School. He completed most of his education in the US. He is a graduate of George Washington University and Dartmouth College. He also holds an MBA certificate after graduating from Harvard Business School in the early 2000s.



## News

### Langtang, Wase assure Tyoden of support

From  
**DUMAH RANDONG,**  
Lantang-North

THE local authorities in Langtang South, Lantang North and Wase have assured the Symbol of Trust captain, Professor Sonni Tyoden that they were fully committed to ensure that his aspiration to succeed Governor Simon Lalong becomes a reality. The council chairmen made the remark separately when the Deputy Governor and his entourage toured the local governments to solicit their votes ahead of the primaries of the All Progressives Congress. The Chairman of Lantang South, Vincent Venman through the council's Deputy Chairman, Deborah Danfa, that of Lantang North, Zulfa Rimven represented by the Deputy, Nancy Paul and their Wase counterpart, Ado Abubakar through the council's Deputy Chairman, Nanven Audu commended

Professor Tyoden for coming to intimate them of his desire to succeed the incumbent Governor. They unanimously agreed that the Deputy Governor has the requisite experience, capability and pedigree to pilot the activities of Plateau State in 2023 and beyond. The respective council chairmen stressed that they were hundred percent behind the Deputy Governor who they noted has impacted in no small measure on the lives of Plateau people throughout his public service life. They assured Tyoden that he should take them by their words as they would not speak with both sides of the mouth. Early, Professor Sonni Tyoden who visited the local

government councils separately said he was at the respective local authorities to solicit their votes as he is conversant with the peculiarities of the challenges and problems confronting each local government area. He assured that when given the mandate, he will further consolidate on the security architecture of the state, create employment for citizens, improve the economy of Plateau and complete projects whose execution period may go beyond May, 2023. He noted that since 1999, there has been rancour between the Governors and their Deputies in Plateau State. However the Governor and himself decided to operate a rancour free government to tell Plateau people that peace is achievable. The Deputy Governor and front line aspirant also had an interface with the Legislative Councils of Lantang South, Lantang North and Wase and the party officials and stakeholders in the respective Local Government Areas where he assured them that when given the mandate, he will not disappoint them. Professor Sonni Tyoden was also at the APC Secretariat Shendam where he was given a rousing welcome. The representatives of the Youth, Women, Elders and the Party officials showered praises on the capability of the Deputy Governor to lead the state at the expiration of the tenure of their son and the incumbent Governor in 2023.



Tyoden

### Sen. Abdullahi Adamu, National Chairman of All Progressive Congress (APC) has advised Nigerians to be security conscious.

He gave the advice shortly after a courtesy visit to the Emir of Keffi, Dr Shehu Chindo-Yamusa at his palace in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State on Monday. "We have the responsibility as government to take care of the citizenry's security but security is everybody's business. "If anyone is doing anything wrong, you have the responsibility to report to the nearest authority. "If you keep quiet, you are endangering the peace and tranquility of the country and your family.

### Be security conscious

-APC national leader

"You allow one little thing to happen and you don't know how far it will go. So everyone should see himself or herself as agent of security in this country," he said. He also appealed to Nigerians to shelve their differences, be law abiding and love themselves, irrespective of their religious or tribal differences. "I enjoin Nigerians to love their neighbours as they love themselves as ordained by the holy books. "If we abide those simple divine instruction, we will have tranquility and we will have stability and we will witness rapid development in the country," he said. The APC Chairman expressed

gratitude to God for the state of Nigerians who were able to carry out the 30 days Holy Ramadan fasting, and celebrate the Eid-El-Fitr in good health. The Emir, Dr Shehu Chindo-Yamusa, lauded the people of Keffi Emirate and muslims across the country for the successful completion of the holy Ramadan fasting. He also called for Nigerians to be proactive with regard to security and their active participation in the forthcoming 2023 general elections. The traditional ruler also stressed the need for farmers in the emirate to go to their farms since the rainy season had commenced.

### CAN rejoices with Sultan, Muslims at Sallah

THE Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) says it rejoices with Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, the Sultan of Sokoto and President-General, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA). In a statement by Joseph D a r a m o l a , National CAN's General-Secretary said it also rejoices with the entire Muslims as they celebrate this year's Eid-el-Fitr. "CAN congratulates our Muslims brothers and sisters on the end of the Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The month during which Muslims around the world fast from dawn to

repentance." CAN said its leadership would not cease having dialogues on peace and unity with the leadership of NSCIA at the forum provided by the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC). It called on the Federal Government to reconsider the de-radicalising and rehabilitating of the arrested. "And the surrendered terrorists simply because it seems the programme considered laudable is b e c o m i n g counterproductive. "Once again, CAN rejoices with our Muslim counterparts and we pray that their prayers and restraints during the month will not be in vain.

sunset. "Since the month, among other things, aims to purify the soul and bring the individual closer to God."We urge you all to abide with the teachings and the principles of Ramadan in your daily activities. "We know that it is those who fight and kill on religious basis that are largely responsible for the unending killings and abductions in the country. "It is these pseudo-Muslims who are slaughtering fellow human beings and who burn down worship and market places, all in the name of God who is peace personified. "We are praying for their



# Sports

By CHRIS BEVAN

## Liverpool inch closer to history

WHETHER you love Liverpool or loathe them, we are all wondering the same thing now, will they win one, two, three... or all four trophies this season?

With less than a month left, an unprecedented quadruple no longer seems an impossible dream. In fact, even with only the Carabao Cup secured so far, the Reds can already claim they are closer to it than any English side has managed before.

Many have tried too. Since it first became achievable in 1960, there have been 120 other attempts by 15 clubs to become champions of England, conquer Europe and win the FA Cup and League Cup in the same campaign.

We have seen three different trebles from those teams and 17 more did a double of some kind. But, date-wise, no side has got this far into the season with their hopes still alive of an amazing clean sweep.

You may think there is a glaring omission in the table above. Manchester United's 1998-99 Treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup was historic in its own right, and is rightly seen as the greatest trophy haul by an English team of any era.

But Sir Alex Ferguson's side did not even get within six months of a quadruple because they went out of the League Cup to Tottenham in the quarter-finals on 2 December 1998.

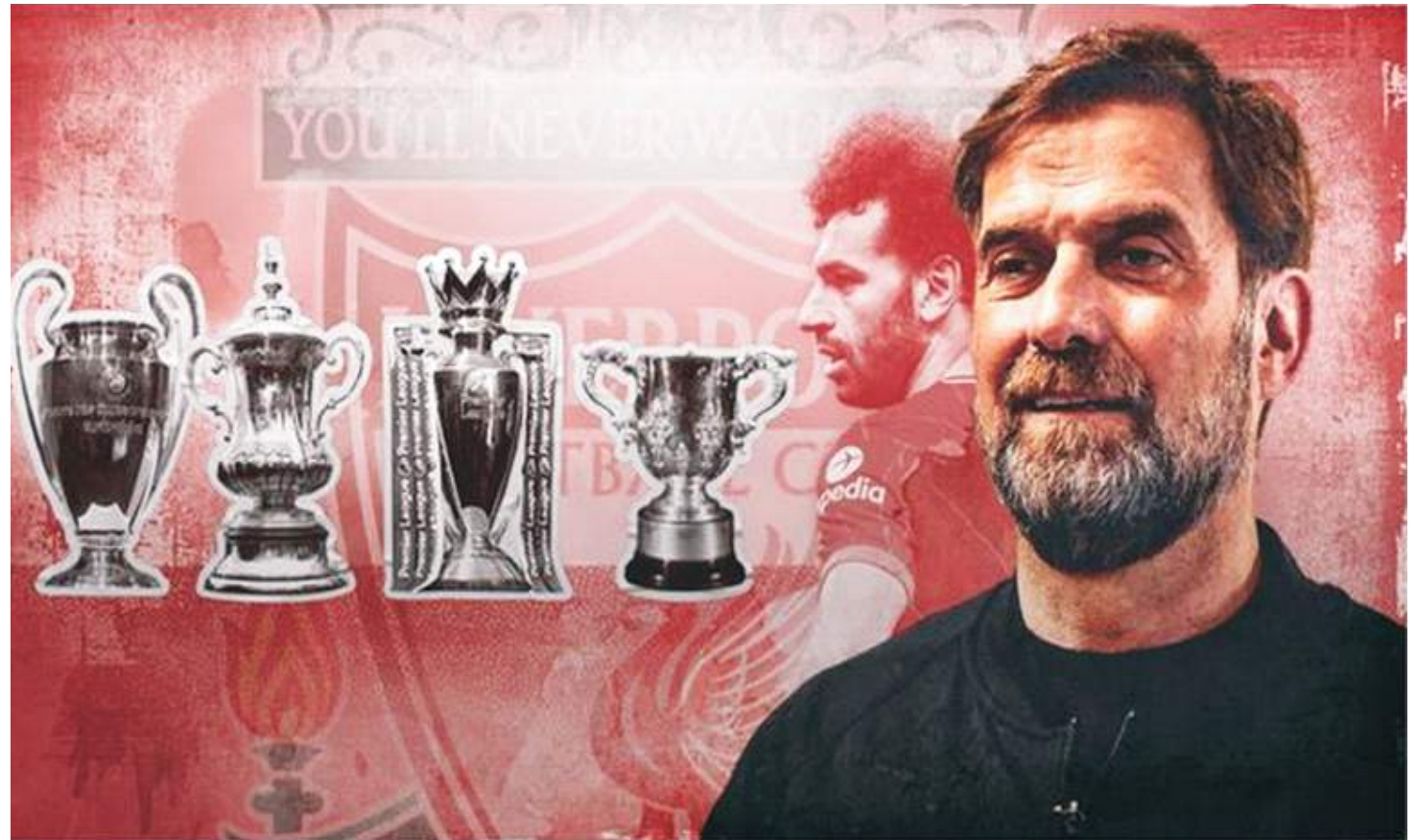
That meant no-one was talking about an Old Trafford clean sweep by Christmas that year, let alone trumpeting about it the following spring. Although, like Manchester City in 2019 and Liverpool in 1984, United still had plenty to celebrate then.

Rather than their more famous Treble winners, the United team that came closest to all four trophies was their 2009 side, which won the Premier League and League Cup.

They made it to within three wins of a quadruple but lost to Everton in the FA Cup last four and Barcelona in the Champions League final - and had to settle for 'only' two in the end.

This is the Reds' 24th attempt at a quadruple in the 47 seasons it has been possible since the League Cup was established in 1960-61 - the joint-most with United, who were denied an attempt in 1999-2000 when they did not take part in the FA Cup.

While Liverpool won one of the required trophies in seven of those seasons, did a double of some kind in



four more and managed one treble of the league title, European Cup and League Cup in 1984, until this campaign they had never even reached March still in with a chance of all four.

The club's other recognised treble, of 2000-01, is a notable achievement too, but does not count as a quadruple attempt because they were not in the Champions League that season. Liverpool won the Uefa Cup, FA Cup and League Cup, while finishing third in the league.

As remarkable as the Reds' season has been up to this point, it is the amount of silverware they eventually collect that will decide how it will be remembered. Not how long they had a chance of winning everything or how many games away from glory they ended up.

Until this week, Jose Mourinho's 2007 side had stayed in contention for the quadruple longer than any other English club.

That was only 15 years ago, but it has already been largely forgotten - and was even overlooked by many while it was happening. It is a timely

warning of how quickly Liverpool's quest could unravel from here.

Excitement is building at Anfield and far beyond with every victory by Jurgen Klopp's side, who were told last week they would become 'immortal' if they can achieve the feat.

Yet there was no fanfare for Chelsea in 2007, when they became the first English side to make it into May with the League Cup in the bag and still chasing glory on the three other fronts.

Chelsea's situation then was actually extremely similar to Klopp's task now. With four league games to go, the Blues were three points behind Premier League leaders Manchester United, not one. But, like Liverpool now, they were already safely into the FA Cup final and had just won the first leg of their Champions League semi-final too.

The backdrop to their bid was very different, however. Newspaper reports about Chelsea at that time did, occasionally, mention their quadruple chances. But instead of celebrating Mourinho's

achievements and wondering how much his team could win, the media was mostly speculating about whether he would keep his job beyond the end of the campaign.

Rather than being asked repeatedly about a clean sweep - which, by the way, Mourinho thought was possible right until the end - a rumoured fallout with then-owner Roman Abramovich meant he was being continually questioned about his own future.

Slightly different then to Klopp signing a new Anfield contract last week - and the unrest behind the scenes clearly didn't help Mourinho.

His side's title challenge foundered in the next set of fixtures. Eventual champions United recovered from being 2-0 down with 30 minutes left to beat Everton 4-2 and opened up a five-point lead with three games to play - after Chelsea could only draw 2-2 with Bolton on the same day.

Their quadruple bid was gone for good a couple of days later when Liverpool hit back in the second leg of their Champions League semi-final and ended up progressing on penalties after a 1-1 aggregate draw.

league games are against Newcastle (h), Wolves (a), West Ham (a) and Aston Villa (h). Liverpool must play Tottenham (h), Aston Villa (a), Southampton (a) and Wolves (h)

Mourinho did have the sizeable consolation of winning the FA Cup a couple of weeks later to complete a domestic cup double in 2007, but those stories that he was on the brink proved correct as he made his first exit from Stamford Bridge that September.

Multiple successes in that manner were relatively rare in English football until the expansion of the Champions League in the late 1990s offered more opportunities for a quadruple - and 12 of the past 20 seasons have seen one team win at least two of the required trophies.

This time, however, the silverware could still be shared around. Of the four English teams who had a quadruple chance at the beginning of the campaign, only Manchester United can be sure the keys to their trophy cabinet will not be needed this month.

Their quadruple chances are long

since over, but it is not inconceivable Manchester City and Chelsea could still end up with more to show for their season than Liverpool.

City are not just trying to deny Klopp a clean sweep, they are chasing their own double of the Champions League and English League title - a feat managed only twice before, by Liverpool in 1977 and United in 2008.

Likewise, Chelsea are looking to beat the Reds and lift the FA Cup when they meet at Wembley on 14 May.

Before the Premier League and Champions League era began in 1992, Burnley went closest to a quadruple, in 1960-61 - the first season four trophies were up for grabs in England - when they made it as far as 15 March before losing to Hamburg in the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

Back then, quadruple opportunities were far more limited - the European Cup was restricted to just the league champions or holders and, for eight out of 10 seasons between 1961 and 1971, the clubs who qualified did not enter the League Cup.

There was no chance of completing it between 1985 and 1991 either, as English clubs were barred from Europe for five years, and league champions Liverpool served an extra year's suspension in 1990-91.

Since then, some great teams of the modern era have had a go at winning all four trophies - and United's Treble winners are not the only ones who have fallen short.

City's 'Centurions' - the Pep Guardiola side that broke the 100-point mark and set an all-time English top-flight record for most points in a single campaign in 2017-18 - had their bid ended by Wigan Athletic, of League One, in the FA Cup fifth round on 19 February.

Arsenal's legendary 'Invincibles' went the entire league campaign undefeated in 2003-04, but that was the only silverware they secured that season and their quadruple hopes were ended on 3 February by Middlesbrough, who beat them 3-1 on aggregate in the League Cup semi-finals.



Liverpool won a treble of League title, European Cup and League Cup in 1984 and Manchester City did another involving the Premier League and both domestic cups in 2019, but United's capture of the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup in 1999 is recognised as the actual Treble in English football.



Sports

# Fourth place like a trophy for Arsenal, Tottenham



ARSENAL are in the driving seat for a fourth-place finish at the moment but, with four games to go, we all know what will decide whether they make it - or Tottenham do.

Both teams have another game to play before they meet at Spurs' stadium on 12 May but you just can't ignore how much next week's north London derby matters when you talk about the race for the top four.

It's absolutely huge, for all sorts of reasons. Like a lot of people, I think whoever wins that game will end up in the Champions League places - but good luck trying to predict who that will be.

I don't think it matters who has their noses ahead in the table going into the derby, either. Because of what is at stake, both teams will throw everything they have got at each other.

I played in this game for Spurs a few times and they don't even need to have anything riding on them to be special occasions because of what you always get from both sets of fans.

This time, though, everything depends on it.

It will feel like a cup final, because fourth place is like a trophy now for Arsenal and Tottenham, with what being back in the Champions League next season would mean for both clubs.

Whoever makes it will have had a successful campaign but it is what happens next that is really important. Quite simply, offering Champions League football makes the difference between being able to sign certain players, or not.

**Tottenham are not the only 'Spursy' team around**

I wouldn't say I've been convinced by either side this season, which is why they're in

the position they are in.

Tottenham have been given their 'Spursy' tag because of their inconsistency and how they have a habit of putting themselves in a strong position, but then letting things slide away.

You could say the same about every team who has been chasing fourth place this season, though, including Arsenal.

And at least these two teams are still in the race. It feels like Manchester United turn in a 'United' performance most weeks now - and by that I mean a very disappointing one.

You look at where United finished last season, in second place, and who they signed last summer - Cristiano Ronaldo, Raphael Varane and Jadon Sancho - but somehow they are much worse off.

Arsenal and Spurs both have their issues and have dropped some silly points in the last few weeks but things are not anywhere near as bad as they are at Old Trafford, and they both showed with their wins on Sunday that they are ready for what lies ahead.

**A day for centre-halves to shine**

Tottenham took a bit of time to find their rhythm against Leicester but, as soon as Harry Kane put them in front, they were on top.

Son Heung-min got his goals too and together he and Kane showed again what we already knew - those two players can always dig them out of trouble, no matter what. They have done it all season, and the last few years too.

Tottenham 3-1 Leicester: Antonio Conte praises Son Heung-min for 'fantastic' goal

It's not just up front where Spurs impressed me, though. In defence, I thought Cristian

Romero was absolutely outstanding again.

As a former centre-half myself, I just love the way Romero plays. He is always on the front foot and aggressive, which made a difference today with the two important tackles he went into - and won.

That showed me how much he wanted it, but he's a clever player too. He gets himself in good positions and is always there if someone makes a mistake. They are going to need more of the same in the next few weeks.

After seeing Spurs win comfortably and move above them in the table it was down to Arsenal to respond when they went to West Ham for the later kick-off.

Their centre-halves, Rob Holding and Gabriel, also played a big part in the win over West Ham, but their biggest contributions obviously came at the other end of the pitch.

It doesn't matter whether your strikers are scoring lots of goals or not - and Arsenal's really aren't at the moment - in any season where you are trying to achieve something then you need to get goals from all over your team.

Gunners boss Mikel Arteta must have loved seeing them both score from set-pieces, and also the way his team went on to get a result.

**Arsenal show they can grind out a big win**

I don't think Arsenal played particularly well at London Stadium, but I was still impressed with the way they were able to grind their win out.

It wasn't pretty but it didn't have to be. It felt like we saw a different side of Arsenal again, and it meant they got another vital three points in what was a very difficult

game.

West Ham 1-2 Arsenal: Gunners 'won ugly' at London Stadium - Mikel Arteta

After having that little wobble a few weeks ago where their form dipped, they have now bounced back and beaten Chelsea, Manchester United and West Ham in successive matches. All wins are welcome of course, but getting them in such big games is even better.

Arsenal are now only three points behind third-placed Chelsea, who surprisingly lost at Everton on Sunday.

I don't think Thomas Tuchel's side have to worry much about dropping out of the top four though.

They have thrown in the odd poor performance recently, but that's hardly surprising with what has been going on at the club off the pitch.

They still have far more good days than bad ones, and when they are good, they brush most teams aside.

Everton 1-0 Chelsea: Thomas Tuchel admits Chelsea's form is 'concerning'

I watched the Blues play Liverpool in the Carabao Cup final a couple of months ago and it was the best 0-0 game I've ever seen.

Even when they are bad, you always see a reaction from them, which is another good sign. We saw that against Real Madrid in the Champions League quarter-finals when they paid the price for a poor first 45 minutes in the first leg but came back strongly in Madrid and almost got through.

I don't look at their remaining games and think they are going to struggle, which leaves just one place in the top four up for grabs.

I'll tell you who I think will get that when the north London derby is done.

## Do you know that.....

DIEGO Maradona took a drug test with a fake plastic piece of manhood filled with clean urine.

After testing positive for

cocaine in Italy in 1991 and failing another test during the 1994 World Cup, soccer great Diego Maradona decided to work on hiding the evidence.

## Personality Profile

### Michael Jordan

MICHAEL Jordan (MJ) is considered the greatest basketball player of all time. He was voted NBA most valuable player a record five times. Playing most of his career for the Chicago Bulls, he won six NBA Championships. Michael Jordan also became one of the most marketed sportsmen, with lucrative endorsements with Nike, helping to make the Nike Air shoe one of the best-known trainers in the world. His career and high profile coincided with a rapid growth in the popularity of NBA basketball, and his personal achievements are considered a major factor in boosting the popularity of basketball. The NBA Website says of Michael Jordan:

"A phenomenal athlete with a unique combination of fundamental soundness, grace, speed, power, artistry, improvisational ability and an unquenchable competitive desire, Jordan single-handedly redefined the NBA superstar." (NBA)

Michael Jordan was born in Brooklyn, New York. But, his family moved to North Carolina where he grew up. As a sophomore, at times, he struggled to get in the High School Team due to his low height. Instead, he concentrated on other sports, such as baseball. But, as a late developer, he grew to 6 foot 3 inch and this helped him to dominate the junior court. Michael Jordan attended the University of North Carolina where he was named College Player of the Year but the Sporting News. In 1984, he was picked in the NBA draft by the Chicago Bulls.

In 1984, he was also selected to be in the US Olympic basketball team, where, with the team, he won the gold medal.

In the late 1980s, Jordan led an increasingly successful Chicago Bulls team. They won their first championship in 1991 and went on to win six titles in the space of nine years. Along the way, Jordan broke many of the long-standing NBA records. In 1988-89, he led the league

with 32.5 points per game.

In 1992, Jordan again returned to the Olympics. This time as a full professional - Jordan was part of the 'Dream Team'. The US easily won the Olympic gold - with their opponents often admitting they felt honoured to be on the same court as Michael Jordan and the 'dream team'.

However, in 1993, a series of personal difficulties caused him to temporarily retire from the game. His father was murdered during an armed robbery, devastating Jordan who saw his father as his closest confidant. He was also struggling with his own gambling issues.

For a short time, he made a foray into baseball, playing the 1994 season for the Birmingham Barons. But, in the 1994-95 season, he came back to his primary love - basketball.

Despite losing some of his youthful speed, Jordan still had the magic touch and led the Chicago Bulls to the semifinals with some stellar performances. The next year, 1995-96, he led the Chicago Bulls to another title.

Jordan continued to play until past his 40th birthday in the 2002-03 season.

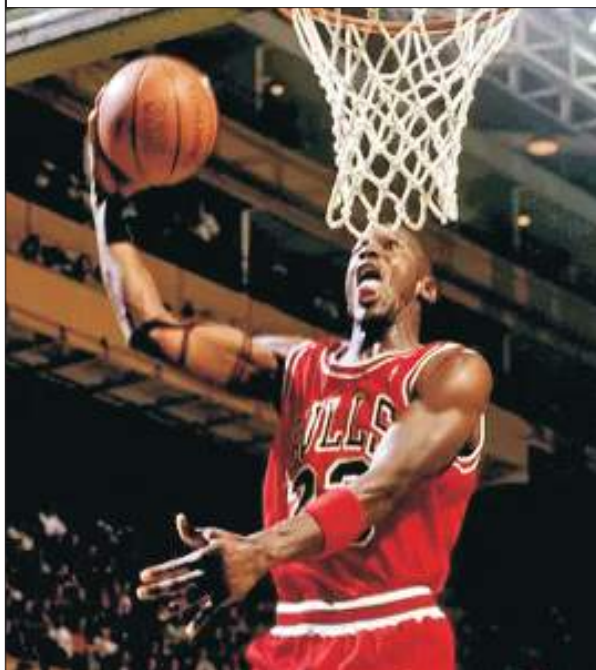
After he finally retired, he had played a total of 1,072 games, with a points per game average of 30.1 and a total of 32,292 points.

After making his final retirement, Jordan has concentrated on management and ownership.

In June 2006, he bought a minority stake in the Charlotte Bobcats and later gained outright ownership, becoming the first former NBA star to become the majority owner of a league franchise.

In June 2010, Jordan was ranked by Forbes Magazine as the 20th-most powerful celebrity in the world with \$55 million earned between June 2009 and June 2010. According to the Forbes article, Jordan Brand generates \$1 billion in sales for Nike.

In 1999, he was named the greatest North American athlete of the 20th century by ESPN, and was second to Babe Ruth on the Associated Press's list of athletes of the century. He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009.





# Sports



Fans went on rampage when Nigeria failed to beat Ghana to qualify for the Qatar 2022 World Cup at the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja... on March 29, 2022

## FIFA fines Nigeria N64m

World football governing body, FIFA, on Monday, imposed an N64 million (150,000 Swiss francs) fine on Nigeria for crowd disturbances that followed the Super Eagles' inability to beat Ghana and qualify for the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

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

To vent their anger and frustration over their team's poor show, football fans at the stadium went berserk, destroying everything in sight.

At the end of the rampage, one CAF official from Zambia, Dr. Joseph Kabungo, who served as a doping doctor, was confirmed dead from suspected cardiac arrest.

The FIFA disciplinary panel also judged dozens of similar cases from World Cup qualifying games played since January and handed out several other fines and stadium closures.

FIFA fined Senegal N75 million (175 Swiss francs) for fan disorder, including shining laser pointers at Egypt star, Mohamed Salah, in the penalty shootout that decided their Qatar 2022 World Cup qualifier in Dakar.

Salah's face was a blur of vivid green light when he prepared to take his penalty, which he blasted over the bar. Senegal went on to win the shootout in Dakar in March with Salah's Liverpool teammate Sadio Mané scoring the decisive spot-kick.

FIFA said its disciplinary committee also looked into a pitch invasion by Senegal fans, an offensive banner

By CHRISTIAN OKPARA

and the national federation's "failure to ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadium."

Senegal was also ordered to play a future competitive game in an empty stadium.

FIFA imposed fines of 125,000 Swiss francs (\$128,000) on Congo and 100,000 Swiss francs (\$103,000) on Lebanon in similar cases at games against Morocco and Syria, respectively. Both got one-game stadium closures.

Discrimination by fans of Chile and Colombia at their home games, plus other offenses, resulted in total fines of 95,000 Swiss francs (\$98,000) and 55,000 Swiss francs (\$56,500), respectively.

Meanwhile, the

Confederation of African Football (CAF) has approved the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja, for Nigeria's Cote d'Ivoire 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Sierra Leone.

In a letter sent to Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) on Sunday, CAF gave the approval for the stadium to be used for the 2023 AFCON qualifier.

This approval puts to end speculations that the edifice will be barred from hosting international matches in the wake of the crowd disturbances that trailed the second leg of the 2022 World Cup qualifier against Ghana.

FIFA, however, ruled that the Nigeria versus Sierra Leone game would be played behind closed doors.

## Birmingham 2022: CGF develops programme

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

As part of the preparations for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has developed a programme called GAPS (Gather, Adjust, Prepare and Sustain) for Birmingham 2022. A statement issued to newsmen

According to the statement signed by Mohammed Manga GAPS the programme is for emerging athletes and coaches from the Commonwealth. It aims to support the development of inclusive sport pathways, removing barriers to participation for people with disability and for women and girls to become actively involved in sports. Development of coaches is fundamental, so is tackling many of the barriers and

constraints that prevent participation.

According to the release GAPS is to offer emerging athletes and coaches from Commonwealth countries access to additional skills, knowledge and resources. This is driven by advancing education and supporting the development of inclusive sports pathways that promote positive social change in sport and communities.

It added that, CGF and Commonwealth Games Association (CGA) have collaborated to give some qualified Para Sports athletes and coaches from 13 Commonwealth countries additional skills, knowledge and resources for preparations towards Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, of which Nigeria is a

## NPFL : Kwara break Rivers jinx

By OLUWAFERANMI OMONIYI

THE concluding fixtures of the Nigeria Professional Football League, NPFL, were played across different venues in the country on Sunday.

Five home victories and two draws with a total of 11 goals were recorded during the seven games played.

At Ilorin, one of the eagerly anticipated games of the league ended in a dramatic fashion.

Kwara United battled to a 2-1 comeback win over Rivers United at the Ilorin township stadium.

It was Kwara United's first ever victory over the PortHarcourt based side in seven years.

Rivers United broke the deadlock from Nelson Esor's attack on goalkeeper Dele Aiyenugba in the third minute.

10 minutes into the game, Rivers United coach Stanley Eguma was booked for dissent by referee Oginni.

The search for an equaliser began for the Afonja Warriors after they conceded an early goal in the game.

Before the blink of an eye,



## NBA : Warriors, Bucks win first game

THE Golden State Warriors took a 1-0 lead in their NBA play-off Western Conference semi-final with a thrilling 117-116 win over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Klay Thompson hit a three-pointer to put the Warriors ahead late on, only to then miss two free throws.

But Grizzlies guard Ja Morant could not convert a contested lay-up at the

buzzer as the Warriors held on.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Milwaukee Bucks to a 101-89 Eastern Conference semi win over the Boston Celtics.

Antetokounmpo, twice the NBA's Most Valuable Player, recorded a triple double with 24 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for the defending champion Bucks as they took a 1-0 series lead in Boston.

Bucks guard Jrue Holiday scored a game-high 25 points, while Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 21 points.

The Warriors played the entire second half without key forward Draymond Green after he was ejected for a flagrant-two foul - the NBA rulebook's name for unnecessary and excessive contact - on Brandon Clarke shortly before half-time.

Jordan Poole starred for the visitors in Memphis by scoring 31 points, while Stephen Curry added 24.

Morant hit 34 points and Jaren Jackson Jr made 33 for the Grizzlies but Thompson, who made only six of 19 attempts, overcame a poor shooting performance to hit the ultimately decisive basket.

beneficiary. The beneficiaries of this programme from Nigeria are from the following

Para Table Tennis	-	5 Athletes and 1 Coach
Para Powerlifting	-	4 Athletes and 4 Coaches
Para Athletics	-	2 Athletes and 2 Coaches

### NPFL results

Dakkada	1	Plateau Utd	0
Tornadoes	2	Kano Pillars	1
MFM	0	Rangers	0
Remo Stars	1	Wikki	0
Enyimba	3	Gombe United	0
Katsina United	1	Akwa United	0
Lobi Stars	2	Nasarawa United	1
Kwara United	2	Rivers United	1

### Weekend fixtures Saturday

Abia Warriors	Vs	Remo Stars
Enugu Rangers	Vs	Heartand

### Weekend fixtures Sunday

Shooting Stars	Vs	Niger Tornadoes
Akwa United	Vs	Enyimba
Lobi Stars	Vs	Katsina United
Wikki Tourists	Vs	Dakkada
Rivers United	Vs	MFM
Gombe United	Vs	Sunshine Stars
Kano Pillars	Vs	Kwara United
Nasarawa United	Vs	Plateau United





**Quest**



writer

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

# The error of name writing, application

**A**T a Senate meeting of a University in Nigeria last year, a staff of the university was announced to have died a month before the event. A member of senate almost fainted when he heard the name. The names were exactly the name of the father whom we knew for sure was alive at least in the past 48 hours. The son had died and had been buried a fortnight back. The father was not a staff of University, but the son was. The fear was that the father had also died probably from some form of shock following the son's demise. That was not the case. The names mentioned were exactly those of the father's. Names of individuals are written with levity, or treatment of a serious matter with humour or lack of due respect.

The international or English format for writing names is: First or given name followed by middle name and last name (family or father's). In this case, someone somewhere left out the given or first name of the son and wrote out the names of the father which were the names announced. This is wrong indeed. Someone could have fainted or even died as a result of this announcement for shock of the mention of the father's name for what could be said to be double tragedy.

In English, names are usually written in the format: First given name, family name. Sometimes, they are written as First Given Names - Other given names - Family Name)

To the best of my knowledge, children do not inherit the names of their parents as a law. Newborn babies are given names in many cultural and traditional settings, and in some cases, a naming ceremony is the forum for doing so. That is the 'given name'. In



Lai Mohammed

certain scenarios, when the person grows up, may adopt another name for himself or herself, e.g. baptismal name. Either of the given or baptismal name can be adopted as the first or middle name. The last name being the surname, family or father's name. Names therefore have a standard format of being written. Any deviation could be considered as impersonation.

The format could be changed BUT the first, middle and last names can still identified by the format. The correct format to be used in all government issued documents are First name (Given name) Middle name followed by family name or father's name). That is, the last name to be written is Family (Surname) or Father's. Nowhere does it say that Family or Father's name should be written first! I have however seen a write up in which someone say: 'In my country's

culture, the order of writing full names is as follows: Family name - Middle name - Given name.' Note that the person said in his country's culture!

For example, the name *Janet Nanbam Joseph* indicates that *Janet* is the first name, *Nanbam* the middle name and *Obed* the last name. The same name can have an internationally accepted format of *Joseph, Janet Nanbam*; **Joseph Janet Nanbam**; or **JOSEPH Janet Nanbam**. In all these cases, the last name has been written first and is so identified by putting a coma after it, writing it in bold or in capital letters. All these names belong to the same person by international standards. Anything written outside this format means a different person. That is to say that: Janet Obed Nanbam, Janet Nanbam Obed, Nanbam Obed Janet, Nanbam Janet Obed, Obed Nanbam Janet, and Obed

**"For example, the name Janet Nanbam Joseph indicates that Janet is the first name, Nanbam the middle name and Obed the last name. The same name can have an internationally accepted format of Joseph, Janet Nanbam; Joseph Janet Nanbam; or JOSEPH Janet Nanbam. In all these cases, the last name has been written first and is so identified by putting a coma after it, writing it in bold or in capital letters. All these names belong to the same person by international standards. Anything written outside this format means a different person. That is to say that: Janet Obed Nanbam, Janet Nanbam Obed, Nanbam Obed Janet, Nanbam Janet Obed, Obed Nanbam Janet, and Obed Janet Nanbam - in principle and practice do not belong to the same person. People assume that because all the three names are penciled down, it should be the person's name. This is not true."**

## FRAGMENT

**"At one of the airports in Nigeria, I gave my ID card for the attendant to process my boarding pass for the flight. The print-out came out with a name that no one knows me with it. I vehemently protested and rejected the print-out stating that was NOT my known name. The clerk chose my middle name as the Family or father's name, while putting my surname and first names as initials. Since I was sponsored for the trip, I rejected it because my sponsors would not accept the print-out on the grounds that my familiar name (Last Name) was not seen. Retiring my documents / papers would be problematic. The officer saw no problem with it, but I saw big problems with it amounting to impersonation.**

**Prof. Josiah Mutihir**

Janet Nanbam - in principle and practice do not belong to the same person. People assume that because all the three names are penciled down, it should be the person's name. This is not true. This is a thought of the ignorant mind. Someone somewhere somehow will have the same three names but arranged differently, particularly if they are all masculine names. For example: Haruna Abdullahi Samson; Haruna Samson Abdullahi; Abdullahi Haruna Samson; Abdullahi Samson Haruna; Samson Haruna Abdullahi; and Samson Abdullahi Haruna. These are names of six different individuals. Another simple example is the two names Suleiman Dauda and Dauda Suleiman. The first presupposes that the last name is Dauda while the second has the surname as Suleiman. These names belong to two completely different people of probably different nationality, ethnicity, religion, tribe or race. The courts of Law would definitely interpret this to the affirmative that these are two different persons or individuals, except if the lawyer or judge is not knowledgeable or not 'learned'.

In circumstances where initials are used, for names Janet Nanbam Obed, and where Janet is the first name, Nanbam the second name and Obed the family name, it can be written as J. N. Obed or Obed, J. N. When using only initials for all the names, it is written as JNO. Notice that the initial for the first name comes first while that of the family of father's name comes last. This is required for uniformity and consistency. Once this is breached, it becomes another person's initials or names.

I have had to ask many individuals why they write their names differently. The response is that the order does not matter. Yes, the order does not matter but it goes along with certain etiquette or formatting that make it sensible. People are just careless about writing their names thinking it does not matter! Yes, it matters in court, in the bank, for BVN, and so on and so forth. Not taking it serious can land one in trouble for

impersonation, fraud, criminality, and the like.

At one of the airports in Nigeria, I gave my ID card for the attendant to process my boarding pass for the flight. The print-out came out with a name that no one knows me with it. I vehemently protested and rejected the print-out stating that was NOT my known name. The clerk chose my middle name as the Family or father's name, while putting my surname and first names as initials. Since I was sponsored for the trip, I rejected it because my sponsors would not accept the print-out on the grounds that my familiar name (Last Name) was not seen. Retiring my documents / papers would be problematic. The officer saw no problem with it, but I saw big problems with it amounting to impersonation.

Over the years, teachers in Primary and secondary schools have abjugated in their responsibilities of teaching basic ethics of writing names and taken to local formats stipulated by WAEC, NECO, etc, causing confusion that sooner or later cannot be contained. It is a serious issue which must be addressed head-on and with dispatch.

Nigerians must take writing their names seriously and do so in the right format any time this was required. We should go back to English or international format of writing names for international relevance.

The earlier school curricula content in this regard be revisited and where we went wrong be corrected. This error perpetuated by a few teachers have permeated even the university system and other higher educational institutions causing lots of confusion.

We must not wait for the courts, banks, BVN platforms to reject our names on their database before we act. Many people are suffering this malady already.

Schools at all levels and English departments in particular should set the ball rolling by correcting this anomaly. All English teachers across the country may need an urgent re-orientation in this direction.

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