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Plateau elects
new EXCO



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TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

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2023:

Is Nigeria poised for a national rebirth?

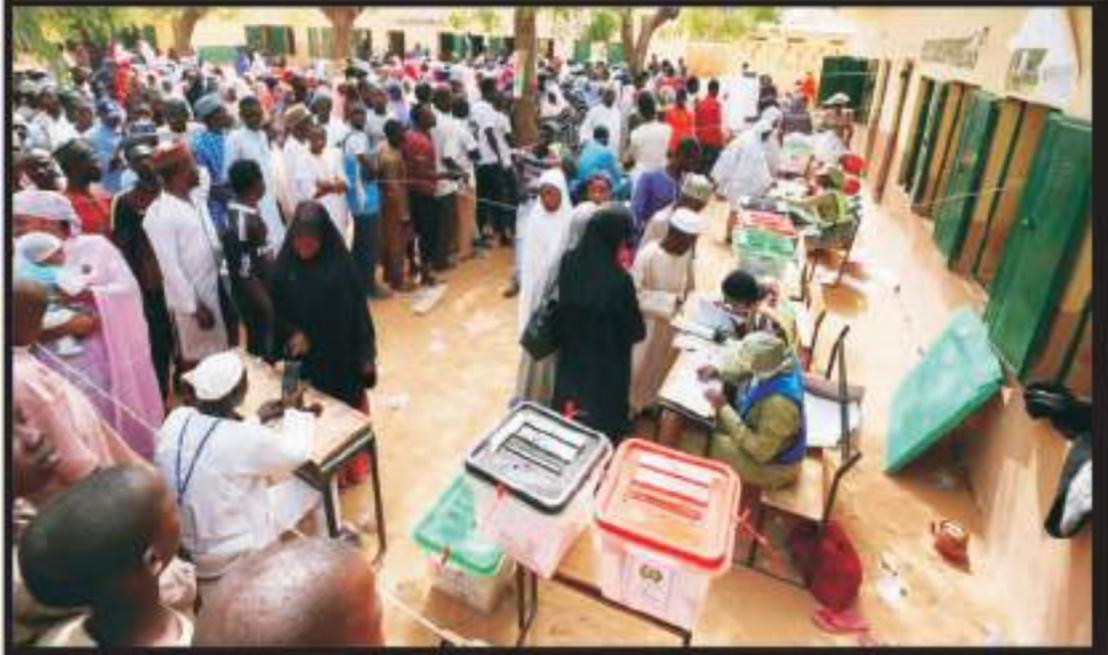
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**'British America
Flyover: Water,
power to be restored'**

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All is now set for the battle for Aso Rock in the 2023 Nigeria Presidential elections scheduled for February 2023. The gladiators for the various political parties have emerged. The top contenders are AtikuAbubakar of the PDP, Bola Tinubu of the APC, Peter Obi of the Labour Party and Musa Kwankwaso of the NNPP. Are we about to reignite the first and second republic political rivalry which was characterized by ethnicity and regionalism or is the nation about to experience a rebirth after the failure of our past political experiences?



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The need to create truck parks

THE absence of truck parks (garages) on Nigeria's highways have created a systemic problem leading to illegal roadside parking of trucks that causes highway congestion, high rate of accidents, development of squatter and squalor settlements, sanitation problems, destruction and defacing of highway shoulders and many more. This situation is created as a result of growing populations in urban areas which has created many problems-one of which is trucks parking which we are confronted with almost on daily basis. Besides constituting a nuisance for cars using the roads, these trucks occupy the road shoulders which can be used in emergency situations.

ROADS are built for cars to ply on but scant regard is given to parking space. Lack of parks for trucks and articulated vehicles, therefore, has become one of the major problems that motorists face in the course of plying the road. This has had a negative impact on transport development. The lack of space in urban areas has increased the demand for parking space especially in areas like Dadin Kowa Jos, Farin Gada, Bauchi Road just to mention but few. Due to the absence of a truck park, the Dadin Kowa highway and some other roads in Jos metropolis have been turned into illegal parks, thereby leading to damages and the collapse of parts of the roads and at the same time causing unnecessary traffic gridlocks to motorists coming into and going out of Jos. It would thus make sense for the Plateau State government to create a proper transit park facility at the various entry points to the city to solve this problem. Besides decongesting the roads, these parks would serve as a source of revenue generation for the government.

AS a matter of importance, the Plateau State government should without waste of time, construct and designate trucks parks as batching points for all trucks doing business in the state. Indeed, an executive bill should be forwarded to the State House of Assembly to enact into law sanctions that would be meted to those who would run foul of the law. All trucks transporters who would not use the approved truck parks based on the categorisation contained in the law would be unable to access the township and would be heavily fined.

TO do this and since government's resources are lean, it should evolve policies encouraging public-private partnership investment in such projects in order to boost the revenue of Plateau State as can be seen with NTA Park in Jos which is owned by a private individual. A truck park with standard facilities for the comfort of the truck drivers, when constructed, would not only create employment opportunities but would help create a value chain with smaller vehicles carrying goods from the truck parks into the city, thereby boosting the small-scale businesses of citizens.

THE creation of truck park would not only boost the economy of the state but would decongest Jos town and reduce the rate of accidents on our roads. There is no gainsaying, if this is done, the people of the state will not easily forget these successes in a quick time. This is because it has been long overdue so that our roads will have long lifespan.

IT will be recalled that in 2017, Federal Government had urged state governors to fast track the process of developing Truck Transit Parks (TTP) and critical road infrastructure across the country. And the Minister of Transportation then, Mr Chibuike Amaechi, made the plea at a two-day National Summit on the Establishment, Management and Operation of Truck Transit Parks in Nigeria, held in Abuja. If this was done by the various states, it would have been a thing of the past and would have provided alternative strategy to address the menace of truck congestion in various specific locations in the states of the nation.

Plateau records monkey pox, Legacy Projects gets boost

By PALANG KASMI

WITH the ongoing outbreak of Monkey-pox disease across the world and country, Plateau State has recorded two cases of the ailment, says the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Dan Manjang.

Monkey pox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkey pox virus and people affected by the disease present symptoms which typically include fever, chills, new swelling of lymph nodes, and a distinctive rash that often starts on the face and spreads to other parts of the body, the **SUNDAY STANDARD** reports.

The Commissioner also announced the approval of the re-award of contract for the completion of the Lalong Legacy Projects at the sum of N26.6 billion.

The announced sum, according to the Commissioner who disclosed this to newsmen after the State Executive Council (SEC) meeting held recently at Government House Jos said the sum is for the completion of projects and the engagement of a consultant to provide Post-contract services.

Manjang, also said the legacy projects are located across the 17 local Government Areas of the State.

"They include the construction of 9 No model primary schools, 6 No model

secondary schools and 6 No model hospitals with a completion period of 32 weeks", Manjang said.

He explained that the State Government had earlier secured 18 billion naira for funding the Lalong project which was still available for the work. He said the project was also rescoped downwards to N26.6 billion, adding that Council approved the sourcing of the shortfall of 8.6 billion.

He also said that Council approved for further funding to be raised from the capital market for furnishing and equipping of the projects.

The Commissioner assured that the Governor Simon Bako Lalong led Rescue Administration was determined to complete the projects as they form part of the legacies he wants to leave behind for the people of Plateau State who entrusted their mandate to him.

He said already, some of the Legacy projects have come in handy for other uses such as Model Secondary School in Ny'ak Shendam Local Government Area which has been donated as temporary site for the establishment of the Federal Polytechnic N'yak.

"Others are being considered for the establishment of the Plateau State University Teaching hospital among others", Manjang said adding that the projects which are at various stages of completion will be commissioned within the tenure of this administration.



Lalong

According to the Commissioner "The Executive Council meeting roved over N647 Million for the procurement of water treatment chemicals by Messrs Reliant Overseas Ltd. Council also approved N647 480million for 100 MT of Aluminum Sulphide (Alum), 248 MT of hydrated lime and 1000 45 kg drums of Calcium Hypo chloride".

On monkey pox outbreak, the Commissioner said "Council received a report that the State has recorded two cases of Monkey Pox disease in Bassa and Shendam Local Government Areas, assuring that the Government is doing everything possible to ensure that the disease does not spread".

He however urged citizens of the State to imbibe good personal hygiene as well as take all preventive measures to nip the cases in the bud.

'British America Flyover: Water, power to be restored'

By PALANG KASMI

AS construction work on the British-America flyover and dualization continues, the Plateau State Government has announced efforts to restore power and water supplies to affected communities.

The announcement was given in a statement by Permanent Secretary (PS), Ministry of Works, Engr. Alex Plangan.

Plangan also assured that significant progress had been recorded on the construction site with most pillars of the

overhead bridge site erected while the cross beams will soon be ready for mounting.

The PS said "Supply work continues steadily at the construction site of the British-America Flyover and Dualisation to Lamingo Roundabout Junction as the management and staff of the construction company Craneburg Construction Ltd, have shown uncommon determination to keep to the dateline of delivering the project".

He recalled that although some months ago, some staff

had raised concerns over welfare matters and threatened to down tools which led to immediate intervention of the state Governor, his timely intervention had caused the site workers to resume work with commitment and vigour.

"Today, the workers are full of joy that most of their concerns have been addressed and the project is going on as planned".

Most of the pillars have been erected while the cross beams are being cast and will soon be ready for mounting".

"The accompanying bridges have also attained significant progress".

"Also, the relocation and reconnection of water pipes and power lines have substantially been completed and water and light are being gradually restored to affected communities", he said commending the contractors for working hard to meet the agreed project deadline.

He however appreciated residents and motorists affected by the construction directly or indirectly, for their patience, support and understanding as work continues.



Construction work at British America Junction



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum
On Sunday**



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"No wonder, the buying and trading of delegates over time in Nigeria has left us unfortunately transformed into vote buying during elections. There is no way that we can deepen our democracy if our politicians win elections by inducing the electorate. Nothing can be more disheartening if political office holders come into office by cheating."

Harvest time for Nigerian politicians

THERE is every reason to believe that the Nigerian politician enjoys this period like none other. The reason is, for me, not farfetched. This is the season of harvest and in all intent and purposes their activities during this period determine the character of the persons we help put in office.

Even when they don't want us to know, the Nigerian voters are a lot more educated now than they used to be or we thought they should be; given what politicians have made Nigerians to go through over the years. While some are stuck in their old ways of doing things, a lot more are the more educated and informed.

To become a party delegate is fought for. The struggle to become one is hectic and intense. In the end, if you become one, it wouldn't be out of place if you return to specially thank God for it in your local worship place. The reason: A major political battle has been won, for which it needs to be celebrated knowing what 'benefits' would come the way of the delegate when the chips are finally down.

Little wonder, the manner it is fought for gives the onlooker a reason to be worried. Those who contest to be delegates often tell us they are doing it for the sake of democracy and participation. Now we know better; their pockets are what concern them. The ulterior motive is to get to the state and national primaries to make money.

While we do not begrudge them in this journey, we should be concerned that democracy the manner it is played in this part is worrisome as much as it is disturbing to Nigerians. Now, everyone is praying to become a delegate in the next dispensation.

It is not a bad development to take part in the process; what is however nauseating is the manner that it has been turned into a money making venture, to the point that, so long as they are aware that money will be made available to them even when they do not vote, it is proper and right.

It is not for all parties. There are a few political parties jostling for major positions in the Nigerian political space. Not many are known, as not all have made their presence acceptable to the Nigerian voter. And not all of them would ensure they do so, even though we are aware they are out to participate in the quest for political power-the major reason they were registered in the first place.

However, that is not what we are getting. The signal that is available is that it is good to struggle to get one's political party registered and attempt not to be involved in the struggle to capture power. Many of the political parties are currently in that league, meaning that for a long time to come; the space will be for a few to try their hands in the fray.

In the next few weeks, some of the Nigerian political parties,



Mahmood

which have the wherewithal and are aware of what is right to do have organized their primaries to select flag bearers of the different positions to be contested for. While they should be congratulated, I feel we need to ask certain questions that should help our understanding of what we desire to have; and not what they feel we should have.

The people desire that delegates have and are able to show responsibility for their communities. That responsibility should come in the regard that the people have been short changed time immemorial. They are often, as we have noted over the years been given raw treatment, meaning; it is often the pockets of the delegates that matter and not the person who should change the face of the state or the country.

Given this scenario therefore, we are not in doubt of what we have faced over time. And it does appear that we have not woken from sleep yet, as repeatedly we have some leaders who are elected and end up representing only their families and themselves.

In this regard therefore, it won't be wrong to assume that nothing matters to the delegate than in what they get from the candidates. Truth is that our politics has been monetized to a ridiculous level of having delegates bought to vote. The politicians know it and always use it to maximum advantage; of course to our detriment but for the benefit of those who are the players.

I am aware that nations get the kind of leadership they desire. It is simple; a nation reaps what is always sown by its leaders and followers. Mediocrity has never produced greatness; it is what has counted against us as a people

over time. We always decide deliberately to pick those that have influence over us than the ones whose influence can affect the nation, thereby ensuring that we fail in our quest for development and efforts to deepen our democracy.

Some of the delegates (and they know) have been chosen to spoil the chances of genuinely committed office seekers. They are aware that what they have been conscripted to carry out is devilish, yet because they need to satisfy the personal ambitions of those they want to install; they would go ahead to insist the mission is fulfilled.

Even though an appeal in the letter written to delegates below was not written ostensibly for those delegates from Plateau State for the various stages of the primaries; by the time it got to me via a post it has lost its author. Whoever the author is, he meant well for the state and Nigeria, and the author and I are together imagining that if things are done well the states as well as the center will be well.

I am aware that some are serial delegates. They are on a mission to sell the states as well as Nigeria. As they make their money, we must insist that the candidates they present to us are scrutinized. We don't have to vote for them because the party has presented them. We all feel the decay the Nigerian state has gone through; it is our responsibility to change our course.

The document titled 'open letter to the delegates', is intended as I have done to draw the attention of party delegates to apparent facts they have remained aloof to over the years, yet keep staring at us. They are issues that had they been

mindful of over the years, we would have continued to hold our representatives accountable for a number of the wrongs we notice in our democracy.

Every state has its peculiarities, and it is left for the delegates that are coming from those states to think of what is good for them. On the whole, I think that we all have a responsibility to correct what they won't want change knowing that they are benefiting from this exercise. The primaries have taken place; however, I have reproduced the letter reproduced below for obvious reason:

Dear delegates, once again the spotlight is on you, our weak democracy is in your hands, the future of plateau is in your hands, you can either decide to think of your stomach, throw away credibility, throw away competence and sell your vote to the highest bidder or you can think of the future of plateau, your children and grandchildren and pitch your tent with the most credible candidate/alternative.

I understand that during the last general elections some of you went away with monies ranging from 500 thousand naira to over a million naira in your pockets.

I understand that the depth of one's pocket can easily secure him the ticket to be a party flag bearer but what's the wisdom of being rich for one day and spending the remaining 4 years plus in poverty and regrets?

Dear delegate, remember your decision will determine how well the next 4 years will be. Also, remember that we go to the same market, your children are in school and there are bills to pay. Remember also that today you are the most sought after group by politicians but ask yourself if you will still be sought after the primaries.

Dear delegate, forgive me for coming hard on you but I totally blame you for whatever predicament we are going through today from the ward, councillorship to the local government Chairmen to the state & federal legislatures to the presidency. The candidates you give us will not only bear our fate but yours as well.

Dear delegate, you have no right to complain that a leader is bad because according to the electoral laws of Nigeria, we can only work with the candidates you present to us, the choice you made 4 years ago is what we are all leaving with.

Dear delegate, before you cast that vote, please ask yourself what your candidate will do for the people;

Will he tackle the issue of insecurity?

Will he create jobs?

Will he provide quality health care?

Will he industrialize the state?

Will he build new roads?

Will he tamper with the unity of the people or will he bang their

heads together?

Will he represent us well in the National Assembly?

Will he come up with bills that will have direct positive impact on the people?

Will he attract federal government projects to the state?

How about workers welfare, will he pay them as at when due or will he keep owing them?

What will his policies be like? Will they favor the citizens or just his clique?

Dear delegate I implore you not to sell your conscience for any kind of gratification which is not good governance but if you must, please let everyone willing to buy your vote do so for a minimum of 15million naira per delegate.

Remember, a delegate who only relies on his money to get your vote won't be accountable to anyone because he has paid you to buy your support.

Dear delegate, help me help your children give us a candidate that will build the Plateau of the prophecy.

The end of the letter is instructive. It says a lot about the attitude we put, not realizing if we might be affected in the end. That is my worry, and it should be yours, by ensuring that we are not ruled by money at the expense of getting the right people into governance, whether they 'settle' delegates or not.

We can start today; the delegates are being prepared for the primaries. There are lots of things that they can do that we can make progress in the individual states. There are things we can insist they do so that we can have the best in each state and at the federal level.

It is not impossible; it can be surmounted for the good of us all. Why some of the states are crying today is simply because of the choices they made. If we brought the best on board, the hues and cries experienced in several constituencies would have been minimized.

The delegates have already been selected. They are gearing up for the ultimate showdown for which they are used to. The candidates are presently strategizing on how best they can use their wherewithal to buy and use the delegates for maximum advantage.

No wonder, the buying and trading of delegates over time in Nigeria has left us unfortunately transformed into vote buying during elections. There is no way that we can deepen our democracy if our politicians win elections by inducing the electorate. Nothing can be more disheartening if political office holders come into office by cheating.

They will continue to cheat their people so long as we keep quiet. If it becomes common place, the society is in danger. That is what we want to avoid for our children; for they deserve a better future.



Supernatural happenings and wickedness of the times

IN the aftermath of one of the cruellest religious crises ever witnessed in Plateau in the year 2004 or thereabouts, I and my family witnessed a very memorable supernatural event. Due to the ugly nature of the crisis, the blood bath, maiming of youth in their prime, the government declared a dusk to dawn curfew. However, on that fateful day, the curfew had just been relaxed to 6:am in the morning to 5:00pm in the evening.

We were living in an environment unfriendly at that time to our religious beliefs. After escaping by the whiskers, through the help of a security operative and a friend, the best we could do was to leave the area around 9: 00 am and come back just before the curfew. It was like we were still squatting with friends.

It is one thing for someone to offer one his home, and another for one to over stay one's welcome. We spent the worse days of the crisis in our friends' house. But had to head back home the moment security was beefed up to give the wonderful family that offered us their home some space. Even so, there was no how we could stay around in an unfriendly environment in the day time.

It so happened that on this fateful day, we were rushing as always to beat the curfew time. As we took the road that leads to Abattoir from Air force Roundabout, my 2 boys started shrieking excitedly. They were claiming to be seeing some riders on horses racing in the clouds above. Finding that hard to believe, I looked up, but all I could see was the sky.

Their excitement got the better of my husband who was driving. He parked the car and looked up and in no time, he joined in the excitement. He said, he was shocked I could not see riders on horses galloping away with the wind blowing their clothes and making them appear bigger.

It was frustrating. No matter how hard I looked, I saw only the blue sky. Desperate to be part of the story, I began to plead with God to open my spiritual eyes. And like magic, I saw them. They looked like warriors on very wonderful looking horses, wearing long caftans and turban on their heads. I saw 3 riders on 3 horses riding hard and fast. And we were seeing them as we stood in one place. We watched them until they disappeared into thick clouds. By then, the traffic was non-existent because it was a few minutes to the start of the curfew.

It was like watching a movie on a gigantic screen. People who saw us looking up in excitement must have dismissed us as a crazy family especially if they had looked up. Thankfully, nothing spoilt our joy. It was a smooth ride to our abode with no harassment from security operatives

who abound on the road.

When I discussed with a pastor what we witnessed, he directed me to the book of Revelations 6:1-8. This Scripture talks about the 4 horse riders that represent God's judgment against man's rebellion. The first horse is very different from the remaining 3 because it's white in colour and represents victory. Some analysts say it is the symbol of Christ. Red stands for warfare and bloodshed, black for famine, pale green for death. These horses each had its mission- to kill and destroy.

What we saw may have foretold the future, describing the time we are in today. It may have been pointing to the crises that had engulfed Plateau after that year. The Dogo na Hauwa massacre where hundreds of women and children were killed while sleeping was yet to come. Those were days of doom in Plateau State.

Then came the era of bombing of public places. Those were days of doom. Many innocent souls were wasted in that irrational and wicked manner. The number of those cut in their prime is uncountable. Some met their death in the hands of abductors, kidnappers or farmer/ herder clashes.

We were yet to witness the unfortunate Chibok girl's debacle, and others that followed after it. In the past, there was a little respect for the sanctity of life. It was also uncalled for to use children as bait. But after the news generated by the Chibok girls, abduction, it is now the order of the day.

So many jobless have resorted to the business of kidnapping to sustain their families. It does not require facing the opponent squarely. All it takes is to get soft targets, and when ransom is paid for their release, it does not involve exchange of bullets but give and take with the giver feeling intimidated and the receiver feeling superior.

We were yet to see a time when security of life is not assured even in the confines of one's home. If it is not petty thieves, then it could be armed robbers or kidnappers lurking around the corner. We are at our wit's end.

Things are so hard. Evil is at its height. The basic necessities of life are beyond the reach of the poor masses which make up the bulk of Nigeria's population. In desperation, some family men and women have resorted to criminal acts.

To make matters worst, our youth's future is at a standstill as the Federal Government and ASUU flex their muscles. An idle mind being the devil's workshop, a number of students have fallen short of the glory of God. Some are now drug addicts or cultists or even both.

Where do we go from here? The solution is in God's word: "Seek first the kingdom of heaven and His righteousness and all the rest shall be added unto you."

NEWS

Activist demands sack of Emefiele as CBN Governor

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SOcial activist, Public Affairs analyst and social commentator, Hamzat Lawal, has advised President Muhammadu Buhari to sack the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s Governor, Dr Godwin Emefiele.

Addressing journalists in Okene over the weekend, Lawal said Emefiele's continued stay in office as CBN Governor could erode and compromise the credibility of the 2023 general elections following his attempt to contest the APC presidential primaries.

Emefiele had indicated interest to contest as president in 2023 on the platform of the ruling All Progressives Congress but rescinded the decision after public outcry.

Lawal, a guest at the silver jubilee anniversary of Dr. Ado Ibrahim as the Ohinoye of Epiraland, said that for free, fair and credible 2023 general elections, INEC should not keep sensitive election materials at the CBN with Dr Emefiele sitting in the office as its governor.

"I commend INEC for saying it will not keep sensitive materials in CBN: being partisanship as head of a sensitive independent government organization is enough for him to be sacked and the national assembly should at resumption, initiate moves for his sack.

"This is because the Governor of the CBN is a card-carrying member of the All Progressives Congress

7 arraigned for allegedly assaulting AEDC staff

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SEVEN persons have been arraigned before a Lokoja Magistrate's Court for allegedly assaulting a member of the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) recently.

The accused were charged with criminal conspiracy, trespass, mischief and causing grievous hurt but pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The accused are; Abiodun Ariya, Joseph Damilola-Ibitoye, Adeoye Femi, Abdulrazak Sadiq, Ibrahim Toba, Mary David and Hassan Lawal. The Prosecuting Counsel, Mr G.O. Olowu, told the court that the defendants on June 9, stormed the Lokoja Area Office of the AEDC and attacked Mr Olarewaju John-Femi on the guise that he stole their electrical cable.

He added that in the process, John-Femi sustained grievous injuries on his head.

He also said that the



Emefiele

and his integrity and credibility to continue to act in that capacity is at stake.

The CBN Governor's power is enormous under the CBN Act, so he can't be a politician.

"INEC has done well to look for an alternative place to

keep our electoral materials. The rights activist expressed regret that Nigeria's democracy under Ahmed Lawan has performed abysmally as it failed to make key legislation that will positively impact on Nigerians.

Police confirm abduction of 3 missionaries

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Police Command has confirmed the abduction of three missionaries working with the Kogi State Child Evangelism Fellowship, CEF.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, SP William Aya confirmed the sad incident to our correspondent in Lokoja on recently.

Aya however, gave an assurance that the police is working round the clock to rescue the victims.

The Kogi State Coordinator of Children Evangelism

Ministry (CEM), Evangelist Charles Esho had earlier told our correspondent that the three missionaries; Evangelist Peter Adigidzi, Pastor Mike Baba and Pastor Sunday Abah who reside in Lokoja were kidnapped on Friday the 10th of this month at Ejule in Ofu LGA of the state while on a ministerial assignment to the area.

Evangelist Esho called for prayers for thier safety and divine rescue of the victims within the shortest possible period.

defendants destroyed John-Femi's cell phones, one office Desk top computer, 2 plastic chairs and some customers' bills.

The offence, he said, is punishable under the provisions of sections 97, 348,

327 and 245 of the Penal Code Law.

The Chief Magistrate, A.M. Mopa, admitted the seven accused to bail in the sum of N100,000 each with one surety each in like sum and adjourned the case till July 12 for further mention.



Tanko

SUNDAY POLITICS

NNPP concludes selection of candidates for all positions

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Keffi Local Government area of Nasarawa State is said to have successfully concluded the selection and presentation of its candidate in all the available elective political positions in the area.

Similarly, the party has also concluded the selection and presentation of those to bear the party's ticket in both the House of Representatives for Keffi, Karu and Kokona Federal Constituency and that of the Nasarawa West Senatorial Constituency which comprises of Karu, Keffi, Kokona Nasarawa and Toto Local Government Areas.

The Chairman of NNPP in Keffi Local Governments Area Alhaji Aliyu Abdullahi popularly known as Gambo Soja made the disclosure while speaking with **SUNDAY STANDARD** via telephone interview in Keffi weekend.

He stated that for the two state House of Assembly seats the party is presenting Hon Muhammed Muktar a one time chairman of Keffi Local Government Council) for Keffi West while for Keffi East it presented Yahaya Nasiru for the contest.

Abdullahi further disclosed that for the House of Representatives after successful and peaceful primary elections for the office the party has presented Hon Nuhu Sabo Yepwi popularly known as Nuhu Gwari while that of the Senatorial seat the party has given its ticket to Dr Muhammed Kabeer Wakili to contest under its platform.

The Chairman who expressed delight that the selection process or primary elections of the party were conducted peacefully and orderly decried the development as a clear indication of victory in the main elections in 2023.

The chairman then re-assured of determination of his party to always be guided by the spirit of equity, fairness and social justice in line with its philosophy which it promised Nigerians when they elect it in the next election.

"Our party would continue to provide a level playing ground to all and always ensure



Alkali

inclusiveness in our decision making process in line with our policy mantra that would lead us to build a just and egalitarian society," he assured.

On the issue of followership, Gambo Soja expressed delight that the party is gaining acceptance from the people of the area and even from all over the state as people are trooping in thus making it to grow from strength to strength.

"It is quite worthy of note that our party is growing from strength to strength as people from over the area and even the state are coming up on daily basis to register their support and commitment, to the party," he maintained.

While advising the people of the area, the State and Nigerians as a whole to come and be part of the NNPP which he described as a moving train towards a better and assuring destination to the land of promise, he re-assured that all would be treated with justice and fairness.

Gombe State commissions ultra modern school

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

AS part of activities for the 2022 democracy day celebration the Gombe State government has commissioned of an ultra modern multimillion naira primary and junior secondary school in the heart of the State capital.

The State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, said the school, named after a famous educationist in the State, the Late Alabura S Kudi, the Model School located in Kumbiya Kumbiya, is a structure of 2 blocks of 18 classrooms each, totalling 36 classrooms.

The eye catching structure also has two offices, two staff rooms and two Computer rooms (e-Library) fully furnished and well equipped with modern facilities.

In addition, the School has sporting facilities, water supply and good access

roads to enhance total learning for the pupils and students.

According to the Governor during the commissioning ceremony, "With these facilities, the school, can compete favourably at state and national levels".

He said, it is his considered view that "to whom much is given, much is expected, Therefore, we expect better outcome from the learners, commitment from teachers and total support of Kumbiya Kumbiya community".

The governor stated that the provision of quality education is an onerous task that must not be left in the hands of government alone as such, he said, "we must rededicate ourselves to nation building, remain united and frontally confront our problems with total commitment".

He said, the task of nation-

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

DISAPPOINTED by what he described as the injustice meted on him by his former party the All Progressive Congress (APC) a Nasarawa State's House of Assembly aspirant for Keffi East constituency Comrade Abdullahi Abubakar Alaye has dumped the party and pitched his tent with the Social Democratic Party SDP where his picked its ticket.

Similarly, Comrade Alaye has debunked the rumour or insinuations making the rounds that he has withdraw from the race for another person, saying that such is not true and his no basis whatsoever.

"Let me make it abundantly clear that I never withdrew from the race for the Nasarawa State House of Assembly for Keffi East Constituency because I am the rightful candidate for the party for having secured its ticket after all the due process required by the party and all the relevant laws governing the elections," he stressed.

Addressing his teeming supporters in Keffi recently Comrade Alaye appealed to the people of his constituency to rally round his candidature which he assured that if elected will bring unto them the desired dividends of democracy.

Shedding more light on why he dumped the APC for the SDP, the former NULGE

Lawmaker dumps APC for SDP



Gabam

chairman stated that he was neither given a level playing ground nor treated justly, and that among other things, informed his decision to find solace in another political party and happily he was nominated after due process or strict abidance to democratic norms.

"Based on such and other undemocratic tendencies I decided to dump the party and look for where I would actualize my political dreams and aspirations and happily I have found a home full of hospitality under the SDP.

The Nasarawa State House of Assembly hopeful further

disclosed that he and Hon Ahmed Aliyu Wadada the Senatorial Candidate of the SDP in the Nasarawa Western Senatorial Zone have officially declared and would immediately pursue their activities towards seeking the people's support through their votes in the 2023 general elections.

He then explained that they have resolved to take such activities with a view to free themselves from the bondage of injustice, undemocratic tendencies among others.

Wadada holds rally to usher in defection

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A former Member of the House of Representatives for Karu - Keffi and Kokona Federal Constituency Hon Ahmed Aliyu Wadada has held Keffi town headquarters of Keffi

Local Government Area of Nasarawa State to a standstill with a political rally to usher in his defection to the Social Democratic Party (SDP) a platform where he would contest for his Senatorial seat in the 2023 general elections.

The political rally which attracted his teeming supporters, admirers

building is a collective responsibility adding that his government is always ready to partner with organizations and individuals who are prepared to assist in providing quality education to the people of the state.

In a move to ensure that high standards are inculcated and maintained as well as provide necessary oversight in the new school, Governor Inuwa immediately constituted a special committee comprising prominent sons of the area.

They include, Prof. A. B. Samaila, Dr. Ali Adamu Boderi, Dr. Ahmed Adamu Yarma, Fed. Commissioner Muhammad Kabir Usman Kukan-daka, Alhaji Abubakar Inuwa Tata, Malam Adamu Yakubu (DanAzumi Squad), Alhaji Yaya Dan-Darman, Malam Nuhu Muhammad Sani Mai Unguwa, and Alhaji Hussaini Suleiman Kumbi.

particularly the youths and women within Keffi amidst cheers and chanting of their party slogans ended up peacefully to the admiration of the residence to Keffi town and neighbors.

Wadada who was on top of his open vehicle receiving cheers from the mammoth crowd that were coming out from various houses and business places, expressed his happiness with the large turn-out of people that came out to receive and demonstrate their support for his candidacy under his new political party the SDP.

The crowd which includes a member of the House of Representatives for Keffi, Karu and Kokona federal Constituency Hon. Jonathan Gaza Gbafwi who also defected to the SDP and Hon Muntasin Ramalan Kaseem among others who were disappointed with the ways and manner in which the primary election in their former political party the All Progressives Congress (APC) pledged to team-up with him in order to ensure victories in their new platforms.

The Senatorial hopeful who expressed his joy over the large turn-out of people and the demonstration of what he described as their encouraging support of his candidacy, however tasked them to ensure that they collect their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) to make use of it during the elections.

He stated that he was highly overwhelmed and encouraged with the rare demonstration of support by teeming admirers a situation he described as a triumph of

truth over falsehood in response to the injustice and undemocratic tendencies done to him during the primary elections of the APC.

"Infact these large turn-out of people that greeted my decamping to the SDP signifies the real triumph of truth over falsehood as well as an encouragement for me to pursue this struggle vigorously since it was essentially dedicated towards the liberation of the people from the deep ocean of darkness to a brilliant light of freedom and justice," he asserted.

Hon Wadada who is highly optimistic that victory would be on their side given the significant political enlightenment the people have for now, stated that they are now ready to vote for credible, reliable and dependable people that can deliver not a political party.

"It is quite significant that now people have gained a lot of political awareness as such they are ready to vote for only credible and reliable people that could deliver not minding their political affiliations," he further asserted.

While appealing to the people of the Senatorial zone to continue to sustain their support and co-operations, he then assured that on their parts those that join the SDP would not rest on its oars towards ensuring that they justify confidence reposed on them so as to win their election and serve them better.

SUNDAY POLITICS

APC youth forum endorses Dogara as VP

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA,**
Bauchi

THE APC Youth Progressives Forum has endorsed the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon Dogara Yakubu as the presidential running mate of the party's presidential candidate, Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu.

The National Chairman of the Forum, Rt. Hon. Ukkasha Umar Rahama, stated this while addressing journalists in Bauchi recently.

He noted that the aftermath of the presidential primary election that produced the former Lagos state Governor, Ahmed Bola Tinubu has left the party with the challenge of picking a running mate.

The Forum which passed a vote of confidence on the former Speaker from the Northeast, said it will go a long way in balancing the political equation in the country.

Ukkasha who noted that the emergence of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the APC presidential candidate has opened another political discussion, opined that, to strike a balance, Tinubu and the leadership of the party should consider the choice of Dogara as the Vice President.

The forum observed that in a secular and multicultural country like Nigeria, it is given that broad considerations should be made to accommodate all interest groups in leadership for equity and fairness not only to be done but be seen to have been done.

Ukkasha said that the decision of the forum to address the press on the issue was to calm nerves and draw the attention of the APC to prioritise justice, fairness and equity in the selection of the vice Presidential candidate.

"The subject of our consideration of Dogara as a good material for Tinubu is not ceded along his tribe nor his religion but his political wealth of experience", they said.

The APC youth forum maintained that Dogara is one of the outspoken legislature who has built relationships as the 14th Speaker of the House of Representatives.

He pointed out that many are of the opinion that, since Tinubu is a Muslim from the Southern part of the country, it is expected



Dogara

that a Christian from the Northern part of the country be chosen as the vice president for the APC to have a balanced ticket to convince Nigerians to vote for it.

The APC youth group which said, emphasis should not be placed on religious or ethnic sentiments, however noted that their emphasis on his Dogara is based on credibility and competence. The choice of Yakubu Dogara as Vice President will send the party's message across that, it is not just for all Nigerians but that, it is sensitive to the

demand for equity by all sections of the country", the forum noted.

The youth group observed that selecting the former speaker Dogara as the vice presidential candidate of the APC would further boost the chances of the party at the general elections, as Christians from both the southern and northern parts of the country would not feel alienated from the APC because of the VP factor while Muslims from all parts of the country would also have a sense of belonging in the party because of faith of the presidential candidate.

NNPP senatorial candidate assures of purposeful representation

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,** Keffi

THE Senatorial Candidate of the New Nigeria People Party (NNPP) in the Nasarawa West Senatorial Constituency of Nasarawa State Dr. Muhammed Kabear Wakili has re-stated that his great passion and determination to give the people of his constituency a purposeful and result oriented representation in the upper legislative chambers informed his decision to make himself available for the contest.

Speaking with newsmen immediately after his emergence as the candidate of the party during the primary election that affirmed his victory in Keffi, Wakili assured that the general interest of his people would always be his driving force in the discharge of his activities if elected.

My representation in the Senate if elected would be people based in such a way that the general interest of the people would be my focal point for them to have their voices, feelings and aspirations felt and heard properly and at the same included in the decision making process for them to reap the fruits of democracy "He assured.

Wakili who stated that as a youth mobilizer and a strong

pillar in the defense of people's rights as well as an advocate of social justice in the society assured that he would deploy his wealth of experience to press the right buttons that would yield to his people the needed federal government presence into his constituency in such a way that vital social services, provision of basic infrastructure, amenities and opportunities were created for especially the youth and womenfolk.

The Senatorial hopeful therefore solicited the continued support and co-operation of the people of the zone to elect him as the next Senator to represent them, and also re-assured that he would strive to make the difference in such a way that they would feel the impact of democracy in the most positive ways.

While expressing his satisfaction with the way and manner in which the people in their large members from across the five local governments that made up the constituency are trooping in and in their large numbers to identify with his candidature, described such development as a good sign of victory during the main election.

THE speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila has said Nigerians have a lot to celebrate as the country's democracy has developed in the past twenty three years.

In his message at 2022 Democracy Day Celebration, the speaker noted that the day is historic.

He expressed delight at how the citizens have embraced democratic governance in the past two decades, saying there is a lot to come in the coming years in terms of dividends of democracy.

On his part, the presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Alhaji Atiku Abubakar urged Nigerians to unite and come together and kick out the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

The former Vice President who noted that the APC has failed in its campaign promises, also stated that it has brought the worst form of government in the

Nigeria has a lot to celebrate

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG,**
Abuja

country where insecurity, disunity, lack of job opportunity, dwindling economic prosperity and hyper inflation among others stare us in the face.

He reminded Nigerians that Nigeria's current debt burden stands at over N41 trillion with less than \$40

billion reserve.

To this end, Atiku emphasized that, "we should by next year reject an inept, unpopular, insensitive and clueless APC government.

"Here's the season to prove to them that power truly belongs to the people via the use of the ballots", he concluded.



Gbajabiamila

Senatorial aspirant promises succor to fire disaster victims

From **AMEDU JOSEPH,**
Lokoja

FOLLOWING the petrol tanker fire disaster which claimed houses and other valuable

property of residents of Ganaja village in

Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi, four days ago, the All Progressives Congress Flagbearer for Ajaokuta Federal Constituency, Abdulraheem Sanni has promised to provide succor for victims.

The APC flagbearer who made the pledge when he visited the scene of the accident, said the process to offer support will begin with having an inventory and data of the affected persons and properties.

He said that the gesture is aimed at giving assistance to the victims to enable them rebuild their lost shops and other valuable property. The APC flagbearer who described the incident as unfortunate, however, thanked God that no human casualty was recorded. Abdulraheem Sanni urged citizens to always make safety a priority. He said the incident has avoidable if people were conscious of dangers against life existence.

He advised motorists plying Ajaokuta Federal highway to ensure that their vehicles are in good condition as well as maintaining traffic rules



Alkali

SUNDAY POLITICS

Democracy and freedom in Nigeria

Being an unrepentant optimist, patriot and nationalist, let me start this piece by congratulating all Nigerians on the historic occasion of the commemoration of June 12, 1993 legacy which has been acknowledged and celebrated as Nigeria's Democracy Day. AYUBA YILGAK'HA, writes.

UNIVERSALLY, the commemoration of National Days is of crucial essence. This is because such days often stimulate wholesome reflection amongst citizens and to remind them of their sacred responsibilities - duties and obligations. For instance, the Democracy Day remind citizens of the freedom and necessity to participate in the governance process of countries like the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The June 12 legacy represents a rallying and reference point in Nigeria's democratic history and provides opportunity for sober reflection amongst researchers, policy makers and political commentators. The consensus amongst most of these critical stakeholders is that Nigeria is progressing in a reverse gear. Even though some progress has been made, the country is practically witnessing glaring betrayal of the promises of democracy which include transparency and accountability in governance and governance processes as well as prosperity in the social welfare of the citizenry.

In Nigeria, there is endemic and rampant traces of institutional corruption. Also, more than half of the citizenry are wallowing in abject poverty and grossly lacking in the democratic freedom even to choose their leaders amongst several other contradictions. The profile of Nigeria as reflected in the just concluded party primaries has exposed the country's immaturity in sound democratic culture and practice. For the first time in Nigeria's history, ad-hoc delegates were allowed the sole mandate to select standard bearers (candidates) for their respective political platforms with promising democratic novelty but the option turned out to be a colossal national disaster.

At all levels and across most of the political platforms, the outcomes of the novel-ad-hoc-delegate-option made it quite easy for the process to be hijacked through direct intimidation or cash inducement. In other words, the primary exercises were technically militarised or glaringly monetised in a manner that only the most powerful and/or highest bidders had their way.

The reason the ad-hoc delegates were manipulated with little or no resistance by political class include: Abject poverty, illiteracy and dearth of morality, I surmise. The mix of these socio-economic 'ailments' in the face glaringly leadership failure made it very cheap for politicians to seduce these delegates - "The Beautiful Brides" with Greek gifts at the expense of Nigeria's moral fibre.

Nigeria is in a situation where Ahoka, the main character in Adamu Kyuka's (2007) book, "Hope in Anarchy" will ask, "What else can one say about a kingdom that rose and fell at the gate of a prison?". In Nigeria, like Ahoka's Beku-city, "Order has failed the poor of the Republic where



Mahmood

government is a joke, where judges did not remember justice and police had forgotten they were not armed robbers." Comparatively, the situation of life is even better in Beku-city than in Nigeria because in the former, it's the government that failed the city but in the latter, both the government and the citizens (delegates) failed the nation-state.

Nigerians are existing in palpable fear of democratic contradictions; Nigerians are living in a chain of the fear of escalating insecurity; Nigerians are in chain of the fear of economic downturn; Nigerians are in chain of the fear of religious divisions; Nigerians are in fear of the chain of regional factionalisation; Nigerians are in chain of the fear of social inequalities; Nigerians are in chain of the fear of demographic imbalances.

Nigerians are also dwelling in chain of the fear of destructive climate change; Nigerians are living in chain of the fear of cultural encroachment. The country is troubled from every side. The citizens are not free but dwelling in deep emotional trauma. This is antithetical to the tenets of freedom.

Freedom is an index of development which represents relief from want or those critical things that cage or make life unbearable for man or nation. Nigeria is a supposedly free sovereign nation but it's citizens are grossly not. The worst form of savage or serfdom is when it is not locked in a prison facility but perpetually feeling like someone who is confined in one.

The situation with the 2022 ad-hoc delegateship can be likened to that of a protractedly chained dog which had suffered but when given the rare opportunity to free itself, squandered it. Through the undoing of party delegates, Nigerian citizens are brought to a situation which left them in what can best be described as "Hobson's Choice", that is, a selection

scenario where either choice they make, is a problem. In other words, Nigerians are now left with the choice between the "Devil and the deep Blue sea", assuming we have only two candidates situation - that of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and the main opposition, the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

The duo of His Excellency Alh. Atiku Abubakar, presidential Candidate of the PDP and Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, APC National Leader and presidential flag bearer are respected citizens in their own rights. They have built towering political profiles for themselves over the years but the decision to induce delegates for votes is, to say the least, corrosive and degrading to their respective decades of hard earned reputations as political mentors or role models.

What made the candidates of these two political parties contextually unacceptable choices is simple: They openly procured their respective mandates with humongous cash offers, not minding the negative impact their actions will create on the moral and emotional psyche of the country. That their mandates were secured even with Dollars, a foreign currency, in a domestic exercise is unpatriotic. Also, the excessive monetisation of the primaries is likely to worsen Nigeria's inflation and balance of payment crisis. Vote buying is an outlaw and disgraceful tendency in Nigeria's democratic history. The tyranny of vote buying is, to say the least, a dangerous spell and sceptre which hovers over the country's democratic freedom.

The desire for freedom is the highest craving of man. In his book, "Slaves Who Love Their Chains", Olukoya (1999), wrote that "The greatest thing that can happen to any man is for him to come out of captivity. In the same vein, the greatest tragedy for a man is for him to enter into and remain in bondage." Therefore, freedom is, indeed, the onerous desire and ambition of every human being to

aspire to be as free as possible though at a necessary cost. But what type of freedom do people seek? Freedom for freedom.

Freedom for freedom means the extension of an opportunity to be free from want and savage by a freed person to others who are caged or in chain by the same fate. It is the cultivation and extension of freedom beyond self and present times. When freedom is limited by time and to one's self, then it is not freedom. A classical description of freedom for freedom is Kwame Nkrumah's postulation that 'The independence (freedom) of Ghana is useless if it does not connect to the freedom of Africa'.

Fundamentally, political freedom comes with a huge price which is payable by resisting tyranny which often manifested itself in terms of subtle and demeaning goodwills from oppressors. The first and most important starting point for achieving this resistance is overcoming the jinx mentality which often tells the oppressed, it is not possible.

As a matter of fact, with time and chance, there are no impossibility in the land of the living. Human beings are, therefore, encouraged to see possibility in every situation and feel free in hope. Only the dead lacks the freedom to be free. What tyrants want or expect from oppressed people is for them to perpetually and absolutely feel wrong making any attempt to free themselves from their dehumanising condition. This goes to show that tyrants are sadists whose only joy is to perpetuate the suffering of suffering people.

It should be noted that all freedom fighters are controversial personalities, especially, in the eyes of tyrants or beneficiaries of tyranny. This mischievous labelling can be very misleading, at least, to gullible or coward minded publics. To be controversial means to unsettle the balance of an old or subsisting order which might be right or wrong. If the old or subsisting order is wrong, then controversy becomes a necessity; otherwise, it is needless. In other words, not all controversies are bad. Hence, there is the need to carefully, logically and objectively weigh and judge each case of controversy on its merit. After all, any society that is devoid of controversies, especially, necessary ones will die a natural death.

The greatest worry of a tyrant is for the oppressed to learn to be critical and, therefore, will not want people to be educated to the extent of achieving critical thinking skills. George Orwell captured it this way, "Government don't want an intelligent population because people who can think critically can't be ruled. They want a public just smart enough to pay taxes and dumb enough to keep voting and electing corrupt politicians." Not all government, really, but that is what a tyrannical government wants and it is unacceptable. There is no serfdom as practical as for one to be important only as a tool to

empower another while the benefactor continue living in penury and illiteracy.

Illiteracy is an invisible chain and a recipe for holistic poverty. The political illiterate who does not know his political rights is the worst for it. Bertolt Brecht extensively elaborated on this point as he wrote: "The worst illiterate is the political illiterate. He hears nothing, sees nothing, takes no part in political life. He doesn't seem to know that the cost of living, the price of beans, of flour, of rent, of medicines all depends on political decisions. He even prides himself on his political ignorance, sticks out his chest and says he hates politics. He doesn't know, the imbecile, that from his political non-participation comes the prostitute, the abandoned child, the robber and, worst of all, corrupt officials, the lackeys of exploitative multinational corporations." Therefore, political education and political participation matters alot in contemporary Nigeria.

There is no liberation antidote as important as the consciousness to overcome political ignorance and apathy (lack interest in politics). So, this piece wholly subscribes to Cicero's idea that "Those whom nature has endowed with the capacity for administering public affairs should put aside all hesitation, enter the race for public office and take a hand in directing the government; for in no other way can a government be administered or greatness of spirit be made manifest." Thank God we are in a democracy and human beings, without exception, are 'political animals'.

Democracy, which Abraham Lincoln, defined as 'government of the people, by the people and for the people', offers unique opportunity for citizen engagement and participation in politics. This implies that those who choose not to participate in politics are accomplices to the contradictory and dysfunctional society where crime and criminality thrive and for which everybody is lamenting. From their docility comes the tyrant who administer all forms of injustices with impunity and reckless abandon.

The reality of our present time has shown that political participation in a necessity but doing so without education and morality is the most democratic way to serfdom. Also, the abject poor cannot break free from the system that dynastised their plight until they acquire knowledge which guarantees the activation of critical thinking skills in them. With such knowledge, they can fight their way out of demeaning conditions which has made caricature of their very essence as human beings.

Indeed, the labour of our heroes past shall not go in vain. Whatever can be done to salvage Nigeria can never be too much a price to pay. Let us get serious and redeem Nigeria from the sceptre of anti-democratic and divisive elements so that the celebration of future Democracy Days will be better and worth the while.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

50TH BIRTHDAY AND LAUNCHING OF BOOK ON PAUL GINDIRI

Reverend (Superintendent of Police) Davidson Rotshak Musa Lar's 50th birthday celebrations and launching of a book, *Paul Gindiri: The Man, his beliefs and his convictions* took place last week at the TCNN Secondary School Hall, Bukuru, Jos South LGA



Celebrant, Rev. (SP) Davidson Musa Lar, Supported by Nana (right) wife and children cutting the birthday cake



L - R: Builder Dachollom Jambol, Katdapba Gobum, Comrade Matthew Kuju and Very Rev. Moses Ebuga at the ceremony



Chairlady on the occasion, Mrs. Sarah Reng Ocheke, former, Minister of Water Resources (left) with Julie Tongrit, one of the organisers



One of late Evangelist Baba Paul Gindiri, partner, Baba Auta Kyarshik praying for Rev. Davidson Musa Lar, Evangelist Musa Paul Gindiri, children grandchildren of late Evangelist



Comrade Matthew Kuju (right) putting heads together with Nde Jonathan Ishaku and Emmanuel Kayi Gogwim all former staff of PPC



L - R: Representative of Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam, Government House Chapel Secretary, Pastor Hussaini Gotan, Dr. Timothy Golu, former member, PKK and member, Representing Jos South, Jos East, Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos



50th birthday celebration as seen by the celebrant dancing flanked by wife and children



Late Baba Paul Gindir's driver, Da Markus Dung and Children of the late Evangelist at the occasion

Photos: DANLADI DUK

WITH the party primaries over, the National Assembly resumed plenary last Tuesday after the suspension of sittings to enable members participate in the election. While delivering his welcome address, Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila made some very interesting observations. Firstly, he blamed the failure of many lawmakers in the National Assembly to secure return tickets ahead of next year's general elections on the delegate system of candidate selection. In his opinion, those who lost out did not lose because they were rejected by their constituents but because of the election process.

A major source of concern for the leadership of the National Assembly was the situation where for the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), only 2,322 delegates across the 774 local government councils elected the presidential candidate for about 90 million voters, with about 774 delegates doing so for the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Also faulted, was the mode of selecting or electing the delegates which was described as fraudulent by the speaker. Nigerians saw what happened at the primaries, how delegates became millionaires overnight. Of course the highest bidder became the delegates choice.

Results from the concluded party primaries showed that half of the serving 469 federal lawmakers failed to secure return tickets, particularly, those from the ruling APC and the PDP. In the senate, 54 out of the 109 senators will not be returning to the National Assembly in 2023 while in the House of Representatives, 178 out of the 360 lost their party tickets. While Gbajabiamila emphatically blamed the process for the lawmakers loss, some analysts however, feel otherwise as they instead blamed the legislators for not doing the needful regarding the electoral act amendment.

Recall that the lawmakers had last year amended the Electoral Act, making provision for only direct primary as the mode for selection of candidates by political parties. The bill was however, rejected and sent back to the National Assembly by the President, Muhammadu Buhari who instead, insisted on direct, indirect and consensus system. According to the speaker, it is rather unfortunate because the House fought for direct primaries as he again, noted that the process by which the electoral act became law has highlighted valuable lessons that must be taken into cognisance.

While making a case for the lawmakers, Gbajabiamila said:

"It pains me very deeply that the process has gone the way it has gone. We will continue to push and continue to fight for our members, for democracy, for the institution and this country. I make bold to say here that the legislature has once again suffered losses. The loss really is not for members who lost, it is a loss to democracy. If it means anything, I know and I am aware that many of our members did not lose the primaries because they were rejected by the constituents". He thereafter enjoined the lawmakers to set the

experience aside and focus on serving the mandate which they still have.

One of those who failed to secure a ticket in the 2023 general elections is the Senate President Ahmad Lawan, who contested for the APC presidential ticket and was defeated. In the senate president's view, the electoral process in the just concluded primaries had thrown up issues that must be critically looked into by the National Assembly. Ironically, he had words of encouragement for the senators who lost out in the primaries and



As lamentation, jubilation trail party primaries



Lawan



Gbajabiamila

perhaps to himself as well. To him, there was need for the senate to undertake further amendment of the electoral act as he assured of the National Assembly's commitment towards ensuring that Nigeria's democracy benefitted from all necessary legislative interventions.

As Ahmad Lawan deals with loosing the party primaries, he is also battling to retain his senatorial seat for Yobe North. The senate president was alleged to be the APC consensus candidate and believing to have been favoured as winner, he did not purchase a nomination form to recontest in next year's general election to represent Yobe North Senatorial District. However, a winner emerged in the person of Bashir Machina who happened to be the only candidate to have picked the APC nomination form and was elected unopposed. The bone of contention now is that Machina is not willing to relinquish his seat nor is he ready to withdraw from the race.

An interesting side to the drama is the fact that many seemed to think that Machina was actually holding the senatorial ticket in trust for Lawan as an alternative plan in case he loses out in the APC presidential race. Meanwhile, the Yobe North Senatorial candidate has disclosed that he was being persuaded to withdraw from the race to allow the senate president contest in the election, which does not seem likely. The implication here is that if Machina

refuses to withdraw and step down for Lawan, the next election will signal Lawan's exit from the National Assembly having been there since 1999.

In the same vein, the race for the 2023 general elections has also heightened after both the APC and PDP primaries for the Plateau State House of Assembly. Report shows that the House will be witnessing new set of members as most of the legislators failed in their bid to secure return tickets. In fact, only 8 of the members who sought re-election were able to secure return tickets. One of the PDP members representing Langtang North Central constituency, Hon. Daniel Nanbol Listick after failing to secure his return ticket opted for another party as he defected to the Labour party.

A few others who had their eyes set on moving to the National Assembly were not so lucky while a few others had luck on their side. Amongst those who lost the bid to move to the National Assembly is the Deputy Speaker and member representing Dengi constituency, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong. Yipmong who contested for the Plateau Central Senatorial seat, lost to Hon. Diket Plang who incidentally was a former member of the state assembly. Another unlucky candidate is the House Deputy Majority Leader, Hon. Wallok Philip Goma representing Kanke constituency, who contested alongside the incumbent Hon.



Machina

Yusuf Adamu Gagdi for the serving members, referred to as Pankshin, Kanke and Kanam the 'most ranking' by other federal constituency and lost. Those who happened to be in the winning category include the House Minority Leader and member representing Barkin Ladi constituency, Hon Peter Ibrahim Gyendeng who won the Barki Ladi/ Riyom federal constituency under the PDP. One of the longest

serving members, referred to as the 'most ranking' by other members, Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan, representing Jos North constituency also won the Jos North/Bassa federal seat under the APC. Interestingly, Baba Hassan will be battling it out next year with a former member Hon. Musa Agah Avia who won under the PDP.

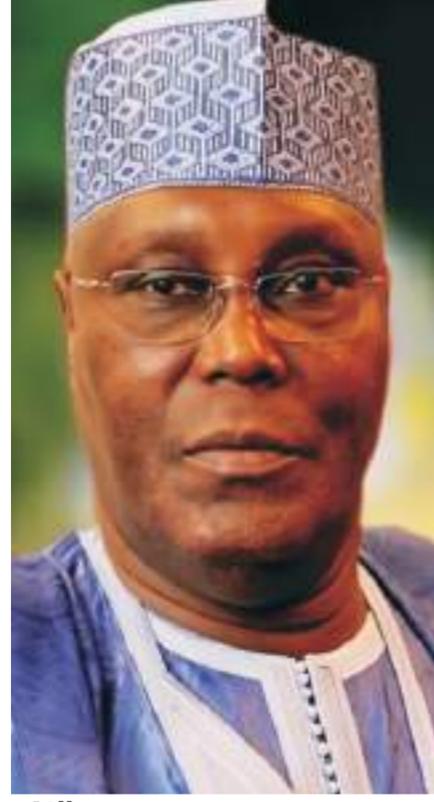
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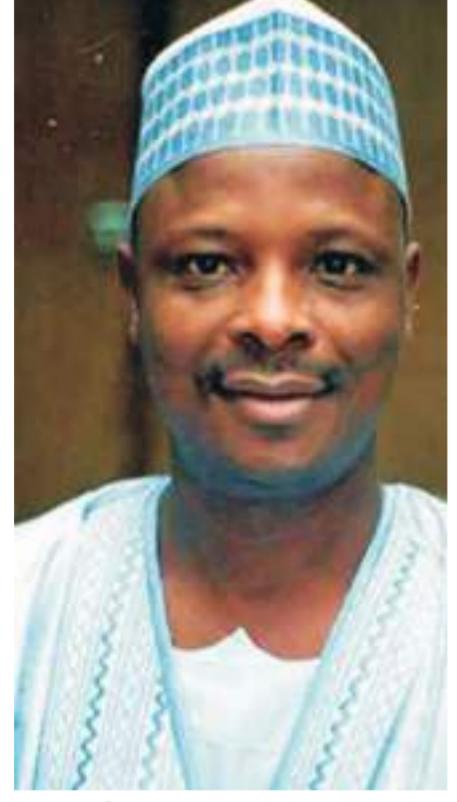
Tinubu



Obi



Atiku



Kwankwaso

2023: Is Nigeria poised for a national rebirth?

All is now set for the battle for Aso Rock in the 2023 Nigeria Presidential elections scheduled for February 2023. The gladiators for the various political parties have emerged. The top contenders are Atiku Abubakar of the PDP, Bola Tinubu of the APC, Peter Obi of the Labour Party and Musa Kwankwaso of the NNPP. Are we about to reignite the first and second republic political rivalry which was characterized by ethnicity and regionalism or is the nation about to experience a rebirth after the failure of our past political experiences? VICTOR GAI writes.

IT was a much tensed atmosphere in the two major political parties, the PDP and the APC as INEC gave June 3rd as deadline for the conduct of primary elections. The internal wrangling, interests and permutations within the two political parties were making it quite difficult to conduct primaries. It was the debate of whether to go for a consensus arrangement or to allow for a contest between all the aspirants.

While the permutations were on, the two political parties were trying to outwit each other by presenting a popular and more credible candidate. APC in particular, a party that was formed

from a merger of different political parties and associations was keen on presenting a candidate that would match the opposition candidate.

In the PDP, there was the serial presidential aspirant, Atiku Abubakar, Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike, Bukola Saraki, Sokoto State Governor, Aminu Tambuwal and Bala Mohamed as major contenders. With the 12 million votes in the kitty of Atiku Abubakar in the 2019 elections, there is no doubt that he promises to be the messiah of the opposition party at least for now. The PDP did not take chances and a couple of aspirants stepped aside for Abubakar.

Speaking through his

Twitter handle Atiku said, "Today, the march to rebuild our great country moves forward. I am honoured to be named the presidential candidate of the PDP. I look forward to speaking with Nigerians across the country, taking the message of hope and unity as we build one future for one people".

In his response to Atiku's victory, Tinubu remarked: "I welcome the victory of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar as the candidate of the PDP in the just concluded primary. I look forward to squaring up with him as a worthy opponent in the coming election.

"I have known the former vice president as a formidable politician and a

patriot who believes in the unity and progress of our dear country," he stated.

He however challenged Atiku this way: "We should make our campaign peaceful and issue based. Election season should be a festival of ideas that will uplift our country and improve the living condition of all our people. Unfortunately for the PDP, its candidates will be burdened to explain why Nigerians should give it another opportunity after squandering 16 years at the central government without much to show," he added.

But the general mood of the nation favoured a power shift to the south. As a matter of fact, the Southern Governor's Forum, which cut across party lines have seriously advocated for a power shift to the south since President Buhari, a northerner is about to conclude eight years. However, the PDP argued that of the 16 years it had been in power, 1999 to 2015, the north only had barely four years.

Also, it was widely believed that the choice of a PDP Presidential candidate would determine who emerges for the APC. And it

was only natural for the APC to go for an equally popular candidate in Bola Tinubu who can match Atiku in terms of political sagacity, financial war chest and experience. By also settling for Tinubu, they might have finally satisfied the craving of majority of the APC stakeholders for a power shift to the south. The party also jettisoned the need for a more vibrant and younger candidate such as Vice President Osinbajo, Rotimi Amaechi and Yahaya Bello. But above all, the party had relegated any desire for presidential endorsement of an aspirant in the general interest of the party.

Tinubu garnered 1271 votes, approximately 55.26% of the total votes to beat his closest rival, former Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi who scored 316 votes. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo came third with 235 votes.

Other aspirants scored the following: Senator Ahmed Lawan-152, Yahaya Bello-47, Dave Umahi- 38, Ben Ayade- 37, Ahmed Rufai Sani-4, Dr. Christopher Onu-1, Emeka Nwajiuba-1, Pastor Tunde Bakare-0, Senator Rochas Okorocho-

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"We should make our campaign peaceful and issue based. Election season should be a festival of ideas that will uplift our country and improve the living condition of all our people. Unfortunately, for the PDP, its candidates will be burdened to explain why Nigerians should give it another opportunity after squandering 16 years at the central government without much to show."

NEWS

Lalong donates 10M to Namu fire disaster victims

By Hosea Nyamlong

EXECUTIVE Chairman, Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council (LGC), Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a, has described His Excellency, the Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong KSGG, as a compassionate Leader.

This was contained in a press released signed by Mathias Yengoet Dajan, SSA Media, Publicity and Protocol to the Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan LGC and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD recently in Jos.

He stated this during the presentation of cash donation of ten million naira, by the Executive Governor to victims of the fire disaster that engulfed Namu Yam Market last year 2021.

He appreciated Lalong, on behalf of the Council and the entire good people of Qua'an-Pan LGC. He emphasises that entire people of the locality remain indebted to the Governor for his kind gesture.

The statement added that Lalong has distinguished himself as a leader with a large heart, pragmatic step when he visited the market to inspect the level of damaged by the inferno and assured government readiness to assist victims.

Da'a prayed that God would continue to guide and protect him in all his ways and grant him success in a bid for the Senatorial seat to



Lalong

represent Plateau South Senatorial District at the National Assembly.

Governor Lalong who was ably represented by the Commissioner of Agriculture

Plateau State, Dr. Hosea Fanangwai said that the Governor deemed it fit not to delay the assistance, haven considered the hardship of the victims.

Dr. Fanangwai added that the Governor is so passionate about his people and advised the beneficiaries to use the money judiciously to ensure that every affected person is included in the list of distribution.

The Long Jan of Namu Chiefdom, Miskoom Engr. Safiyanu Allahnana Magaji, expressed gratitude to the Governor that Namu is a miniature of Nigeria, and his gesture would have a great impact on the lives of the locality.

Long Jan, admonished the people of the locality to always exhibit the spirit of peaceful coexistence, which would attract more dividends of democracy to the community.

Earlier Speaking, Chairman of Bwall Yam Market Namu, Mr. Monday Bwall, expressed gratitude to the Governor and called on the Local Government Council to assist the association to erect the burnt down market.

Remember God's judgment, retiring Justice reminds colleagues

From Willie Attah, Gombe

A retiring Federal High Court Judge, Justice Musa Haruna Kurya, has reminded serving judges and lawyers that they will one day

give account of their service before the Judge of all Judges. He gave the admonition during a valedictory court session held in his honour at the Federal High Court, Gombe.

Quoting from the Holy Bible,

where a valedictory message by Prophet Samuel declared his faithfulness and sincerity in his service as the judge for the children of Israel for 40 years which ended without blemish, Justice Kurya said his guiding principle during his years in service had been the fear of dying and facing God, to give an account of his stewardship in the judiciary.

Taking Prophet Samuel's quote from the Holy Bible, Justice Kurya said, "I have become a judge over you for the past 40 years, Oh Israel, if there is anyone that I have collected his goat, I have collected his sheep, I have collected his donkey, let that person complain now so that I will pay him."

Justice Kurya therefore prayed that the serving judges would equally end with praises of clean record in their credit.

Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tehemba Tsoho, who was represented by Justice Binta Nyako, congratulated Justice Kurya for gracefully retiring from active judicial service, despite turbulent times associated with the job.

She described him as a complete gentle man who is well known for his profound friendly, quiet but revered life style.

She said, "He is one of the Judges who has been loyal to the Judiciary. The Bench and the Bar will dearly miss him for his carefulness and uprightness. This stands as legacy of his dedication to the Judiciary during his time on the Bench of the Federal High Court".

NCS confiscates N126M worth of edibles, others

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

CONTRABAND goods worth N126 million have been confiscated by the operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), federal operations unit, Zone 'D'.

The Comptroller, Federal Operations Unit (FOU) of the Zone, Adesanmi Omiye who made this known at a press conference in Bauchi Thursday, said that the seizure of the contraband goods took place between January and June, 2022.

He said that the seizures were made possible due to the commitment and determination of operatives of the zone.

The Comptroller said some of the items seized during the period under review include 605 bags of 50kg foreign parboiled rice, seven used vehicles which were used as means of conveyance of the contraband goods, 54 bales of secondhand clothes and 215 cartons of foreign soap.

Omiye added that the operatives of the Unit, apart from blocking and suppressing smuggling within the Zone have seized 605 bags of 50kg foreign parboiled rice, 7 used vehicles, 54 bales of second hand clothes, 215 cartons of foreign soap and 42-cartons of foreign Spaghetti.

Others according to the Comptroller include 102 pieces of dried Donkey skin, 69 sacks of foreign used shoes, 150 Jerry cans of petroleum product - 20 litres each (engine oil), 20 Jerry cans of PMS (25 liters each) and 50 cartons of Ringer Lactates (Drugs).

"The Cumulative Duty Paid Value (DPV) of all the seizures amounts to One Hundred and Twenty-Six

Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Thousand, One Hundred Thirty One Naira, Twenty Five Kobo (N126,560,131.25K)", Omiye explained.

He said that the action of the Nigeria Customs operatives are in line with the provision of section 8 and 158 (power to patrol freely) and of Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) Cap C45 Laws of the Federation Republic of Nigeria 2004 as amended.

The Zonal Comptroller said that the three suspects arrested within the period in connection with the seizures were released on bail.

According to him, the seizure was recorded as a result of sharing of information, intelligence gathering and doggedness of the officers/Men of the federal Operations Unit, Zone D.

Omiye who said his men has made the zone unbearable for smugglers, pleaded with well-meaning Nigerians to assist in providing genuine information that could aid in eradicating the menace of smuggling in the zone and the country at large.

The Comptroller while warning against smuggling, informed that by eradicating the bad practice, it will boost the economy of the country which will enable the government provide social amenities to the citizenry.



PTS graduates 175 spies

Police Training School (PTS), Ikeja, on Monday graduated six PhD holders and 169 others from different professions, into several ranks of the Nigeria Police Force as supernumeraries (spies).

Deputy Commissioner of Police and Commandant, PTS Ikeja, Musa Garba, said that 175 supernumeraries were promoted into various ranks, having completed their advance course.

Others were promoted to the rank of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Superintendent of Police (SP) Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Inspectors Garba, added that the promotion of the officers was based on merit, as the supernumeraries had been equipped with training that would assist them to perform their duties diligently.

We have done our best

"In the past seven years of our administration, we have done our best to unite the citizens of Plateau State"

Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State had stated this on Democracy Day 2022

"We have also provided platform for dialogue, engagement and genuine reconciliation.

While speaking during the Democracy Day Interdenominational Church service held at Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a' Nigeria (EYN) ,Church Jos, Lalong had told the congregation that he has put efforts to reduce the crisis that had engulfed his state and results have shown that substantial peace and confidence have largely returned.

100m Nigerians are unemployed

Presidential candidate of the Labour Party for the 2023 general elections, Mr. Peter Obi, on Monday stated that the unemployment of 100 million Nigerians was responsible for the widespread poverty in the country.

Obi spoke at a one-day International colloquium in Port Harcourt organised by Christ Church for the presidential candidates of the different political parties, with the theme "What Do Nigerians Want?"

He said that a country that turned its people into poverty would be faced with crises, unemployment and insecurity.

Moghalu resigns membership

The former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Kingsley Moghalu, has resigned his membership of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) .

His resignation came day after he lost the presidential primary to Dumebi Kachikwu.

In a letter to ADC Chairman, Okey Nwosu, Moghula said he was leaving the party because of alleged infractions during the primary election.

Lalong swears in 4 new judges, Khadi

Plateau State Governor has sworn in four new Judges of the State High Court and a Khadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal, with a call on them to shun corrupt practices.

Performing the swearing in ceremony at the New Government House, little Rayfield Jos, on Monday. He said that their appointments are based on their merit and recognition of their excellent service to the state and Nigeria is over the years

Atiku picks Okowa as running mate

Last minutes push by top shots of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), paved way for the emergence of the Delta State Governor, Ifeanyi Okowa, as the running mate of the presidential candidate of the party, Atiku Abubakar. Okowa's fate was sealed at a marathon meeting held in Abuja. The development ended the quest of the Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike to become the running mate of the party's flag bearer.

Emefiele rallies stakeholders

Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) ,Mr. Godwin Emefiele has called on the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) ,the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and shipping companies to support the drive by the bankers' committee to improve foreign exchange (FX) earnings through non-oil exports.

Speaking at the CBN's Bi-annual Non-oil Export Summit in Lagos with the theme: "Setting the Roadmap toward achieving RT200 and non-oil export for development," Emefiele stressed that it had become more urgent for Nigeria to increase its forex and has called for coordinated efforts by players in the export ecosystem to the growth of the economy.

Ukraine drive to join EU

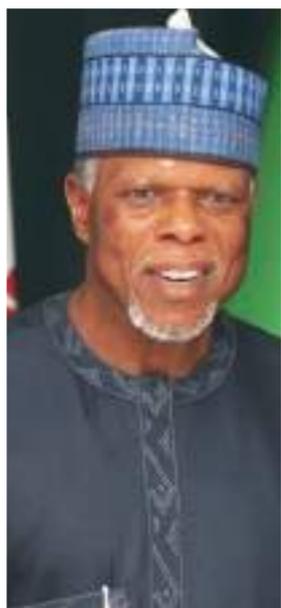
Leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Romania pledged to back Ukraine's bid to apply for EU membership after travelling to Kyiv to meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to show support following Russia's invasion. "Europe is at your side and would stay there for as long as it takes," President Emmanuel Macron of France told Zelenskyy, condemning Russia for "war, destruction and chaos" and the "barbarity" committed in the Kyiv suburb of Irpin, which the leaders visited.

"All four of us support the immediate granting of EU candidate status for Ukraine," Macron said ahead of an EU summit nextweek that will consider the application. It is expected to impose conditions on Kyiv including improving the rule of law and fighting corruption. Macron also pledged to continue sending weapons to help Ukraine's war effort and announced the addition of a six Caesar howitzers on top of 12 offered.

The EU leaders also called on Russia to end its blockade of Ukraine's

Black Sea ports to allow the export of grain needed to ease a global food crisis. Mario Draghi, Italy's prime minister, said Zelenskyy understood that "the path from (EU) candidate to member is a path, not a point. It is a road that will have to see profound reforms of Ukrainian society.

Compiled by HOSEA NYAMLONG



Ali

VOX POP

A day after Nigeria's Democracy Day celebration



Abiola



Babangida



Mahmood

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

NIGERIA celebrated another milestone of uninterrupted civilian rule from military dictatorship to democratic rule in May 1999 which is today seen as the longest civilian rule in the history of the country.

Reactions have continued to trail the Democracy Day celebration as a result of the nation's departure from military dictatorship. It used to be celebrated on the 29 May, but to honour MKO Abiola, a man who died on the altar of democracy, the Federal Government decided to commemorate the this epoch event to civil rule on 12th June.

The election that saw Abiola emerged as the presumed winner was adjudged to the fairest, freest and most peaceful election ever conducted in Nigeria. People across sections of the country came out in their number and voted for Abiola disabusing their minds from ethnicity and religious inclinations.

President Muhammadu

Buhari declared June 12, as Democracy Day to immortalize late M.K.O Abiola, on the 6th June, 2019 following the role he played and the Supreme prize paid for Democracy to prevail in the political system of the country. This has continued to generate more reactions from citizens on the assessment of the democratic journey so far.

SUNDAY STANDARD gathered that the last Democracy Day event was celebrated in a low key manner in Jos metropolis, as citizens expressed their fears that despite 23 years of civilian government insecurity and corruption are still lingering in our domain.

Mr. James Ocheigwu, a teacher with one of the private secondary schools in Jos North Local Area Government, (LGA) said that the democratic system of government in Nigeria has given citizens the right to vote their leaders into power for a periodic time. Another plus, he said is the freedom of speech to express our views and opinion which was

not the case during the military rule.

He added that citizens cannot enjoy dividends of democracy in the midst of insecurity where the lives and property of citizens are no longer safe and protected from bandits, kidnappers, terrorists and unknown gunmen.

Comrade Pius Bature, a business man said the cost of living is becoming unbearable to the common citizen. The price of goods and services are on the increase and the value of naira is depreciating day by day.

Insecurity has affected our agricultural system. Many farmers cannot have access to their farm lands to cultivate while their lives are under threat from terrorists.

Mrs. Ruth Tanko, a senior citizen stated that the educational system of the country has gone into comatose.

Industrial strike has become the order of the day, students cannot finish an academic session successfully without going on strike and this has really

jeopardized the future of the country.

Some people alluded that though Nigeria's democracy is gradually maturing, it is not yet Uhuru. Our institutions of governance must be strengthened and be free from corruption.

Government can only get it right through running a transparent government where it's resources are managed judiciously to the benefit of all the citizens

SUNDAY STANDARD findings revealed that citizens are not happy with the educational system of the country. The lingering Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU) strike has continued without proffering solution to the strike action embarked by lecturers for almost five months.

Mr. Sarki Tongs, said that Federal Government should place a value on education, which is the bedrock of developed countries and Nigeria government cannot shy away from it, the needful should be done to settle the long strike immediately to enable students resume their

academic activities.

Parents are not finding it easy having their children with them at home, while they ought to be in school learning.

Musa Abok, said that the Democracy Day celebration would have been quite significant where citizen should be happy because of the dividends of democracy enjoyed, but 23 years down the line of uninterrupted Democratic government. The country is still battling with so many issues, mostly insecurity that have bedeviled the country and if measures are not taken immediately it would tear the country apart.

Other citizens, noted that gradually the politics of Nigeria has taken a different direction that is why only the rich politicians can vie for positions. An example was the recently concluded presidential primaries which was clear indication that money characterized the politics of that day, where delegates votes were bought with money based on who offers the highest amount.

SUNDAY FEATURE

What model of democracy for Nigeria?

Democracy is a universal concept that embodies fundamental principles and doctrines that make it unique as a form of government that relies on the idea of the supremacy of the people. The first aspect of democracy is that the people have the right to choose and decide who will govern them periodically through elections and hold the office holders accountable for the power they derived from the people. It presupposes that it is the fundamental right of citizens to vote and be voted for in a free and fair election. Timothy Joseph, asks.

ANOTHER dimension of democracy is that it is govern by principles, without which it becomes an aberration and a folly of indescribable proportion even with the first aspect. These principles include the rule of law, fundamental human rights, liberty and accountability, and it is only the combination of these two aspects that makes democracy worthwhile.

Analyzing how Nigeria fares since 1999 in these two critical aspects of democracy indicate that we do not measure up to them, first, periodic elections, as imperfect as it has been, we have made progress. secondly, deepening the pillars of democracy, the way it is practice in Nigeria today, it is hybrid it's a combination of civil rule, militarism, and ethnic jingoism. There is no national consensus on what democracy should be in Nigeria or should do for Nigeria no shared national vision binds citizens and the state, and no common aspiration. In the absence of shared national aspirations, democracy is just a word, a concept borrowed to fulfill all righteousness, recent experiences, in the economic and security situations have made some Nigerians to question the western style democracy we adopted and doubt weather it can deliver sustainable development, this trust deficit is exacerbated by persistent conflict, high cost of governance, corruption, poverty, indiscipline, inefficiency, insecurity, high level of unemployment, and divisiveness that pervades the land.

It is true that the way we practice democracy in Nigeria today has failed to assist Nigeria to maximize individual potentials neither has it allowed the country to accomplish its national development agenda. The reasons might not be far fetched, it ranges from greedy political elites that is not driven by principles or vision to expensive governing structures thar are self serving, and from indiscipline to culture misfit, like a rocking boat we have moved from parliamentary democracy to an American style of. Presidential system which works for the U.S.

The problem with Nigeria is squarely the appropriateness of our democracy model. No serious attempt has ever been made to work out a democracy model fits, to recognize our unique cultural attributes, worse still, our political elites have failed to adapt a management approach to democracy overtime the elementary principle of envisioning the common good, setting a strategic plan, making effective decisions, and mobilizing resources to achieve a shared goal are not in consideration.

Different countries adopt various models of democracy to suit thier context and cultural environment for instance, China adopted a one party system with bureaucratic control emphasizing efficiency and economic growth, Rwanda increased women's participation in governance and incorporated a cultural practices known as "Imihigo", a decentralization policy where district mayor's commit to development targets, because of its belief that a nation has only one common goal, Singapore adopted a democratic approach that emphasis equality of all and economic prosperity, and it has a unique parliament made up of single member constituencies, group



representation constituencies, and nominated members of parliament.

On its parts, South Korea evolved a robust free democracy that allows for freedom of speech, and its constitution provides a single tenure for the president that is non-renewable and a legislative in which seats are by a combination of persons elected via popular vote and allocation, while Malaysia on the other hand, created a Muslim democracy that is distinctively no theocratic, all these countries government guarantee security and safety of the people and the people observe the rule of law.

However, the military incursion in to Nigeria governance upended democracy ever since, democracy has been in decline and needs a radical rethink to work in Nigeria again, a significant consideration in assessing the appropriateness of Nigerian democracy is the influence of over four decades of military rule, the military has handed down all our constitutions since 1999, each has ended up necessitating elaborate amendments, and each one contains bordering impunity and reckless disregard for some marginalized groups. The judiciary and legislature are left weak by the executive despite the separation of powers, even with the judicial Autonomy in place now, the executive arm still exercise some form of control over the judiciary many observers are of the opinion that signing the autonomy law was just a smoke screen due to the way and manner the executive still interfered with some judicial matters, at the moment some states are yet to comply in implementing the Judicial autonomy.

A series of over overlapping security, political and economic crisis has left Nigerians facing its worst instability since the end of the civil war in 1979, with security experts warning that large parts of the country are in effect becoming

ungovernable, fears that the conflicts in Africa's most populous nation were bleeding over its borders were underpinned by claims that armed secessionist in the country's south-east were now cooperating with militants fighting for an independent state. The mounting insecurity from banditry in the north west, jihadist groups such as Boko Haram in the north east, violent conflicts between Herders and farmers across the large swathes of Nigeria's middle belt is driven a brain drain of young Nigerians, these security issues are in addition to a series of other problems, which includes kidnapping, rising levels of poverty, violent crimes and corruption amid an increasing sense that the central government in many places is struggling to govern.

The most significant measure of the efficacy of democracy is its ability to raise the people's standard of living marked by a minimum level of development, the inability of Nigerian democracy to bridge the gap between inequality and poverty has heightened the lack of faith in democracy all vital statistics from ,1999 to date has not marched the expected progress in deepening democracy, making it difficult to accept a correlation between democracy and development.

To make Nigerians have faith in democracy and its ability to deliver development is not just about periodic elections but addressing the structures and cultural fit of our model of democracy to make it work. It is also essential to pay attention to the peculiarities of different sections thar make up the country. True democracy is the form of democracy adapted to the circumstances and cultural context that delivers the greatest good to the highest number of persons measured by material prosperity.

It is imperative to note that Nigeria adopted the American presidential

system without looking at our cultural context, must Nigeria have a bicameral legislature? Why should Nigeria have so many cost centers at the local, state, and federal levels that deliver no value? Is there a need for full-time legislature? Rather than part-time legislature? Why should Nigeria have a bogus governing structure? Why should Nigeria continue to use the 1999 constitution that many people do not accept its authority? Why should Nigeria have a federal structure that is more unitary in nature? All these fundamental questions can help us define what we want from democracy and determined weather the model of democracy we practice can provide us the optimal level of development we desire.

Is democracy making progress in Nigeria? From the perspective of economic prosperity and individual liberty, the answer is No. However, history might answer an emphatic yes because at the inception of the independent of Nigeria, in 1960, there were high hopes both within and outside Nigeria that this young parliamentary democracy would be the beacon of hope for restoring the dignity of the black man, even though that dispensation had its challenges, it was able to maintain some democratic manifestations that made some politicians look like Angeles (i.e the Awolowo's, the Sarduna's, the Azikiwe's, the Tafa balewa's) compared to today's political actors. There was semblance of sanity.

The way forward for Nigeria is for government at all levels to examine our democracy to make it fit for our purpose, which will guarantee orderly and peaceful existence. It is on record that the recurrent expenditure of the Nigerian government state and federal outweighs capital expenditures of a ratio of more than 80: 20, the current form of democracy and democratic institutions have too much implicit and explicit cost that it leaves no money for development, and there is absolutely no incentive to invest in development initiative.

Nigeria's current federal democracy is Unitarian and has hindered the adequate provision of development and security safety for the citizens. The ability of the state to guarantee security is central to the thriving of democracy unless people are free to go about thier everyday businesses unmolested, they can not enjoy the freedom which is the crucial instrument of democracy. Not even the ritual of voting and elections can credibly take place in an insecure environment.

It is evident that we need to have a conversation about our current constitution to measure it according to our context as a nation where no region or groups will be left out, if that is not looked into in the nearest feature our democracy will continue to plunder. This new democratic model, no matter what it is, must speak to the aspirations and hopes of Nigerians, it must be holistic and quintessentially uniquely Nigerian.

A model of plagiarized American democracy with little or no modifications to fit our context is already structurally deficient no matter how we practice it, it will never meet our expectations.

Timothy Joseph is a staff the Ministry of Information and Communication.

NIGERIAN women are a big part of our development as a nation. From the grass root farmer to the CEO, Nigerian women contribute their quota. This means that the Nigerian woman is also a stakeholder in our level of development as a Nation.

In an ailing economy, it is easy to say that our collective development as a nation is not where it should be because women are not given the pride of place in politics. However, development is not tied to only politics, as there are many inputs. Consequently, if we desire to make an impact on our polity, we have many areas to explore.

Development covers a plethora of subject matters. According to sid-isreal .org, development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components. Economic development and growth cannot take place if the forgoing components are not in accord. If the social component suffer because of insecurity, this will affect economic activities, which in turn, will affect the value chains that keep our economy alive. Therefore, it is inferred that economic and political inclusion are not the only components of development that women should clamour for.

If we are going to attain development as a nation, then every Nigerian woman should continue to embrace her role, wherever she finds herself, with excellence in mind. It could be in the nuclear and extended family, the community, in education, aviation, agriculture, music, fashion, photography, the Arts, Medicine, engineering, law, nursing, driving, hand crafts, mentoring, psychology. The list is endless. All the elements mentioned contribute to the development of a nation as always. Nonetheless, we must also play our role as nurturers.

Politics

Women in politics have proven their worth in the political space and are pushing for more empowerment in order to level up with their male counterparts. From the days of Queen Amina and in our time, women are carrying their weight through service to the nation.

The only challenge is that women have not yet considered the fact that we need to learn political strategy like a book, and how to execute it. Today, women will need to learn make only promises that they can deliver. Women in politics need to come up with blue prints of strategies that will demonstrate how they intend to achieve their objectives and honour their promises to the populace as a mark of credibility and ability.

Nurturer

The woman is a nurturer before becoming a hunter, beside the man. When a woman leaves her home in the morning to go and work in order to help her husband in paying the bills, or to pay her own bills, she is playing the role of a hunter as well. It is easy for the woman to down play her role in the lives of her children when she is tired or busy. This may seem like an insular stand-alone situation but if the woman does not pull herself back and pay attention to her first job of nurturer, and guiding her children, they may get involved with unsavoury characters and end up as delinquents. If this happens, the journey into crime and criminality would be a very short distance.

Criminality and crime as we know them are the roots of insecurity in our nation. They create unfavourable and hostile environment for economic and business activities. This may hamper foreign direct investment into the economy. Many companies have moved their production lines to neighbouring countries due to insecurity. Human security and security in general, is a very strong factor in the decision to invest or not to invest in a country. According to United Nations Organization on drugs and crime in a paper titled Crime and Development in Africa, UNODC opines that high levels of crime may be interfering with Africa's development.

The correlation between the insecurity created by criminality and the role of the Nigerian woman as a nurturer, is that when the woman fails to raise her children in tandem with the code of conduct in our society and the child turns to crime, she is indirectly contributing to the under-development of the nation especially if a foreign firm refuses to build companies in Nigeria due to kidnapping or relocates to Ghana due to insecurity created by criminality. Same goes for corruption, 419, yahoo plus and the myriad crimes holding our society captive.

It therefore means that the woman can shape the destiny of a nation by shaping the nuclear family and her children's character and should take that job very seriously. Going by the foregoing, raising a person from childhood into a responsible member of society is a huge contribution to the socio-economic well-being and development of the nation. Having said the foregoing, it is imperative for women to place value on our role in developing the nation as parents and as professionals in our different fields.

Environmentalism

Women contribute a lot in saving the environment. With the advent of climate change and its many effects on our environment, women play a great role in protecting the environment. For example, women are the ones who make use of

Women and national development



polythene bags the most and it is believed that women generate the most household waste. It is a fact that polythene and waste that is not properly collected and discarded could block drainages, which leads to flooding. We are seeing more and more flooding as the climate gets warmer. Women can engage with the ministry of environment to see what role they can play in proper waste management and environmental protection.

Nigerian Women organizations could partner with WEDO which is a women's organization that works for not only gender equality and human rights, but also for the preservation of the integrity of the environment. Women can learn and understand other roles that they can play in protecting and preserving the environment. Women's group could also educate rural women on waste disposal and provide alternatives such as a more environment friendly option that would minimize the cutting of trees, which in turn, could lead to decertification.

Mediator

Women can also learn how to mediate. Women are natural peacemakers that have played their roles in their families and communities. If women learn conflict prevention and mediation skills, we can serve our community by dousing the tension when the need arises. It is the season for deciding who our next crop of leaders will be. This comes with a lot of anxiety and struggles for political turfs. This often results in animosity and chaos. Women in our communities, could be the voice of reason if they know how to mediate, (not necessarily at a round table), in order to de-escalate political tensions in our communities and to protect the peace and our social fabric. This fact is buttressed by WANEP in 2019.

Vanguard Newspaper published a story on April 19 2021, on the training of women and girls in Nigeria, as mediators and councilors in the peace building process. The forgoing is an excerpt of what WANEP said, on the role of Women as Peace builders, why they need to be trained and included in the peace building process: 'The West Africa Network for Peace-



of female entrepreneurs and the proportion of women in senior positions in corporate organizations and the public service. WIMBIZ says that it has inspired, empowered and advocated for better representation of women. WIMBIZ develop its members in the following ways: by inspiring women to achieve professional development and to accomplish entrepreneurial exploits, public sector initiatives and community development endeavours. By building a sustainable platform that enlightens and empowers women to achieve career, business and public sector leadership, by speaking for its members with a strong voice for gender parity and the increase in the representation of women in leadership positions in business, management and the public service and by creating networking opportunities for professional women and female entrepreneurs through tailor-made events.

Another group of champions are our market women. In our market places and on our farms, we see the energy and zeal of the rural woman who goes from one local market to the other to buy and sell her goods. She has a network of customers that crisscross these local markets. When she pays local taxes, she helps the government in generating internal revenue, thereby contributing her quota to the economic development of her locality.

The local market woman travels many times a week, despite the condition of our infrastructure and with little or no incentive. She is the middleman and marketer between the farmer and the consumer and gives the farmer feedback on his produce. She is natural at customer relationship management and may help the farmer operate a credit system where his goods are given to her on credit, she sells them for a profit and remits the farmers money to him. Speaking for rural women in development, UN Women's watch says and I quote: "rural women play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being. They contribute to agriculture and rural enterprises and fuel local and global economies. As such, they are active players in achieving the MDGs. Yet, every day, around the world, rural women and girls face persistent structural constraints that prevent them from fully enjoying their human rights and hamper their efforts to improve their lives as well as those of others around them. In this sense, they are also an important target group for the MDGs."

If the constraints hampering rural women and girls are removed, rural women could serve as the sources of indices for measuring the business and economic activities in our rural areas.

Market women also engage in the production process. For example, the rural woman plays a big role in the rice and cassava value chain. The market woman is also a tailor, runs a restaurant, weaves local fabrics or dyes materials for indigenous fashion. All of these contribute in creating the engine room that keeps the economy running.

In conclusion, women play a viable role in our national development. The role women play and have the potential to play brings about development in many areas. From politics, to character building to peace building, to business and rural development, women have consciously and meaningfully demonstrated their ability to contribute to national development.

Building (WANEP), says women's involvement in peace-building and security is necessary in Nigeria as conflicts resolution is collective responsibility. WANEP National Coordinator, Mrs Bridget Osakwe said this at a Media Round-table on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and Women in Peace and Society (WPS) in Abuja on Monday. Osakwe said although Nigeria adopted UNSCR 1325, the resolution that reaffirms the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace building among others, its implementation has been slow.

Mrs. Osakwe went on to say that, the involvement of women in peace and security building is necessary for a balanced outcome because they are the most vulnerable group in crises. She emphasized the fact that women are good in mediation as they could negotiate at all levels from grassroots to national level. She added that Nigeria developed a National Action Plan (NAP) which includes training of women and girls as mediators, negotiators and conciliators in conflicts and post conflict situations and enhance their participation at all levels of peace process etc.

The forgoing is from Vanguard Newspaper. Adding my voice to this, I think that the training of women as mediators, negotiators and councilors could be trickled down to the smallest community as part of the peace building strategy for the forth coming elections so that every woman will see herself as a peace-keeper in her community.

Business developers

From the rural areas to the cities, women are engaged in economic activities that serve as the engine room of our economy. We have organizations that serve to support women technically and financially, in building their businesses. One of such organizations is WINBIZ. This organization creates business opportunities for businesses run by women and has been around for more than twenty one years. WIMBIZ describes itself as "Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ), a non-profit organisation focused on increasing and supporting the success rates

Isaiah 12:2. **Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.**

Very important thoughts communicated to us here by the Spirit of God and it shows us that concerning the affairs of life, there are only two positions that the Christian or the believer can maintain. It is either you are trusting God with the situation or you are afraid. If you are trusting God, then you are not afraid otherwise, if you are afraid, then you are not trusting God; you cannot be neutral.

There are two positions that you ultimately will take; and my counsel to you in this series is that you take the position of trusting God. The position of trusting God will always give you an advantage in this life. We have found out over our past few episodes that fear is Satan's primary access into the life of a believer. In fact, without the spirit of fear, Satan can do nothing on the face of the earth.

Concerning the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible lets makes us understand, in Colossians 2:15 that Jesus **having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.** We therefore understand from scriptures that because of Jesus' death on the cross, His going to hell to pay the price for man's sin and His resurrection from the dead on the third day; Satan's power has been broken.

Furthermore, we have come to understand that the moment you make Jesus the savior of your life, you have crossed over from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Son of God's love (Colossians 1:12-13). The authority of darkness and Satan's authority becomes null and void in your life.

However, your position in Christ Jesus must be activated by faith. To enjoy the benefits of your position in Christ Jesus, it must be activated by your faith. These things do not fall on us automatically. After we have come to know Jesus Christ, we also have to understand the word of God, and how to walk in the reality of the word of God.

Now, the main objective of this teaching is to share the understanding that Satan's main or primary access into the life of a believer is through the spirit of fear. When you understand that and you refuse to give that spirit of fear access into your life, you literally shut down to the activities of Satan in your life. Whatever the devil seeks to do in the area of your finances, health and so on, his access or authority is through the spirit of fear. Shut down the spirit of fear and you practically shut down Satan's operation in

your life.

2 Timothy 1:7 tells us **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** For a believer, fear is not to be tolerated; fear is not to be accepted as norm. Fear is to be identified the way the word of God identifies it. The spirit of fear is of the devil and there is nothing normal about the spirit of fear for the believer. It is to

scripture, spiritually speaking, there is only one lion and his name is Jesus Christ, the son of the living God. He is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah; but the devil seeks to impersonate that. He is not the lion, but he goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour or swallow up.

This scripture encourages me because, if the devil is seeking, it means he has no authority to



Fear not, trust God 13



Thus, resisting fear or resisting the devil is resisting those thoughts, ideas, suggestions and impressions that the devil introduces into our minds. You can think about it as resisting the devil is resisting fear, and resisting fear is resisting thoughts, ideas, concepts and suggestions that are introduced into our minds that create impressions and feelings that motivate us to fearful actions. So when you understand this, then it becomes easy for you to deal with the spirit of fear.

be identified and aggressively attacked, resisted and shut down in the life of the believer.

You will discover that as you learn to shut down the operation of the spirit of fear in your life, you will see the power of God breaking forth and moving in your life like never before. But, if the spirit of fear is not to be tolerated, then what are we to do with it?

James 4:7 says, **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** The spirit of fear is not to be tolerated, but vehemently resisted. The word says, **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** Furthermore, 1 Peter 5:8-9 says, **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.** These verses also tells us to resist.

It is important for us to understand here that the Bible describes the devil as a roaring lion. It does not say he is a lion but it says he goes about as a roaring lion. Now the good news is that according to the

devour. The word seeking means he is looking for opportunity; he is looking for a way in or an entry point into the life of the believer. This also means that he is not automatically authorized or he does not have the permission to do whatever he wants to do. This should be somewhat obvious because, if Satan had the authority to do whatever he wanted to do, he would have destroyed all in his way long ago without hindrance.

However, the Bible makes us understand that he goes around seeking whom he may devour. He is looking for permission, he is seeking for an opportunity to devour; to steal, to kill and to destroy. This also means that you do not have to be a victim to the devil and fall prey to his traps. If he is looking for a way into your life, you can refuse to give him any. Remember we have said this severally and it bears repetition; fear is Satan's access into the life of the believer.

Satan is defeated as far as the believer is concerned and can do nothing without witting or unwitting permission from the believer. Where the unbeliever is concerned, Satan is fully authorized to steal, kill and destroy. This is why we

encourage people to come to know Jesus.

As far as the believer in Christ is concerned, Satan can only seek for an entry point or a way in, but if you know how he operates, you can shut the door or refuse him to have access into your life.

1 Peter 1:9 says, talking about the devil, **whom resist ye steadfastly in the faith.** Notice the word resist again. As a believer, you resist the devil and the spirit of fear by your faith. Romans 10:17 says, **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** This implies that if you do not know the word of God that produces faith, you cannot successfully resist the spirit of fear. But if you are in Christ, and if you are in faith; if you are a believer, the you do not have to give that spirit access into your life to reign and rule or to be tormented by it.

We find out from James 4 and 1st Peter 1 that we are to resist the spirit of fear. Other facts to note about the spirit of fear, as we have earlier noted in this series is that fear operates through thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and impressions that are injected or introduced into our minds by the devil. These thoughts may at times

create physical reactions in people like saliva drying out or the body begin to shake, the knees sometimes lose strength and begin to shake and quake, people begin to do crazy and do dumb things; some even lose control of themselves reacting from the spirit of fear.

As I have said in prior teachings in this series, when the spirit of fear is in operation, and has taken over an individual, it is almost like insanity. People begin to do things they would not have done in their normal minds. Initiative is lost; the get paralyzed or stifled.

Thus, resisting fear or resisting the devil is resisting those thoughts, ideas, suggestions and impressions that the devil introduces into our minds. You can think about it as resisting the devil is resisting fear, and resisting fear is resisting thoughts, ideas, concepts and suggestions that are introduced into our minds that create impressions and feelings that motivate us to fearful actions. So when you understand this, then it becomes easy for you to deal with the spirit of fear.



Web **BULUS GAMBO**



I will get my career back - Patra

Time has aged Patra like a fine wine. The Queen of the Pack shocked headlines last summer after an appearance at an Essence Magazine party, and from then on has been hard at work prepping her comeback with a new team, a new album, and a fresh outlook. Thanking MTV's Sway amongst others, for the boost in the right direction after her absence, the reggae goddess dropped a new single this month, entitled, "Come Ova" featuring Delus, and is expected to release the video as well as her fifth studio album, Patra: The Continuation soon after. Promising to deliver nothing but the sexiness, Patra hopes her fans will feel like she never left. In an exclusive interview, Patra discussed her absence, new music, her opinion of Tupac at Coachella, and describes how she manages to preserve the sexy.



You shocked headlines last summer after a photo popped up of you partying in New York. So, I think the first question on everyone's mind is where have you been?

Yeah, what happened was I was taking a break, to get my career on track. It's very simple. I just wanted to be in control, finish my education, and just to be happy, that's basically it. There's nothing really dramatic to discuss. I just needed to take that break to get myself and things together in order to be in control of my own business. To me that is the most refreshing thing I was able to accomplish from my absence from the scene is to be in control of my stuff.

You're prepping to release new music under a new partnership with LGN Entertainment. How'd that come about?

When I got to New York, I'm there getting everything together musically. I'm doing radio shows and all that. Rich Nice and Sway from MTV were the guys that were helping me while I was in New York. However, pertaining to the deal and my ability to partnerships with these guys came through Don Harper. Don Harper is someone that I've known, and it's funny because he had reached out in different ways, not about the business, but just to see when I was coming back out because he had heard all these stuff going on and then I let him know that I would love him on board. I had other stuff on the table, but what they had to offer me was the best from all the other stuff that was one the table because it allowed me to retain control and to make sure everything has the right attention that it needs with all of the craziness that's going on.

You're dropping a new single in June, "Come Ova", can we expect an album to follow through soon after?

Oh most definitely! I can even give you the name of the album now. Last week, I could not. I decided to keep it simple and name it Patra: The Continuation. Because actually, I didn't go anywhere, I

was just focusing on getting stuff straightened out and I just want to continue where I left off and try to be even better. And of course the single that's coming out isn't just me on the single. It's me and Delus. He also collaborated with me. I also want to give much respect to the producer, Damian Gayle, he's a good friend of mine, he's the one who produced this and he's responsible to make sure this whole world can have that dancehall flavor as well as a crossover appeal to it. This record will be the record for the summer. Trust me. We're shooting the video in a couple of days. It's going to be the sexiest video for the summer!

Who else are you planning to work with on your album?

Since, it's been so long, I'm just trying to make everything right. I'm not trying to look for collaboration at this moment, pertaining to who's on the album. Right now, for me, it's just a moment of connecting with my fans and getting back out there. My message to share as a person and a woman is to share all of my experiences and the essence of being back. I have to just focus on me at this point.

As self proclaimed, 'Queen of the Pack', can we expect the same type of raw style from you or have you switched things up?

All I can say is it's a brand new work. It even turn-up more than Queen of the Pack was. But, I always give respect all the time to Queen of the Pack, but there's nothing that compares to Queen of the Pack than to what I'm doing now. I've grown lyrically, but most importantly as a woman, free to express. So, just doing that with the art, it just come around, and not to mention just working with the best producers. It's always going to be about sex with me, nothing political. I'm just focusing on being sexy all the time. That's all I'm doing right now. Just being sexy, chopping up the charts and everything. I just want to feel good! I



Continued on page 25

Richest women of Nollywood

Nollywood industry has many beautiful and talented actresses who have starred in numerous movies and series. Any passionate fan of these wonderful ladies would be interested in learning who the wealthiest Nigerian actresses are and what their net worth is in 2022. Top richest Nigerian actresses in working in an industry that makes billions of US dollars annually comes with a massive reward in terms of salary package and popularity. Some famous Nigerian actresses are luckier than others in terms of their financial checks, but who is the richest? Top Nigerian actresses with the highest net worth. These talented celebrities also have many followers on social media. In addition, some of these Nigerian female actors have increased their net worth through business endeavours and endorsement deals. Here is a list of Nigerian actresses' pictures and names together with their net worth.

Genevieve Nnaji - \$10 million

Genevieve Nnaji tops the list of the richest actress with a net worth of \$10 million. Nnaji is a talented actress who has starred in many movies. Besides acting, she is also a producer. In 2019, she produced Lionheart, the first Netflix original film produced in Nigeria. The talented actress is also the owner of the St Genevieve clothing line. She has sponsorship deals with Etisalat, Amstel, Malta, and Jumia, among others.

Ibinabo Fiberesima- \$8 million

Ibinabo Fiberesima, one of the wealthiest Nollywood actresses, was born in Port Harcourt on January 13, 1970. Fiberesima debuted as an actress in the film Most Wanted in 1998. READ ALSO Most beautiful Hausa actresses in Kannywood She was the winner of the Miss Wonderland pageant in 1999 and the first runner-up in the Miss NUGA competition at the University of Calabar. In 2014, the actress married her college sweetheart, Uche Benjamin Ugbuka. Her net worth is \$8 million as of 2022

Funke Akindele - \$7.6 million

Funke Akindele is one of the most influential Nollywood stars, having a large fan base on Instagram. Akindele's performance has earned her both national and continental recognition. With a net worth of \$7.6 million, she is one of the top three richest Nigerian celebrities.



Omotola Jalade Ekeinde - \$7.2 million

Omotola Jalade is one of Nigeria's most influential actresses. The majority of her fans refer to her as Omosexy. Since joining Nollywood in 1995, she has starred in over 250 films. In addition to acting, the Nigerian actress is a well-known musician and activist. Time Magazine named her one of the top 100 influential persons in the world in 2013. Her net worth is estimated to be \$7.2 million.

Rita Dominic - \$6 million

The Nollywood actress was born in Mbaise, Imo State, on July 12, 1975. Rita Dominic has received numerous notable cinema awards, including the Africa Movie Academy Award. In addition, she is a co-founder of The Audrey Silva Company (TASC). Rita's net worth is estimated to be \$6 million.

ChiomaChukwuka - \$5.7 million

Chioma Chukwuka is another actress who enjoys portraying an "innocent" lady in romance films. She was born in Lagos, Nigeria, on March 12, 1980. On My Wedding Day, Wives on Strike, Heart of Gold, and The Rain of Hope are a few of the films she has played a role in.



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INTERNATIONAL

Rwanda-UK asylum deal may cause regional refugee crisis

Refugees and activists from Rwanda and the DRC say the deal could have serious implications for the wider region, especially in the latter which has been described as the "world's most neglected displacement crisis". IKABA KOYI writes.



Demonstrators display placards during a protest outside the Royal Courts of Justice while a legal case is heard over halting a planned deportation of asylum seekers from the UK to Rwanda, in London, UK, June

ACCORDING to the UK Home Office, the deal, signed in April, is "designed to disincentivise dangerous and unnecessary journeys such as small boat crossings, save lives and prevent injuries", and ultimately fix the UK's immigration system.

Since the deal was announced, there have been protests and legal attempts to stop the first deportation, as well as criticism from multiple nonprofits.

Enver Solomon, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said the charity was "appalled by the government's cruel and nasty decision". UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi said the UK was "exporting its responsibility to another country".

During his Easter sermon, Justin Welby, archbishop of Canterbury, said there were "serious ethical questions about sending asylum seekers overseas". British media report that Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, has privately called the deal "appalling".

By way of response, Rwandan foreign affairs minister Vincent Biruta said his country had a responsibility to cater to refugees.

"This partnership builds on Rwanda's strong record of providing safety to those fleeing danger, with our country currently providing sanctuary to over 130,000 refugees from multiple countries - including vulnerable migrants evacuated from Libya, Afghanistan and neighbours like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi," he said, during a recent trip to the UK.

A landlocked republic smudged within east and central Africa, Rwanda is one of the smallest countries in the world; it is the

same size as Macedonia but has six times the population. Despite recent economic gains, more than half of its estimated 13 million people live on less than \$2 a day, according to the World Bank.

Activists say this is proof that Rwanda is ill-suited to host the new arrivals and that an inflow of asylum seekers from the UK could even lead to the displacement of its citizens into the wider region.

On April 20, 12 UK-based nonprofits run by Congolese nationals in the Diaspora sent a private letter to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemning the UK's decision as one "based on the crisis of responsibility and not a crisis of refugees".

In the letter seen by Al Jazeera, they warned that Rwanda did not have enough space to accommodate the asylum seekers but was intent on getting British taxpayers' money to propagate a war in the eastern DRC.

It would essentially be a repeat of history, they added, where thousands could cross the borders from tiny Rwanda into larger Uganda or the vast landmass of the eastern DRC and further escalate the crisis there.

A representative of one of the letter's signatories, London-based The African Physical Training Organization (APTO), told Al Jazeera that there could be a spillover that "replicate[s] the 1994 refugee crisis where we saw millions of Rwandan Hutu refugees flood the eastern DRC to run away from the new Tutsi-led government in Rwanda".

According to the New York-based think tank Council on Foreign Relations, some of these refugees were génocidaires of Hutu ethnicity

including members of the infamous Interahamwe group. In the DRC, they formed armed groups, leading to the rise of opposing groups comprising Tutsis - the other main Rwandan ethnicity - as well as other opportunistic rebels.

Under the then head of state Mobutu Sese Seko, the DRC was unable to control these armed groups, some of which directly threatened populations in neighbouring countries. So civil war eventually broke out.

In 1997, he fled the country as rebels led by his eventual successor Laurent Kabila advanced on the capital.

Many of these groups are still in operation today, especially in the Ituri, Kasai, and Kivu provinces of eastern Congo. The Tutsi-majority M23 and the predominantly Hutu Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are the deadliest.

Despite the presence of more than 16,000 UN peacekeepers, these groups continue to inflict horror on communities and control territory in some areas. The United Nations estimates there are currently 4.5 million internally displaced people within the DRC and more than 800,000 people have fled the country to be refugees elsewhere.

This June, the Norwegian Refugee Council named the conflict in the DRC as the world's most neglected displacement crisis, for the second year running - as global attention shifts to the war in Ukraine.

"For years the Great Lakes region [across parts of East, Central and Southern Africa] has seen thousands of refugees, millions have died in DRC and the region," Carine Kanimba, daughter of Paul Rusesabagina, the imprisoned Rwandan activist who inspired the

film Hotel Rwanda, told Al Jazeera.

In recent weeks, Kinshasa has also accused Kigali of actively supporting the M23 rebels, who have been waging their most sustained offensive in eastern DRC since capturing vast swaths of territory there in 2012-13.

"Today, it's clear, there is no doubt, Rwanda has supported the M23 to come and attack the DRC", President Felix Tshisekedi said in June on state television.

And activists in Kinshasa have led an anti-Rwanda protest this month too.

For activists in Europe, the asylum deal could be a sign of the West helping Kagame's policies.

"We also believe this could be tied to Rwanda's ambition to get territories in Congo," the APTO representative said. "We are suspicious - why not give responsibility to Europe?"

Despite its acclaimed efforts at national reconciliation and healing after the genocide, Rwandan authorities have also been accused of human rights abuses by several civil society groups within and beyond Africa.

Critics say Western donors and organisations have ignored this and continue to support Kagame's government because it has managed to restore stability after the genocide.

"People are not free to express themselves on anything that might be seen as challenging the government or what it says," Lewis Mudge, Human Rights Watch's Central Africa director, told Al Jazeera in April.

Since October 2021, at least eight members and supporters of opposition leader Victoire Ingabire have been arrested on charges

ranging from spreading rumours, forming criminal associations and inciting insurrection.

"My father is a political prisoner in Rwanda because he criticised a ruthless dictatorship with the same president for 28 years," Kanimba told Al Jazeera. "Our work has been about showing the international community what is truly happening in Rwanda. These are conditions that lead to political prisoners, arbitrary killings and silencing of journalists and critics. These are the conditions that create refugees that have to flee that country because their lives are at risk."

The current UK deal is one that ties into that increasing culture of impunity, analysts say. Refugees from the region say that as more asylum seekers get assigned to Rwanda and Kagame gets more money from the deal, he will be able to sustain a climate of fear.

The asylum deal, Kanimba said, could lead to "more refugees and more suffering of innocent people that the world seems to have forgotten about".

Another UK-based Rwandan refugee who chose to remain anonymous, agreed.

"The partnership agreement between the UK and Rwanda is an insult to the Rwandan people," she said. "It is a misrepresentation of the generosity of British citizens and a shifting of responsibility to a smaller and poor country, with its own terrifying past and future." **Source: Al Jazeera**

INTERNATIONAL

East DR Congo violence worsening despite 'siege'



Last April, the DRC declared a state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri provinces due to escalating attacks by militias.

SECURITY has deteriorated in two provinces in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since the government placed them under military rule last year, United Nations experts have said. Last April, the government declared a state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in response to escalating attacks by militias, including repeated massacres by the ISIL (ISIS)-linked Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). The state of siege placed the provinces under the authority of military governors. Dozens of militias have remained active in North Kivu and Ituri since the end of a major regional war in 2003.

"Despite a state of siege ... the security and humanitarian situation in the two provinces deteriorated," said a report submitted by the UN Group of Experts on the DRC to the Security Council on Friday. It said the ADF had been dispersed by military operations but remained resilient, stepping up its attacks on civilians. "This escalation in the number of attacks and killings of civilians was part of ADF reprisal tactics, which were also aimed at dissuading operations against ADF," the report said. According to data from Kivu Security Tracker, which maps violence in eastern DRC, the ADF was responsible for 1,050 violent deaths in 2021, double the number in 2020. DRC's government

spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment. He has previously denied the state of siege has been a failure, pointing to successes on the battlefield. Uganda, another of the DRC's neighbours, also sent troops in November to conduct joint operations with DRC forces against the ADF, which originated in Uganda. Violence by other militias is also on the rise, the experts said. The M23 rebels, who captured swathes of eastern DRC in 2012 before being beaten back the following year by Congolese troops and UN peacekeepers, launched a major offensive last month that has captured several strategic towns. DRC accuses neighbouring Rwanda, which invaded it twice in the 1990s, of backing the rebels and sending its own troops across the border. Rwanda denies this. The UN experts did not reach a conclusion on whether Rwanda was supporting the M23, although research for the current report concluded before the rebels stepped up their offensive.

MARC Fogel is the latest American to be caught up in Russia's legal system as tensions between Washington and Moscow soar. A Moscow court has sentenced a former US embassy employee to 14 years in prison in a maximum security facility for "large-scale" cannabis smuggling and illegal storage of drugs without a commercial purpose. "The American citizen [Marc] Fogel has been found guilty," the Khimki court said in a statement late on Thursday. Fogel is the latest American to be caught up in Russia's legal system. The sentence comes as relations between Moscow and the West, particularly Washington, are tense after Moscow invaded Ukraine. Russian authorities in January said Fogel had been arrested by customs officers in August 2021 after arriving from New York with his wife at Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow. "During customs checks, the marijuana and hash oil were found in his luggage," officials said, adding that the drugs were hidden in contact lens cases and e-cigarette cartridges. At the time of his arrest, Fogel was working as a teacher in the Anglo-American School of Moscow but benefitted from

Former US embassy worker jailed for smuggling drugs



Marc Fogel had been arrested by customs officers in August 2021 after arriving from New York with his wife at Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow

diplomatic immunity until May 2021 due to his previous employment at the US Embassy. He insisted the cannabis was for medical purposes and that it was prescribed in the United States after a spinal operation. Russia has not made the use of cannabis legal for medicinal purposes. Several Americans are currently detained in Russian prisons, and vice versa. In April, the United States exchanged former American marine Trevor Reed, sentenced by a Russian court to nine years in prison for violence, for a Russian pilot who had been in a US jail since 2010. And US basketball star Brittney Griner is currently in pre-trial detention in a

Russian jail for drug smuggling. The Russian Federal Customs Service said in a statement at the time of the arrest in March that an inspection of her hand luggage "confirmed the presence of 'vapes' [and] a liquid with a specific smell". It said an expert had determined that the liquid was the narcotic cannabis oil. The US State Department has issued a "do not travel" advisory for Russia and urged all US citizens to depart immediately, citing factors including "the potential for harassment against US citizens by Russian government security officials" and "the embassy's limited ability to assist" Americans in Russia. **Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies**

European Commission backs Ukraine for EU candidate status

THE European Commission has recommended that Ukraine should be granted European Union candidate status, a first step on the long road towards membership for the war-torn country. The recommendation on Friday from the EU's executive arm will now be discussed by leaders of the 27-nation bloc during a summit next week in Brussels. Launching accession talks requires unanimous approval from all member countries. European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen told reporters that the recommendation was on understanding that Ukraine carries out a number of reforms. "Ukraine has clearly demonstrated the country's aspiration and the country's determination to live up to European values and standards," she told reporters in Brussels. "The entire process is merit-based. It goes by the book and therefore, progress depends entirely on Ukraine." For her statement, von der Leyen wore Ukraine's colours, a yellow blazer over a blue shirt. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the decision will help Kyiv in defeating Russia's invasion. He added that he expected EU government leaders to approve the proposal next week. The Kremlin said on Friday that it was closely following Ukraine's efforts to become a member of the EU, especially in the light of increased defence cooperation within the bloc. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the issue "requires our heightened attention, because we



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks during a joint press conference with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Kyiv

are all aware of the intensification of discussions in Europe on the subject of strengthening the defence component of the EU". The European Commission also proposed making Moldova, which shares a long border with Ukraine, an EU membership candidate. Georgia will instead need to meet certain conditions before it can be granted the status, the body said in a statement. Al Jazeera's Dominic Kane, reporting from Berlin, says "the devil is in the detail" over the European Commission's move on Ukraine's candidate status. Kane also noted there were a number of other countries "which have all been waiting as candidates to become members of the EU for a very considerable time". Al Jazeera's Charles Stratford, reporting from Kyiv, says there is a "general sense" in Ukraine and among its Western allies that if the candidacy recommendation does not go through, then Russian

President Vladimir Putin could be "emboldened". "So it is a positive step, but there are very strict conditions that are being demanded of Ukraine with respect to tackling corruption and with respect to the rule of law," Stratford said. "Its entire legal system will be scrutinised by Brussels and it basically has to comply with the standards that Brussels sets out," he added. Never before has an opinion been given so quickly on EU candidacy. The recommendation comes a day after the bloc's most powerful leaders visited Kyiv as it battles Russia's invasion. French President Emmanuel Macron had said during an official visit to Kyiv on Thursday that France, Germany, Italy and Romania were in favour of Ukraine receiving "immediate" candidate status. Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi arrived in Ukraine by

train and were joined by Romania's President Klaus Iohannis before meeting Zelenskyy, who has been lobbying allies for support. Zelenskyy said Ukraine was ready to put in the work to become an EU member. He also called for EU states to help Kyiv meet its "essential needs in the field of defence". France announced it would send six Caesar self-propelled howitzers to add to the 12 already deployed on Ukraine's eastern front. Germany's Scholz has been repeatedly criticised for his cautious stance towards delivering heavy weapons to Ukraine, before announcing in April that it would deliver anti-aircraft systems. Earlier this month, Macron had warned Ukraine's EU membership would be a lengthy process and instead pushed for a "European political community" that would be open to non-EU members, like Ukraine and the United Kingdom, that wish to contribute to European security. Joining the EU is a process that usually takes years. Despite reservations among some member states, EU leaders are expected to approve Ukraine's candidate status at a summit on June 23-24, though with stern conditions attached. Zelenskyy told von der Leyen during her visit to Kyiv on June 12 that "all of Europe is a target for Russia, and Ukraine is just the first stage in this aggression". "This is why a positive EU response to the Ukrainian application for membership can be a positive answer to the question of whether the European project has a future at all," he said. **Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies**

Ugandan army discovers training facility for ADF rebels

UGANDA'S military says it has discovered bomb-making material at a training facility for a rebel group allied to ISIL (ISIS) about 60km (37 miles) west of the capital, Kampala, and that three people had been arrested. The revelation was made by army spokesman Felix Kulayigye on Thursday during a media tour of the village of Kikubajinja in Luwero district. Authorities blamed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a militia based in the dense forests in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, for a series of bombings in Kampala and elsewhere last November, which killed at least nine people. In one of the worst attacks, a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a police station in the centre of Kampala. Three minutes later, two other suicide bombers detonated along a road that leads to the parliament. The training facility was found at the home of a local and a tunnel used for training had

been dug in one of the rooms, Kulayigye said. Security personnel had become suspicious after reports emerged from neighbours that "nobody was allowed to enter, nobody would be seen getting out", the army spokesman said. Authorities recovered bomb-making materials including metal, nails and wires as well as bullets and a pistol fitted with a silencer, he said. In November, the Ugandan army began a joint operation with the Congolese army to root out the ADF, which started as an uprising in Uganda but has been based in the DRC since the late 1990s. It pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in mid-2019. Kulayigye said the three suspects had already bought a car they planned to use in an attack. "They were in the process of assembling a bomb which would be taken by that car to explode in a public place," he said. **Source: Reuters**

TEVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Stay away from bad friends

IT can be difficult to stay away from friends who are a bad influence on you. Take time to notice which friends pressure you, are disrespectful, or try to manipulate you. These friends who are a bad influence are likely stressing you out and not treating you like a true friend should. If you can get help from others, set healthy boundaries, and make priorities for good friendships, you'll be better able to manage or stay away from friends who try to influence you. Just remember your values and needs, and that sometimes bad friendships have to end.

Notice who feels like a bad friend

Notice who makes you uncomfortable, pressures you to do things you or parents don't agree with, or teases you when you don't want to do the things they want to do. These types of friends are bad influences, because they don't respect your opinions and values. Instead, they try to pressure you and make you feel guilty if you don't agree with them. Look out for friends who :

Realize the effects this friend has on you

You've probably been noticing for a while that this friend has a bad influence on you, but maybe you've been trying to give them more chances. You probably even defend them to your parents or other friends who object to the way they treat you. Take some time to think about the effect these friends have on you. Ask yourself if you feel:



- Used
- Drained
- Stressed out
- Unsupported
- Trapped
- Guilty for things you've done with the friend

Ask for help

If you are having trouble saying "no" to or walking away from a friend who's a bad influence, ask for help from a more trusted friend, your parents, or the school counselor. These people can

help support you and make you feel better for the next time you face that friend. Other people can help give you a more objective opinion about if the friendship is a good one or worth saving.

- Depending on what your friend has been doing, your parents may want to talk to their parents. They may also want you to spend less time with those friends or spend time with them in safer ways, like at home.

Talk to your friend

Confronting someone who has upset you or is a bad influence can be hard, but you'll have to take responsibility and try, otherwise they'll just keep treating you the same way. By talking to them, you're showing you care about yourself and them. Keep in mind that they may become angry or not understand. Try to focus on your friend's behavior you disagree with, rather than criticizing them.

Set boundaries with your friend

To protect yourself if you still want to be around the friend, you'll need to set some boundaries so that they know they can't treat you that way anymore. You'll have to be direct and clear about what you need from them and what is not okay with you.

- Limit the time you spend with that friend
- Express your feelings and needs honestly
- Leave situations where your friend offends you or puts you in danger
- Don't force them to change, that's up to them

End the friendship
If your friend continues to drain you, stress you out, or otherwise remain a bad influence on you, end the relationship. You cannot force them to change, but you also have to respect yourself and listen to your needs. Let your friend know that you're ending the friendship not because of who they are as a person, but because of their actions and how they've made you feel.



EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Avoiding the consequences of perfectionism

By **LEVANA SLABODNICK**

What is Perfectionism?

Perfectionism is often deeply rooted in anxiety and lack of self-acceptance. The need to feel that your every action is perfect leads to constant feelings of failure. After all, who among us is perfect? Perfectionism can also lead to giving up, not trying new activities or learning new skills for fear of failure. Some perfectionists would rather not try something new to avoid truly accepting their flaws. The anxiety that surrounds perfectionism can be debilitating to some. Sufferers might experience panic attacks, irritability and depression. Their efforts to be perfect are a means to control the anxiety that results from failure. It can be very challenging for a perfectionist to face their limitations. Perfectionism often causes conflicts in surrounding relationships. The question becomes:

What happens when you are married to a perfectionist?

When one person is easily affected by failure and has unrealistic standards for themselves, these expectations often spread to those around them.

For anyone who is married to a perfectionist, think about the areas of conflict between you and your partner.

- Do you feel criticized often?
- Does your partner express disappointment in you regularly?
- Is your partner somewhat controlling over areas of your life because they don't trust you to accomplish tasks to their standards?

These can be signs that your partner is experiencing anxiety related to handing over control



to you. Remember, perfectionism is fueled by fear of failure and if your partner doesn't think you can complete a task perfectly, it will increase their anxiety. You may argue with your partner about letting you do things your way or just give up control to avoid conflict altogether. Neither of these strategies are best for either of your long term. Your partner may become exhausted and overwhelmed by all the tasks before them and you may become resentful of their behavior. On the other hand, those who challenge the perfectionism might find the conflict increasing over time with no resolution in sight.

This may seem like a no-win situation for those going through it. What can be done to work

through the perfectionism in the individual and as a couple?

Here are some tips to help you set boundaries and reduce conflict related to perfectionism:

1. Identify the problem

We can't fix a problem if we don't know what it is. If this article resonates with you, chances are that perfectionism is affecting your relationship. If you suspect that your partner is struggling with perfectionism, bring it up in a kind and compassionate manner. The more you know about the issue at hand, the easier it will be to figure out the next step.

2. Consider individual or marital counseling

The perfectionist in the relationship will need to learn coping strategies to manage their anxiety and to increase their self-confidence. Working with a licensed professional who specializes in anxiety is invaluable in improving the challenges that are present. Marital counseling is often a good idea if both partners are unsure about how to change the previous dynamic in their relationship that the perfectionism caused. An outside, professional perspective is very helpful and often necessary to make sure that both partners can meet each other's needs.

3. Communication is key

As in all aspects of marriage, honest and clear communication can be the difference between a strong marriage or a struggling one. As difficult as it may be to open up about the effects of

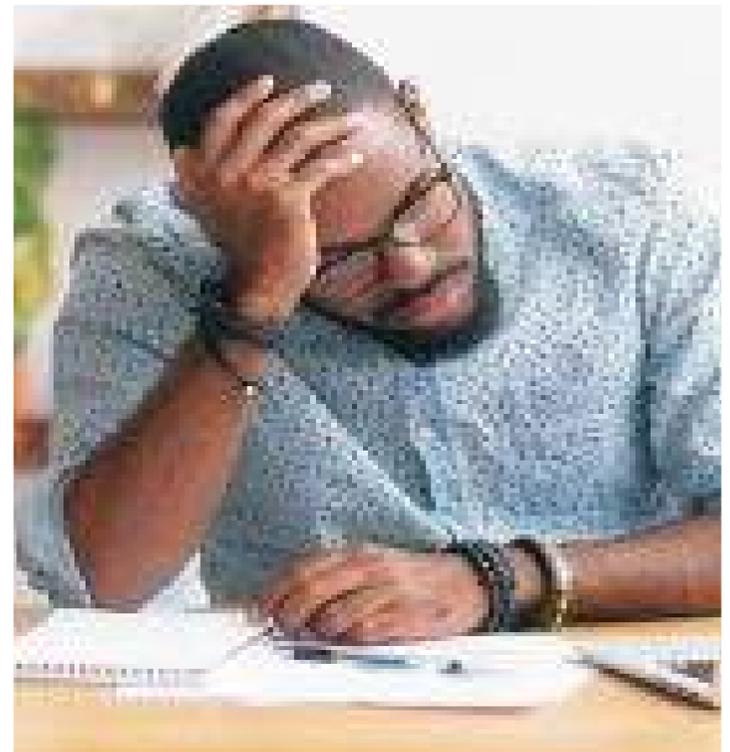
perfectionism, it is important that both partners feel that they can be heard and validated. Communication can build understanding, compassion and respect between partners. Make sure to schedule time for regular communication. Having a weekly "appointment" to talk after the kids go to bed can ensure that a hectic schedule doesn't stand in the way of good communication.

4. Know your boundaries

For the partner that is married to a perfectionist, it is important for you to hold on your beliefs and standards without being negatively affected by your

partner. You may need individual counseling to learn this skill. When your partner is critical or wants to take over a task because their anxiety is overwhelming, gently remind them of where their anxiety ends and your beliefs begin. Compromise is a wonderful tool in marriage, but sticking to your guns can be as well.

Working through perfectionism in a marriage is undoubtedly hard work. I believe that when both partners are determined to make a relationship work, they can emerge from their challenges with a stronger, healthier and less perfect marriage than they ever could have expected.





Reality Bites

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International Day for Countering Hate 2022

ACCORDING to Antonio Guterres, United Nations (UN) Secretary General, hate speech is a danger to everyone and so fighting it should be a job for everyone".

Therefore in view of the importance of dissuading people from participating in Hate Speech, the United Nations proclaimed 18 June as the international day for countering Hate Speech. The day which will be marked for the first time this year is viewed as a good strategy for drawing attention of governments, stakeholders and individuals to hate speech and its consequences.

Hate speech as defined by the UN is "any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses derogative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity".

It has become a major catalyst for instigating conflicts and crisis and a major concern to governments and people all over the world because it poses danger. For instance, some individuals and communities in their reaction to hate speeches against them have engaged in violent actions and clashes.

Nigeria, a country with over 250 ethnic groups and two major religions of Islam and Christianity has had her own bitter experience of hate speeches, sometimes resulting to religious extremism, communal conflicts, fights among individuals and groups, and media war.

The digital trend makes things worse with the social media and other technological trends which



have become tools for spreading inciting hate speeches across millions of readers within seconds.

With the current democratic era where Nigeria is getting towards its elections in 2023, hate speeches is being shared on social media by many users. The Social media space like Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, and other platforms is full of hateful

comments, derogatory remarks, inciting words and disrespectful utterances which if care is not taken can lead to more serious conflicts.

It is clearly evident that the process for choosing of a Vice Presidential candidate for the two major parties the ruling All Progressives Congress and the Major opposition Party the Peoples Democratic Party has led

to the exchange of hate speeches across religions and ethnic groups, creating a tensed atmosphere and heating the political polity.

Hate speech is a dangerous trend for the country and without the necessary sensitisation on its implications to citizens, especially at this democratic era where there is great spread of religious and ethnic inciting statements, it may ignite conflicts.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres says

Hate Speech is on the rise worldwide with the potential to incite violence, undermine social cohesion and tolerance, and cause psychological, emotional, and physical harm to those affected.

"Hate speech not only affects the specific individuals and groups targeted, but societies at large. The devastating effect of hatred is sadly nothing new. However, its scale and impact are amplified today by new technologies of communication, so much so that hate speech, has become one of the most frequent methods for spreading divisive rhetoric and ideologies on a global scale. If left unchecked, hate speech can even harm peace and development, as it lays the ground for conflicts and tensions, wide scale human rights violations" said the UN.

Due to the worrisome spread of hate speech across the world, in July 2021, the UN General Assembly highlighted global concerns over "the exponential spread and proliferation of hate speech" around the world and adopted a resolution on "promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate

speech".

The resolution recognizes the need to counter discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech and calls on all relevant actors, including States, to increase their efforts to address this phenomenon, in line with international human rights law.

The resolution therefore proclaimed 18 June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, which will be marked for the first time in 2022.

To observe the Day, the United Nations invites governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and individuals to hold events and initiatives promoting strategies to identify, address and counter hate speech. The President of the General Assembly convened an informal High-level Meeting to mark the commemoration of the first International Day. Member States the private sector, the media and internet corporations, faith leaders, educators, actors of civil society, those affected by hate speech, youth, or simply as an individual, all have the moral duty of speaking out firmly against instances of hate speech and play a crucial role in countering this scourge.

Stakeholders like Civil Society organisations, The Ministry of information and communications, Religious and tribal bodies and the media should be seen to champion sensitisation messages on the danger of hate speeches in the country, especially with the 2023 elections coming close.

To be Continue next week



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

What if your partner is not ready?

By **ARLIN CUNCIC**

WHEN it comes to relationships, not everyone is the same. Some people want to take things slow and see where they go, while others jump into a relationship with marriage on their minds.

When you are ready to settle down, it is important to have an open and honest conversation with your partner with caring, curiosity, calmness, and respect.

It's natural to feel an intense desire for commitment in your relationship, especially if it involves starting a family path together. However, before taking this step forward towards marriage, take some time to reflect upon what both of you expect out of your partnership.

What Are You Looking For?

Although it might feel like you inherently know that you want to be married, it's important to take a step back and ask yourself what exactly you are looking for. Are you hoping for more security, recognition, acknowledgment of your relationship's importance, or simply the ability to call your partner "my husband" or "my wife"?

If you're already in a committed relationship and marriage is simply a formality, then your answer could be that you want more security or the traditions that marriage brings (like wedding, anniversaries, etc.).

Other benefits that marriage brings:

- A sense of relationship permanence.
- Enhanced feelings of meaning and purpose, improved



sense of self, and a heightened sense of mastery for some.

However, it's also important to ask yourself what you are looking for if you are in a less stable relationship.

Are you trying to fix the relationship through marriage? Are you trying to please someone else? Do you want to have children and feel that you have to be married to do so?

If you aren't sure exactly what you want, pull out a journal and start writing down your feelings. You might be surprised to learn more about what it is that you want out of marriage.

Balance Your Needs

Neither partner should feel obligated to give up their needs to be in the relationship. Figure out what compromises you're willing to make on certain issues.

For example, if marriage isn't something that's a high priority for your partner, but they are still committed to you, they might be willing to compromise and move forward with the marriage. On the other hand, if they are steadfastly opposed to marriage, you may need to consider that the relationship isn't going to work out.

The best part about balancing your needs is the chance to have real conversations about what you each want out of the relationship. Whether or not you resolve the issue of marriage, it should become clear how well suited you are to one another and whether your values and goals align.

If you see yourself heading in different directions at this step, that

Process Your Feelings

Use this time to process your feelings rather than try to change or influence your partner. Reflect on what you want in a partner and whether your current partner is the right person for you. Your relationship may not be as strong as it seemed when it began simply because you want different things out of life.

While love and attraction are key ingredients for a good relationship, compatibility in long-term goals is what makes for a long-term relationship that works.

Hear Their Perspective

A marriage is made up of two individuals with different perspectives. If you don't have a conversation about those unique views, they could get in the way when it's time to decide about the big stuff in life.

It may seem like trying to get an answer from someone who isn't ready will only frustrate you both; however, patience could help improve communication to gain more insight into why your partner feels hesitant.

If you can, set your defensiveness aside and listen with an open mind (empathetically without judgment), then your partner will feel like they have space to explore their deepest thoughts safely with you.

To be continued next week.



BUSINESS WORLD

Tax optimisation in a business restructuring arrangement

Companies going through restructuring with valuable deferred tax assets, should consider making an entity with sizable, deferred tax assets. Business restructuring is one of the corporate strategies used by management in ensuring profit maximisation within a business organisation, and ensuring tax optimal contribution to the government. *Olamide Obajimi writes.*

BUSINESS restructuring generally may take the form of financial restructuring, mergers, demergers, takeover, portfolio restructuring, operational restructuring, divestment, etc. Depending on the objectives of management, any, or a combination of the above forms of restructuring may be used by management in achieving its desired end.

During a restructuring, it is typical that the legal ownership of assets, and the beneficial ownership of shareholdings in a company may move around, thereby resulting in certain tax implications either for the entities moving around assets, or for the beneficial owner of shares sold, or released.

Generally, where assets move between two or more entities during a restructuring, certain taxes are implicated, and must be paid to the relevant tax authorities. These taxes include Value Added Tax (VAT) chargeable on the sale of goods, Capital Gains Tax (CGT) payable on gains accruing from the disposal of chargeable assets, balancing charge where the disposal amount of the assets exceeds the tax written down value (TWDV) of the assets, and stamp duties payable on instruments of transfer, or increase in share capital to accommodate a restructuring.

Notwithstanding the implicated taxes listed above, section 29(9) of the Companies Income Tax Act (CITA), section 42 of the Value Added Tax Act (VATA); and section 32 of the Capital Gains Tax Act (CGTA) all as amended by the Finance Act 2019 (FA 19), and section 104 of the Stamp Duties Tax Act (SDA) provide for certain reliefs to be enjoyed by related entities involved in a restructuring exercise, for the purpose of better management, and where such entities have been so related for at



least 365 days before, and after the restructuring.

Dissecting the reliefs in section 29(9) CITA, the most important relief is the provision that the asset disposed, will be deemed to have been transferred at a value equal to the TWDV of the asset. The tax advantage of the transfer of the assets at TWDV, is the fact that balancing charge will not be applicable, since the difference between the TWDV, and the deemed disposal value will be zero.

It is also important to note that, the exemption from the application from commencement and cessation rule, may no longer be

relevant since the amendment of section 29(3) and (4) by FA 19 whose application no longer results in double taxation of commencement and cessation profits.

The provisions of the law on the exemptions from VAT, and CGT, as provided by the VATA, and CGTA respectively, was an introduction by the FA 19.

In the case of the exemption relating to CGT on chargeable assets prior 2019, the old section 32 of the CGTA provided that where shares are exchanged for monetary compensation in a restructuring, gains from the disposal of shares shall be liable to tax.

However, CGT will not be applicable in the instance of shares exchanged for shares (bear in mind that CGT was not applicable on gains from disposal of shares at this time). Fast forward to 2021, the provision of the old section 32 no longer exists, as gains from disposal of shares are now taxable under the new section 32 of the CGTA, as amended by the Finance Act 2021.

Prior to FA 19, there were no specific provisions in the VAT Act exempting assets exchanged in a related party restructuring from VAT, and the FIRS used their discretion in granting this exemption on a case-by-case basis. The FA 19 has now provided for a clear exemption in section 42 of the VATA.

To give clarity to tax implications in mergers and acquisition, the FIRS had issued two information circulars; information circular (IC) 2021/10 (clarification on commencement and cessation rules and business organisation), which was issued after the enactment of FA 19; and IC

2006/04 (Tax Implication of Mergers and Acquisition). The IC 2021/10 only gave explanatory notes in its paragraphs 4, on the requirements expected from applicants seeking to enjoy the restructuring exemptions under the law.

As made clear by the IC 2021/10, applicants seeking these exemptions must apply to the FIRS in writing and must prove to the FIRS that the participating entities in the restructuring enjoy common control and have been so related for not less than 365 days.

Where the conditions are met, the circular provides as follows; (a) commencement and cessation rule will not apply to the restructuring; (b) assets will be deemed to have been transferred at TWDV; (c) VAT will not apply on the transfer of assets; and (d) CGT will not apply to the transaction. It should be noted that the IC 2021/10 focused only on the amendments introduced by the FA19.

In essence, it is important to visit the IC 2006/04, and this writer will focus only on the relevant provisions of the IC 2006/04 which were not highlighted in the IC 2021/10.

The IC 2006/04 clarified the position of the FIRS, with respect to other tax issues which arise during restructuring, and which are not clear by the letters of the laws. One of such issues is the treatment of unabsorbed capital allowance, and losses during restructuring.

Whilst these may constitute a deferred tax asset in the books of one, or both merging entities; or the absorbed entities, and may form a part in the positive valuation of purchase consideration, the FIRS stated in the IC 2006/04 that it will not permit the use of the deferred

tax assets by an entity, other than the original entity which owned the deferred tax assets.

This implies that companies going through restructuring with valuable deferred tax assets, should consider making an entity with sizable, deferred tax assets, the surviving entity, whilst also ensuring that such choice, meets its overall commercial objectives.

Other issues addressed by IC 2006/04 is the non-deductibility of restructuring expenses, such as payment to Securities and Exchange Commission, Nigeria Stock Exchange, Central Bank of Nigeria, and fees paid to professionals like lawyers, stockbrokers, financial advisers etc. as this do not meet the conditions for deductibility under section 27 of the CITA.

It is also important to point the exemption from the payment of stamp duties, on increased share capital, where the restructuring meets the condition as provided in section 104 of the SDA. The IC 2006/04 also referred to the tax indemnity provision in section 29(9) of the CITA, and this must be given by the surviving entity.

Business restructuring is a veritable tool in ensuring operational efficiency and advancing the business objective of management in ensuring increased returns to shareholders. Before undertaking a restructuring, and in making a decision on whether to go by way of an asset or share deal, management must undertake a tax efficiency analysis of such restructuring options, to ensure that the chosen strategy brings the best optimal returns to shareholders.

Obajimi, a lawyer and chartered accountant, writes from Lagos.



Mani

BUSINESS WORLD

Ekiti attracts \$500m World Bank projects -Fayemi

KAYODE Fayemi, Governor of Ekiti State on Wednesday said the state has attracted about \$500 million to prosecute various projects under the World Bank-assisted programmes, within the last three and a half years.

Fayemi stated this while receiving an award presented to Ekiti State Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP), for emerging the overall best in Tier- 4 of the World Bank project ahead of 22 other benefiting states.

The governor, who commended the Ekiti NEWMAP for its exceptional performance in the World Bank assisted projects, listed some other World Bank Assisted Projects including Nigeria Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP), SEPIC, Third National Urban Water Project, European Union support, IDEAS, AGILE and SAWASH among others.

He noted that NEWMAP activities were visible in no fewer than nine communities in the state, with the construction of bridges and channelization of drainages added the that Ado and Efon projects would soon start because the state has been



Fayemi

able to procure the European Investment Bank support to prosecute the projects.

The governor promised to present the draft law of the Project to the state Executive Council for the effective consideration and to ensure that it goes through the process to achieve its enactment into law by the state House of Assembly.

"No State has the number of World Bank-supported projects that we have either during my first term when we were able to attract the SEPIC

project for education and the third National Urban Water Project that we used in rehabilitating both the Ireje and Ikun Dams as well as the European Union support that helped us to rehabilitate the Egbe Dam.

"Since I returned in 2018, we have had NEWMAP, RAAMP, IDEAS for all our Technical Colleges. We've had AGILE for our women and Girl Child support, we've had SOMEQ, we've had Malaria project for health and then we have SAWASH.

SERVICE industry saw total sales value improve by 18.6 percent to N5.1 trillion in 2021 from N4.3 trillion in 2020, according to a new consumer report but the modest recovery could be stymied by rising food prices.

According to the report by Euromonitor International, a London-based market research company shared with BusinessDay, recovery is still at 1.9 percent lower than the 2019 rate and is yet to reach pre-covid levels.

The consumer foodservice industry comprises cafés/bars, full-service restaurants, limited-service restaurants, self-service cafeterias, and street stalls/kiosks.

The report said during the year, all channels, but particularly full-service restaurants and cafés/bars benefited from the easing of restrictions imposed to limit the spread of covid-19.

Middle- and high-income households continued to patronise limited-service restaurant outlets, while street kiosks continued to cater to lower-income groups with low-priced offerings.

"During the pandemic, we were one of the worst-hit because events were not taking place because for any event food is very important", said Afolake Oba-Kasumu, public relations officer at the Association of Professional Food Service Providers of Nigeria.

"But the pandemic also made people think of innovative and creative ideas like doing packaged food. So, it was not

Food vendors start to shake off Covid slump,

all about the event industry catering for homes or people that cannot cook which brought out another area of business for the caterers," Oba-Kasumu said.

In 2020, BusinessDay's investigation into how restaurants were faring revealed between March-July, there was a 60 percent drop in sales due to a slump in food deliveries.

In March 2020, when the number of new cases of covid-19 started to increase, restaurants limited dine-in table service to only 20 people.

By April, when the Federal Government ordered a total lockdown, many restaurants

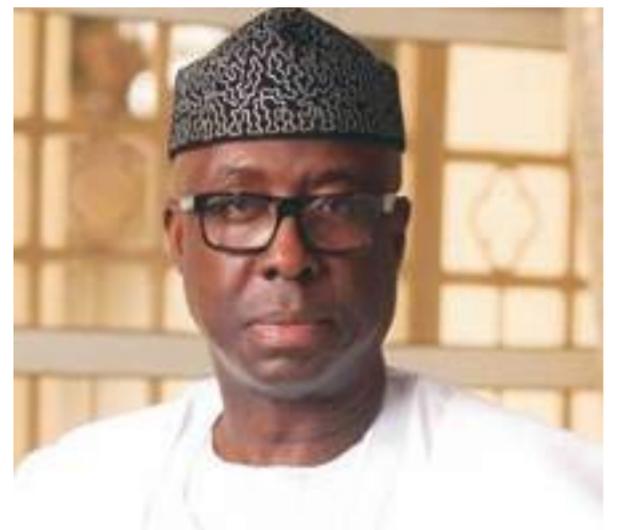
closed. Others partially opened again as people started offering limited menu options.

After the lockdown was partially eased on May 4, the government directed them to offer only take-out services to their customers until full opening was allowed in August with the condition to maintain 50 percent capacity.

By December, food service outlets were allowed to fully open to the public and operate at full capacity.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) ranks Nigeria the largest food market in Africa indicating a potential for further growth with significant investment in the local industry.

The food and beverage sector



Adebayo

Additional 1m Nigerians may be driven into poverty

THE World Bank has said that the global rise in food and fuel prices is likely to drive an additional 1 million Nigerians to the already projected 6 million expected to fall into poverty bracket by the end of 2022.

According to the World Bank, "the current crisis in Ukraine is likely to push an additional one million Nigerians into poverty by the end of 2022, on top of the 6 million Nigerians that were already predicted to fall into poverty this year because of the rise in prices, particularly food prices."

This conclusion was made in the latest World Bank Nigeria Development Update (NDU) report titled "The Continuing Urgency of Business Unusual," it said that the country's inflation rate (17.71 percent for May), which is the twelfth highest in the world behind Turkey, is faced with the possibility of entering into a worse economic situation. This situation, according to the World Bank, is being caused not only by the impact the current war in Ukraine is having on the global food supply but also by the fiscal recklessness brought about by the fuel subsidy situation.

Nigeria, based on the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita ranking of the World

Bank, with a GNI of \$2,000, was rated the 48th poorest country in the world and will have to do away with some unfruitful fiscal policies of the government that will be added to the rising food and energy prices capable of dragging more than 6 million Nigerians into poverty.

The report also assessed the impact the rise in the prices of refined crude oil is having on the economy. Shubham Chaudhuri, World Bank Country Director for Nigeria and co-author of the report believes that the "ballooning cost of fuel subsidies" will drive inflation further north, thereby forcing more Nigerians into the extreme poverty bracket. A situation made worse by falling income because of low crude oil production.

A situation so serious that the world Bank said that for the first time in this democratic era, the country is unlikely to benefit fiscally from the windfall created by higher global oil prices.

Chaudhuri said "When we launched our previous Nigeria Development Update in November 2021, we estimated that Nigeria could stand to lose more than 3 trillion Naira in revenues in 2022 because the proceeds from crude oil sales, instead of going to the federation

account, would be used to cover the rising cost of gasoline subsidies that mostly benefit the rich. Sadly, that projection turned out to be optimistic."

"With oil prices going up significantly, and with it, the price of imported gasoline, we now estimate that the foregone revenues as a result of gasoline subsidies will be closer to 5 trillion Naira in 2022." And that N5 trillion is urgently needed to cushion ordinary Nigerians from the crushing effect of double-digit increases in the cost of basic commodities; to invest in Nigeria's children

and youth; and in the infrastructure needed for private businesses small and large to flourish, grow, and create jobs." Chaudhuri added.

In light of the growing challenges the country faces, the World Bank advised that the economic handlers shift away from the current way of doing things and adopt a more robust transformational policy.

It suggested that for the country to avoid the negative impact this inflationary pressure will have on the economy, the

adoption of good policies with proven results should be the top priority for the government at all levels.

Some of the policies include a combination of fiscal, monetary, and other effective policies. Others include the removal of fuel subsidies, which have so far cost the country around 5 trillion naira in 2022, and re-investing such funds on infrastructure, education, and health services.

The report also made mention of increasing "pro-health taxes", improving tax compliance, encouraging private investment to boost job creation by improving the transparency of key government-to-business services, and eliminating trade restrictions, as ways to avoid the much-feared doomsday.

Marco Hernandez, World Bank Lead Economist for Nigeria and co-author of the report, said that "Despite the better-than-expected performance of the services and agriculture sectors and higher oil prices stemming from the war in Ukraine, Nigeria is experiencing a curious case of lower fiscal revenues." This is limiting the government's ability to expand basic services, support the economic recovery, and protect the poor during this difficult time."

is estimated to contribute 22.5 percent of the manufacturing industry value, and 4.6 percent of the country's GDP. The combined value of food and drinks is estimated at N16 trillion according to data from Euromonitor international.

The Euromonitor report also highlighted that the expansion of delivery services continued in 2021, with more local operators engaging in partnerships with Jumia Food, the major player in the online marketplace, which notably drove growing sales of local food.

According to the report, the growing promotion of local food online by the increasing number of food delivery companies triggered a rise in the demand for local cuisines in 2021.

The report also stated that despite the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, chained consumer food service operators continued to expand their outlets across Nigeria to meet the needs of consumers in various geographical locations.

For instance, Eat 'n' Go Ltd, Food Concepts Ltd and Sundry Foods Ltd, operating under the Domino's Pizza, Chicken Republic and Kilimanjaro brands, respectively, aggressively expanded their number of outlets. Food Concepts Ltd also put more effort into smaller formats such as PieXpress, the report said.

However, the Russia-Ukraine crisis has contributed to rising food prices with the soaring cost of diesel, wheat, and cooking oil and this could dent growth in the sector.

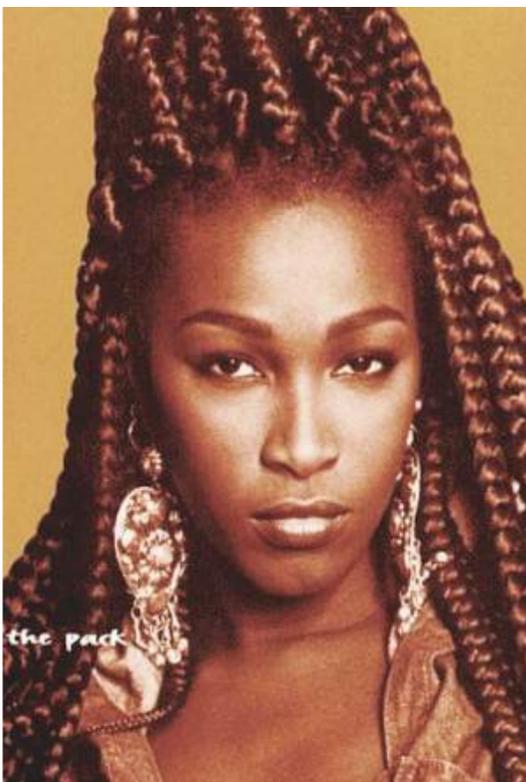


Ahmed



I will get my career back - Patra

Continued from page 16



love what I do, and I'm excited to be back. And of course, the original dance queen comes back!

How are you able to distinguish between embracing your sexuality as a woman than in a way that is intended to sell your music? It's a natural thing. I'm a Jamaican woman from the island. That's the lifestyle for us. We intertwine both. Caribbean people, we work hard, we play hard. So, to intertwine both for me is fun! I don't want my job to become a job. I want my job to be something that I appreciate and love. So, I can say I'm going to my job for several hours then come home and feel good. I want to go on stage for an hour, an hour and a half, mash it up and leave and make people feel good. I'm that type of person. I'm very sensual, yet private, and I express it through my music. I think artists have their standard, and I think love, respect, and all these things are important. It's not something I get up and do on the fly, it's a natural thing.

How do you feel about the direction reggae music has been going in lately? Is it something you're proud of?

I'm very proud of what's going on in the dancehall and reggae atmosphere. Reggae music is one of the most powerful forms of music whether you get it or not. Reggae music is the type of music in the world that everyone emulates when they're trying to do something. It's because of the soul and the depth. Dancehall music right now, is the thing that keeps everyone jigging and going because it's wild and crazy. The artists are the ones who are fueling everybody. It's a combination of both. I could have not have been more excited and delighted. I remember when I came out, not a lot of reggae artists were gaining that international appeal. But, now that the game has changed from all of these big monopolies, everyone has some form of the reggae/dancehall industry. If I don't hear at least one reggae or dancehall record a day, my day doesn't start. So, I'm proud of it.

What do you feel you can bring to table musically in this day in age?

When you have old school artists like me, you can evolve and change. I haven't evolved, but I've evolved in terms of my company, but I'm not changing anything. I haven't seen a change really. I think everybody is doing what they're doing. I'm just blessed to be doing what I'm doing and taking reggae music to a whole other level. There's nothing for me to compare myself to. There's nobody doing what I'm doing

right now as a woman from the reggae Jamaican side. There's nothing for me to think about because I'm a Jamaican artist. I'm always doing crossover music in reggae, but that's my culture. There's nothing for me to think about than to just keep my music to the world. I'm not trying to catch up what's going on, because most my albums are built from scratch. I think this is my best work ever. My vocal has grown and my attitude has changed as far as what I think of people.

Making that 'crossover music' allowed you to connect with the U.S. market.

I really have to give respect to the American people. My Jamaican people have really supported me, but when I went to America, it was like—I don't want to say it was easy and simple, because it wasn't. I have to give respect to Shabba Ranks because as you know, he was the one who I was touring with at the time. But, then I went Gold, so I had to go and do my own thing. But, the American people, when it comes to the Billboard charts, it was remarkable, MTV, BET, everybody.

You were pretty close to Tupac when you made your U.S. debut. What did you think about his hologram appearance at Coachella earlier this spring?

It's so funny that you ask me that, because I feel when a person passes, you should just let them be. These are personal feelings because of how Tupac treated me and respected me as a person the few times we hung out, then showed up on my video set. I feel like when he passed, he needs to pass and rest. This is just a personal belief. Same with Biggie Smalls and stuff like that. It could work both ways. I was shocked when people started to send me the link to my personal email. That's when everything started coming back. When I decided to take a break, two of my friends just died, Tupac and Biggie. I was the one who gave Biggie, the last Source Award interview at Madison Square Garden. So, there are so many things. It's just weird and for me, it was just private. I wonder when I pass, will people do the same thing to me. That's weird. That's just my personal opinion about it.

What do you want your fans to gain from your return back to music?

They will gain the ability to love themselves and to just relax. That's basically it. Not only that, but to also to work hard if you're a woman to achieve your goals. You don't need to let the advice of one to see what your true values are. It's the simple things that you've done as an individual that make you who you are. Sometimes we just like to get our hair and nails done to get sexy, even if we're not going there. It's the simplest thing, as a woman, that we do to make us feel that word, how to love yourself, be confident, how to express yourself, physically, emotional, mentally. This album is driven on that, and that's why it's called the continuation; and of course, the fellas love it for a different reason. But, for the ladies, they'll be able to understand it and as a result, become more vocal.

Source: VIBE



Richest women of Nollywood

Continued from page 16

Ini Edo - \$3.9 million

Ini Edo was born in the city of Uyo in the state of AkwaIbom. She began her acting career in 2000 and has since appeared in over 200 films. READ ALSO How much is ChineduIkedieze's net worth in 2019? Ini Edo is also a brand ambassador for Beauty Secrets of April, a skincare line. She has also won awards such as the Nafca Award and Golden Icons Academy Movie. With a net worth of almost \$3.9 million, Ini is one of Nigeria's most well-paid and sought-after actresses.

UcheJombo - \$4 million

Uche Jombo is an actress, screenwriter, film producer, and director who has had a lot of success. Her first film, Visa to Hell, was released in 1999, and it was her first foray into the film industry. Uche has written and co-authored several Nollywood films, including Girls in the Hood, Games Men Play, and The Celebrity. She has also been nominated and won several awards like Female Viewers Choice during the 2015 Golden Icons Academy Movie Awards. Jombo's net worth is around \$4 million.

Mercy Johnson - \$5 million

Mercy Johnson has worked in the Nigerian film industry for almost a decade. She has established herself as one of the most admired stars in the industry as a result of her talent and hard work. HollandiaEvap Milk and Pennek Nigeria Limited are among the brands she has endorsed. Her net worth is \$5 million, making her the one of richest female star in Nollywood.



Oge Okoye - \$3 million

Okoye is a well-known Nollywood actress who has appeared in over 200 films. Her debut film role was in Spanner, released in 2002. She is also known for her role in the Nigerian television series Hotel Majestic, which she starred in from 2015 to 2016. Oge possesses costly automobiles, jewellery, and homes, among other things. Her net worth is estimated to be \$3 million.

Kate Henshaw - \$2.5 million

Kate Henshaw is an accomplished actress who has appeared in films such as Games Men Play, The Harlot, and Canal Desire. She has also won honours such as the African Movie Academy Award and the African Film Academy Award. She has also advertised and endorsed brands such as Blessing perfumes, Glo, Onga, and Samsung Mobile Division. Kate has a net worth of \$2.5 million, making her one of the wealthiest actresses.

Clarion Chukwura Abiola - \$2 million

Clarion Chukwura, a veteran of Nollywood, has a net worth of \$2 million. She has appeared in a number of films, including Egg of Life, Apaye, and Abuja Connection. Her philanthropic and charitable actions have earned her the title of United Nations Peace Ambassador.

Stephanie Okereke - \$1.9 million

Since her beginning in the Nollywood industry, Stephanie Okereke has appeared in over 250 films. She came in second place in the Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria beauty pageant in 2002. She is also the executive director of the Extended Hands Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free treatment to girls and women with obstetric fistulas. Her net worth is estimated to be \$1.9 million.



ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Identity of a business organisation

There have been definitions of a business entity over the years. It has been defined as a legal entity, as a real entity, as an organisation set up by an individual or group of individuals for the sake of conducting business etc. The most suitable definition for us is that which defines a business entity as a community of persons that come together for a common objective, not bound only by contract, but also by how they relate with one another. Akunna Osa-Edoh writes.

THIS definition allows for individual members to own their part in ethical consideration of the business. While most businesses are set up with the idea of maximising profit, we believe it should be more about optimising profit.

Ethics ought to have a big role in the identity of a business. It should be approached not as a "nice to have" but integrated into the business such that it becomes a culture. Ethics and profitability together would ensure the business stands the test of time and is a going concern. Ethics and profitability are also a reflection of the relationship between the company and its stakeholders.

For example, when talking about profitability, the question should be, how does one make profit without infringing on the rights of the stakeholders? Are one's employees paid relative to the company's gains? Is the work environment suitable? Do employees feel like they have a stake in the company? These are some of the questions that need to be addressed. If these questions and such like are addressed, the business will be better for it.

Corporate Social Responsibility, popularly referred to as CSR, is a subset of ethics. It is not the whole of ethics. While it is great to set aside a certain percentage of one's excess profit for CSR activities, ethics needs to be embraced in its entirety. This simply means the purpose for which the business was set up must be pursued and done well while providing for CSR. The main thrust should be the objective of the business and seeing that these objectives are achieved ethically.

A company should not devote a large amount of its excess profit towards CSR activities, just for public praise and acknowledgement, without achieving the purpose for which it is set up and taking into cognizance the effect of its activities on the environment, the community, etc.



For example, a bottling company with several projects on public school upgrades but with no intention of addressing the menace of environmental pollution caused by its products(bottles) will fall short in this regard. It is thus important that business owners and management understand that CSR is a conduct for ethics and not in itself ethics.

Doing business in Nigeria can be quite difficult in terms of dealing with for example, cheap imports from China that don't meet ethical standards, certain regulations that make it difficult to conduct business.

This notwithstanding, it is important that organisations thrive to abide by globally acceptable standards, no matter how difficult. Cutting corners in business, while seemingly

profitable in the short run, cannot be sustainable. The company, management, employees and even the community in some cases will suffer for it.

In Nigeria, there are factors that can make it quite difficult to compete on the global level. For example, some officials insist on payment "under the table" for license renewal. Seeking legal redress for this might take a long time which the company might not want to spare, or even lead to their license being revoked and further complications. Organisations that face this should understand that ethical issues affect structured businesses on a daily basis. Companies need to take a stand and decide that they want to be ethical and take the necessary steps to achieve this.



Adebayo

Everyone faces ethical dilemmas and setting an identity as an ethical company is no mean feat. There needs to be a system in place guiding dealings with ethical issues and if possible, a department, inclusive of management, championing this.

This should not be left to the CSR activities of the company. It is important to remember that the decision to be ethical should be thought about while

conceiving the business idea, so it becomes a culture of the organisation.

A company flagged as unethical will find it difficult to stand the test of time, taking down not only the company, but also in some cases, its top officials.

Osa-Edoh, of the Christopher Kolade Centre for Research in Leadership & Ethics, LBS, writes from Lagos.

Source: Economic Confidential.

"In Nigeria, there are factors that can make it quite difficult to compete on the global level. For example, some officials insist on payment "under the table" for license renewal. Seeking legal redress for this might take a long time which the company might not want to spare, or even lead to their license being revoked and further complications. Organisations that face this should understand that ethical issues affect structured businesses on a daily basis. Companies need to take a stand and decide that they want to be ethical and take the necessary steps to achieve this."

CHANGE OF NAME

SADIYA	ADAMU	AHHMED	ABDULLAHI	DANBOYI	DAUDA
I, formerly known as MISS SADIYA ALIYU MADIN , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. SADIYA ANAS AHMAD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAMU JIBRIN ISMAILA , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU WAMBAL JIBRIN ISMAILA . Correct date of birth is 11/11/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the	I, formerly known as YUSUF JARMAI , now wish to be known and addressed as AHMED YUSUF JARMAI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MUSA UMAR , now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULLAHI UMAR MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DUNG DANBOYI , now wish to be known and addressed as DANBOYI DUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as RITIEMWA DANLAMI now wish to be known and addressed as DAUDA RITIEMWA DANLAMI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
CHOJI	AUWAL	JOEL	NJIN	SALOME	EMMANUELLA
I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA PHILIP , now wish to be known and addressed as CHOJI CHRISTIANA PHILIP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AUWAL ADAMU , now wish to be known and addressed as AUWAL ADAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PATIENCE JOEL BATURE , now wish to be known and addressed as JOEL PATIENCE CHOMO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as NJIN KOOMNAAN TANKO , now wish to be known and addressed as NJIN KATGURUM TANKO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SALOME NINMAH CHRISTOPHER , now wish to be known and addressed as SALOME NINMAH CHRISTOPHER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take	I, formerly known as WAMBUTDA EMMANUELLA NENCHINMWA , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUELLA MANYUM JARYUM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
TANKO	ADAMU	KABIR	TANGSHAK	NKIRUKA	DUNG
I, formerly known as SARATU TANKO SARKI , now wish to be known and addressed as TANKO SARAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DINATU ADAMU, ADAMU DINATU, ADAMU DINATU ADAMU , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKUP DINATU DAVID . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as KABIRU IBRAHIM GYARAN , now wish to be known and addressed as KABIR IBRAHIM GYARAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as TANGSHAK MWANRET , now wish to be known and addressed as TANGSHAK MWANRET HABILA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NKIRUKA NAOMI OKORIE , now wish to be known and addressed as NKIRUKA NAOMI AMADI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ROSE DUNG GYANG DANIEL , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG ROSE GYANG . Correct date of birth 16/6/1966 not 16/6/1968. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
JOHN	ISHAKU	WULLENG	CINDERELLA	AZI	DIMKA
I, formerly known as JOHN ISWAL , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN ISWELL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KWAMSHA DAKAT ISHAKU now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAKU KATDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PEACE GONCHOR , now wish to be known and addressed as WULLENG PEACE GONCHOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as CINDERELLA CHIDI ALOZIE , now wish to be known and addressed as CINDERELLA CHIDI ENENEBAKU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as CHARITY DAYEN AMOS , now wish to be known and addressed as AZI CHARITY AMOS . Correct date of birth is 18/7/1991 not 18/7/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DIMKA YILLZINKA DECHI , now wish to be known and addressed as DIMKA ALFRED DECHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DANLADI	LA'AH	KAYODE	DANIYAK	FADIMATU	SIMON
I, formerly known as TAIMAKO DANLADI MICHEAL and TAIMAKO DANLADI MICHEAL D , now wish to be known and addressed as DANLADI TAIMAKO . Correct date of birth is 10/11/1985 not 10/11/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOSHUA HELENA LA'AH , now wish to be known and addressed as LA'AH, HELENA CHAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EDWARDS DANIYAN KAYODE, EDWARD DANIYAN KAYODE, EDWARDS - DANIYAN KAYODE, KAYODE EDWARD DANIYAN, DANIYAN, KAYODE EDWARD, KAYODE EDWARDS , now wish to be known and addressed as EDWARDS DANIYAN KAYODE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAKTU DYELMUN POLYCARP , now wish to be known and addressed as DANIYAK DYELMUN POLYCARP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as FADIMATU SABIU MUHAMMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as FADIMATU MUHAMMAD SABIU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SIMON N. WAKBAK , now wish to be known and addressed as SIMON NENDIRMWA WAKBAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
PANLE	MILDRED	PROMISE	ISAAC	NANBUR	NANKO
I, formerly known as DABUT LONGRET NANJWAN , now wish to be known and addressed as PANLE LONGRET JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MUNADANG THOMAS GOCHUK , now wish to be known and addressed as MILDRED NANPAN KUTMAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PROMISE STAPHAINÉ STEPHEN , now wish to be known and addressed as PROMISE KYESKUM STEPHEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ISAAC OLUWATOBE AJAO , now wish to be known and addressed as ISAAC OLUWATOBE GABRIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NANVEN MAMBUS, NANBUR Z. MAMBUS , now wish to be known and addressed as NANBUR MAMBUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NANKO NANVEN , now wish to be known and addressed as NANKO VONGCHIR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
WONKAT	OLAGUNJU	HADIZA	LAWAL	AGBO	JAMES
I, formerly known as ESTHER NANZING ZITTA , now wish to be known and addressed as WONKAT ESTHER LUKA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AWE OLUKEMI CHRISTIANA , now wish to be known and addressed as OLAGUNJU CHRISTIANA OLUKEMI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as KHADIIJA BELLO ABUBAKAR , now wish to be known and addressed as HADIZA BELLO ABUBAKAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ABDUL ALIYU ABDUL , now wish to be known and addressed as LAWAL ALIYU ABDUL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DABAT CYNTHIA LUKA , now wish to be known and addressed as AGBO CYNTHIA CHINAAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JAMES MARTINS LEBISH , now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES NANKWAT LEBISH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DAVAT	RUWANG	TANKO	DANGANA	JANET	BLESSING
I, formerly known as JOHN JIK , now wish to be known and addressed as DAVAT JOHN JIK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as HARUNA RHODA JOSIAH , now wish to be known and addressed as RUWANG RHODA JOSIAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as TANKO MUHAMMAD HAMIDU , now wish to be known and addressed as TANKO MOHAMMED HAMIDU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as AUTA DAGANA , now wish to be known and addressed as DANGANA KUNANPALI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as YAMUSA JANET SILAS , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 3/12/1991 not 3/12/1981 as captured on my Account/BVN. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as BLESSING IFEOMA ANIKE , now wish to be known and addressed as BLESSING IFEOMA EDAFIEKERE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
EMMANUEL	TUWAN	GONGCHI	ANTHONY	PHILEMON	LUKAS
I, formerly known as EMMANUEL VICTOR OLEKA , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL VICTOR OLEKE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SHALLOM T. SAMSON , now wish to be known and addressed as TUWAN SHALOM SAMSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MUTKIRE NANPAN , now wish to be known and addressed as GONGCHI NANPAN MUTKIRE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ANTHONY MARY ANNE , now wish to be known and addressed as ANTHONY MARY AGBOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as PHILEMON ENDURANCE , now wish to be known and addressed as PHILEMON ENDURANCE KIKICHINDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as LYDIA BUNSHAK LUKAS , now wish to be known and addressed as LUKAS LYDIA BUMSHAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ABDULHAMEED	GUBRENG	ALIYU	MUHAMMAD	MARCEL	KASSEM
I, formerly known as MUSAF ABDULHAMAD now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULHAMEED MUHAMMAD MUSA . Correct date of birth is 4/5/1999 not 01/03/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, GUBRENG BAMSHAK IBRAHIM , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 4/4/1997 not 21/2/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ABDULRAQ ADAMU ALIU , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU ABDULRAZQAQ ADAMU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MUHAMMED HARUNA , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD HARUNA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MARCEL NENFORT , now wish to be known and addressed as MARCEL NENFORT GOBANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GOLMANG SYLVESTER KASSEM , now wish to be known and addressed as KASSEM GOLMANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

NEWS

Man jailed for posting false information on Facebook

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A Magistrate Court sitting in Lokoja has sentenced a middle aged man, Habibu Achile Rabi to two months in prison with payment of fine of N5,000 for contravening section 393 of the Kogi State Penal Code for posting false information on his Facebook timeline.

Rabi, who was standing trial at Magistrate Court 3 over the comments on his Facebook time line that the rate at which fever was killing people in the state was alarming, particularly during the heat of Covid 19 pandemic in the country.

The Department of State Security, (DSS) subsequently arrested Rabi and charged him to the court.

The Prosecuting Counsel, Mr. M.A Abaji argued that the defendant acted contrary to section 393 of Kogi State Penal Code by intimidating people, creating fear and inciting people against the state government.

Abaji stated that the defendant has also raised false alarm in the state against the back drop of



Alkali

normal rate of death amidst Covid 19 pandemic in 2020.

He pointed that the state Epidemiologist was invited to testify to ascertain Rabi's claims noting that the State Epidemiologist said that as at the time of the post on the Facebook platform, the death rate was normal contrary to Rabi's claims.

The defense counsel, E.A Iwu argued that the defendant acted based on emotion after the death of his sister as a result malaria fever at that moment.

He stated that his client was pained and in a sad mood when he posted the rate at which fever was killing people was a l a r m i n g . Trial Magistrate, Chief Magistrate A.A .Agatha in her judgement sentenced Rabi to two months with option of fine in addition to payment of N5,000.

She explained that Rabi's action by posting on his Facebook timeline has contravened section 393 of Kogi State Penal Code by raising false alarm.

The defendant was said to have paid N5,000 before he was moved to

Paul Gindiri's prophecies are being fulfilled today

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE author of the book titled: "Paul Gindiri: The Man, His Beliefs, His Convictions", Reverend (SP) Davidson Lar, has said that all the prophetic messages of Baba Evangelist Paul Gindiri, have come to fore in our present day society.

He stated this recently while in an interview with SUNDAY STANDARD shortly after the occasion marking his 50th Birthday Celebration and the official

presentation of the book at the conference hall of TCNN Secondary School Bukuru in Jos-South LGA of Plateau State.

The author said, "Baba Paul Gindiri made prophecies in the early 70s, early 80s and early 90s that are reconnecting in Plateau State today. Most of the things he said are the things we are going through on the Plateau. If we do not understand what he said now, we will not

understand where we are as a nation.

"There were three things that Baba Paul Gindiri quoted: 1. He quoted the seeming Islamization of Nigeria. 2. He also quoted the complacency of the Christians and 3. He quoted against injustice done to the poor. So, until we have leaders who can quote those things, we are not there yet.

"All the prophecies messages Baba Paul Gindiri are fulfilling. In fact, more are still coming to fore. More are fulfilled and more are still fulfilling what he prophesied and more will soon be unveiled. I feel fulfilled because it was a work I started 32 years ago, when Baba Paul Gindiri commissioned me to write this book", he disclosed.

Lar, described late Baba Evangelist Paul Gindiri as a courageous, powerful, fearless and bold leader who could look at power to the face and tell them the truth no matter how highly placed. He called on the Church to emulate him and tell the truth the



Evngelist Gindiri

Lalong celebrates Court of Appeal President Dongban @ 66

By PALANG KASMI

ensuring that motorists ahead as she serves the nation.

He also acknowledged her passion for improving road safety in Nigeria which has seen her devote time and resources to collaborate with stakeholders in

apply caution as well as observe traffic regulations.

The Governor further wished her more years of happiness, good health and wisdom as she continues to pilot affairs of Nigeria's Court of Appeal.

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has congratulated the President, Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem on her 66th birthday.

While felicitating with the celebrant in a message Monday, Lalong described her as one of Nigeria's devoted legal luminaries who has played a vital role in the nation's development.

He said, Dongban has continued to be a shining light in the Judiciary by providing sound leadership since assuming duty as the President of the second highest court in the land.

The Governor in the message commended her for upholding the virtues of integrity, honesty, diligence and fairness in the conduct of her official duties, urging her to sustain this posture in the years



Lalong

2022 Hajj Pilgrims fault mode of selection

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SOME aggrieved pilgrims in Kogi State have alleged high-level nepotism in the mode and manner of selection of pilgrims across the state

for the 2022 Hajj pilgrimage to the holy land.

In a Save Our Soul letter made available to our correspondent dated June 12, 2022, and signed by Spokesmen for the pilgrims, Anchor Mohammed and Abdullah Mohammad, the pilgrims accused the Hajj Commission of being partial in its regional allocation of seats for intending pilgrims in the course of the exercise.

In their appeal to the President, Muhammadu Buhari (rtd.); the Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello; the Chairman, Kogi State Hajj Commission, Sheikh Luqman Abdullahi, and forwarded to the Saudi Ambassador to Nigeria, the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, and the Council of Ulama, Kogi State Chapter, the pilgrims argued that due process was not followed in the selection, as a certain region was favoured than other regions in the state.

They said, "In Kogi East which comprises Igala and Bassa-speaking areas, only about 20 per cent was said to have been selected for a region of over 49 per cent of the total population of the state."

Okun, Ebira, and Coton-speaking areas, only about 12 per cent was allocated, which comprises about 28 per cent of the total population of the state.

"Why then would the Ebira-speaking area of Kogi Central that is very minimal in population enjoy over 65 per cent of the allocation from the National Hajj Commission?"

They therefore called on President Muhammadu Buhari and the Kogi State Governor to put the kibosh on the commission's powers and maintain a regional balance in the hajj selection, in line with the tenets of Islam which espouse fairness and justice.

"Hajj is one of the pillars of Islam and we believe that it is not in everything we play politics and tribalism.

"We call on Mr. President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, to call the Commission to order and correct the imbalance with immediate effect before it's too late.

"We are also calling on His Excellency, Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, to call the chairman and secretary of Kogi State Hajj Commission to order, to avoid both local and international outcries," the statement said.

-Rev. Lar

way it is because there are no such leaders these days.

On his part, the Executive Secretary of Nigerian Christians Pilgrim Commission, said the book is good for children, adults, families and the society at large as well as the struggle for justice and right to faith and belief. He called on leaders to emulate Baba Paul Gindiri.

Also, former member of House of Representatives representing Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam Constituency, Hon. Timothy Golu, described Baba Paul Gindiri as a great man of God who have vision and wish to be like the late Evangelist.

Meanwhile, the PDP Governorship Candidate of Plateau State Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, represented by former Council Chairman of Bassa Local Government, Hon. David Racha, urged Christians to get their PVC ready to save the Church, hence the need for eschew politics of bitterness.

NEWS

Injustice, manipulations informed my choice to decamp

From MUHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A former member of the House of Representatives for Keffi, Karu and Kokona Federal Constituency, Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada has explained that the demonstration of injustice, lack of level playing ground, manipulations and other undemocratic tendencies meted on him by the powers that be in his former political party The All Progressive Congress APC informed his decision to Withdraw his membership from it and seek for another platform which is the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Addressing members of the press after a political rally organised in his honour in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State on Monday, which kept the ancient town to a standstill, during the week, Wadada explained that having been treated in that unfortunate manner, he and his teaming supporters as well as his political associate decided to first withdraw from the senatorial primary election and later withdrew his membership of the party since his aspiration was not meant for him, but for the people.

"I wrote the party APC notifying them that I withdrew from participation in the just concluded primary election and my withdrawal was vindicated because from the day of my withdrawal it took 8 days for the kangaroo primary election to be conducted and what happened under the APC cannot stand before the law anywhere in the world," he contented

"Having known that general elections is about the people I decided to try it the other way in order to change the narrative because the nonsensical and shenanigans that happened affected quiet a number of people. And am a leader that go along with my people. I had to back out because I can never be part of any illegality or undemocratic tendencies that would at the end of the day throw away the baby with the bathing water," he stated.

Wadada further alleged that in order not only to allow him participate in the primary elections, but also humiliate him as the original delegates list was doctored by the powers that be within the party in order to pave ways for their favoured aspirant to emerge. As such, he has no option than to opt out from the party.

Wadada stated that after careful studies of political situation in the state which has no room for any form of social justice for him and his teaming supporters, they decided to change their platform by joining SDP where they have now received an overwhelming and encouraging welcome as well as acceptance.

On his winning chances in his new political platform the SDP, Wadada expressed the

optimism that it is quite bright given the significant amount of acceptance and encouraging support of the people from across the senatorial zone which would aid his victory.

He however, appealed to his teeming supporters from across the constituency to continue to sustain the tempo. And also be responsible, calm in all their conducts with a view to continue to earn more support from other people to enable him win and provide them with a result oriented representation in the Senate.

He then advised his teaming supporters up to also endeavor to obtain their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) with a view to enable them exercise their civic responsibilities by voting for him and all other credible and reliable political office seekers

that would serve them better in return for their mandates.

The senatorial hopeful who expressed his gratitude to the SDP for the rare display of accommodation and acceptance, further expressed his confidence of winning the election come 2023 especially now that there is a significant rise of political awareness amongst the people that would guide them to only vote for Credible and reliable candidates not for any political affiliations.

"With the significant rise in the political awareness cutting across all segments of the people, it is quite optimistic that the people would see the good qualities in me compare to my opponent and give us their votes to represent them in the political positions we are aspiring," he stressed.

Bauchi pilgrims charged to be good ambassadors

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE 2022 Bauchi state intending Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia have been advised to be law-abiding and to steer clear of any criminal activities before, during and after the exercise while in the Holy Land.

Justice Rabi Talatu Umar, who is the Chief Judge of Bauchi State and member of the state Hajj committee 2022 gave the advice on Tuesday during a gathering to address intending pilgrims at the conference hall of the Abubakar Sa'ad Hajj Camp in Bauchi.

She emphasized the need to be of good behavior during their stay in the Holy Land and added that the laws in Saudi Arabia are very strict and harsh on offenders.

The Justice explained that security agencies in Saudi Arabia were not selective in enforcing the laws of their country. He added that the best option for the pilgrims was for them to strictly obey the laws of the host country for safety.

"When you misbehave, the authorities will apprehend you, and deal with you in accordance with the relevant laws of the land. You will become an embarrassment to not only yourself and your family but also to Bauchi State and Nigeria as a whole. Therefore, be careful."

Umar warned the pilgrims not to agree to help anyone take their luggage no matter how familiar such person may be to them. She explained that doing so had put many persons in trouble in the past.

The Chief Judge also warned against carrying banned items, including kola nuts and hard drugs,

in addition she said that they should avoid giving out their money for exchange indiscriminately.

"Do not accept to assist anyone with luggage, particularly after you must have been cleared and ready to board. Such a person may have a dangerous item in the bag and if you are found with it that is your end.

"Don't go with banned substances, not even kola nuts are allowed in Saud Arabia. Don't use hard drugs, avoid anything that will put you in trouble. Don't give out your money to anyone for changing, all such can put you in trouble."

She then told the pilgrims to rely on the state pilgrims welfare board officials, who

THE Sokoto State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has appealed to political parties in the country to discourage youths from engaging in political thuggery.

Mr Dalhatu Safiyal-Magori, Chairman of the Council, made the appeal in Sokoto recently, when he led the council's exco on a courtesy visit to the state Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) headquarters.

The chairman also urged political parties to allow security agencies to perform their constitutional duties of protecting the lives of the people.

According to him, journalists are not members of any political party, but have an obligation to work with anyone in promoting the mandate of the society.

Safiyal-Magori said, "Yesterday we were at the All Progressives Congress (APC) Secretariat and today we are at

NUJ urges politicians to discourage thuggery

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto



Isiguzo

the PDP Secretariat. We are going to meet all the leaders of political parties on the same issue.

"As journalists, we always encourage peaceful coexistence and ensure that both the government and individuals are on the right track.

"Therefore, we appeal to all political parties to stop engaging our teeming youths in promoting violence and encourage peaceful electioneering processes."

The Chairman further pledged the Union's cooperation with all political parties in the state, he added that such engagement was the mandate of all working journalists.

Responding, Alhaji Bello

Goronyo, the state PDP Chairman, thanked the NUJ leadership for the visit, describing it as the first of its kind.

"This type of visit will no doubt encourage us to have peace of mind that journalists in Sokoto are working within the ethics of the profession," he said.

Goronyo, represented by the state PDP Secretary, Abubakar Zaki, assured that the party would ensure peaceful conduct in all its activities throughout the electoral processes.

He appealed to journalists to sustain their efforts in enlightening the public on the importance of voter's registration.

"Let our people know that getting their voter's card is a right and a necessity, to enable us to elect credible leaders that we desire," he added.



Rt. Hon. Sale Shehu Yipmong, Deputy Speaker, PLHA (right) with Hon. Diket Plang, APC Senatorial candidate for Plateau Central sharing jokes recently

NEWS

Appeal committee recommends investigation

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

THE Senatorial Appeal Committee of the All Progressive Congress APC in Nasarawa West Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State has recommended among other things that having exhaustively analyzed the grievances forwarded to it by one of the contestants Barrister Labaran Shaibu Magaji that the National Working Committee (NWC) of the party as a matter of urgency should constitute, a special committee to investigate the allegations of alteration of the delegates list that participated in the election particularly those reported in his submissions for (Keffi and Nasarawa local government areas.

The committee's recommendations were unanimously signed by its Chairman Alhaji Usman Gashua, Secretary Adamu M. Ibrahim and a member Mr. Ahmed Usman and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Keffi.

The committee stated that if the NWC has established beyond all reasonable doubt that the original delegates list has been tempered with appropriate action including the repeat of the election process should be ordered for in order to avert regrettable consequences.

The committee further recommended that the NWC can as well determine the claim of the appellant (Magaji) and grant their prayers in the event of constraint of time.

It would be recalled that Barrister Labaran Shaibu Magaji filed a petition before the appeal committee about the credibility of the nomination process which includes the multiplicity of delegates list in Keffi and



Adamu

Nasarawa local government areas respectively during the just concluded APC senatorial primary election for Nasarawa West zone which took place at the convocation square of Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

SUNDAY STANDARD also recalls that during the senatorial nomination process, the electoral

committee announced Architect Shehu Ahmed Tukur as the winner of the said election for having scored a total number of 179 votes as against Barrister Labaran Shaibu Magaji who scored 114 to emerge second. A situation that did not go down well with him and made him to approach the Appeal Committee in order to seek for redress.

Okowa as Atiku's running mate, act of God -senator Jibrin

THE Chairman Board of Trustees BOT of the People's Democratic Party, PDP, Senator Walid Jibrin has appealed to the teeming members of the party to accept the nomination of chief Ifeanyi Okowa the Governor of Delta State as Vice Presidential candidate of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar in good faith and as act of God.

In a press statement signed by him and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Keffi on

Thursday, Senator Jibrin stated that the decision should be generally accepted by all the party members and Nigerian as well as an act of God who gives powers to anyone he desires and at the times he desires.

"The decision to have Governor Okowa as our Vice Presidential candidate of the Alhaji Atiku Abubakar should be supported by all the well meaning and committed members of our great party whole heartedly" he emphasized.

AN inferno that occurred at the Yelwa Campus of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa university Bauchi has consumed properties worth millions of naira.

The fire incident which destroyed 42 shops at block D of the university on Wednesday include computer business centers, barbing salon and provision stores.

It is not yet known, the exact time the fire started but many believe that the incident possibly started at about 2am on Wednesday and was reportedly caused by an electrical fault.

One of the victims, a shop owner, Prince Hosea Mathias, said he got a call at about 4am on Wednesday from someone informing him that their shops were on fire.

"I was also told that all efforts to get the Fire Service to come proved abortive and by the time I got there later in the morning, I discovered that all the shops were burnt down", Mathias narrated.

"I run a computer business center and IT solution. I lost everything I had in my shop, computers, printers, furniture, generator, stationeries, POS machines and a lot of things", he said.

The shop owner who graduated in 2016 from the Civil Engineering Department, said since then he has not been able to find a job, He added that as a result, he

Fire destroys properties at ATBU

From **ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi**

decided to start this business which is paying him to sustain his life.

"I honestly don't know how I feel about this incident and in fact, I have not even started thinking about it yet. I'm just trying to be strong because I don't have any other work anywhere. This is all I have which has been destroyed by this fire", Mathias cried.

Another victim, Alfred Joseph, who owns a computer business center in a telephone chat said he lost everything in the shop.

"I am not currently in Bauchi, I traveled to Abuja and a friend called me this morning to inform me of the incident. He told me that everything in my shop has been burnt down", Joseph said.

He said all his properties including photocopiers, computers, laptop, printers, stationeries, generator and everything in the shop was all lost.

"Losing a business that I have taken my time to build from the scratch for over six years is actually very painful and heartbreaking", Joseph lamented.



Abdullazeez

Former deputy chief of staff, others arraigned

From **ANENE AIKE, Sokoto**

THE Zamfara State Police Command has arraigned a former deputy

chief of staff to Governor Bello Muhammad, Dr Bashir Maru and four others before the Chief Magistrate Court 1 for criminal conspiracy, attempt to commit offence/ criminal misappropriation, alleged offences that are against sections 95 and 97 of the Panel Code.

Maru was alleged to have conspired with four others to elope with a Prado Jeep belonging to Zamfara state government. He is also alleged to have taken the vehicle to Kaduna and got it repainted after he was sacked as deputy chief of staff.

Those arraigned were Isah Jabbi Usman and Shu'aibu Musa, while those on the run are Baashir Muh'd Maru (former Deputy Chief of Staff and Executive Services management

restoration of Nigeria lost glories" he contested.

While advising Nigerians to vote the PDP in the coming elections, he believed that doing such would contribute significantly in taking the country out of the woods and launch it to the land of promise.

Board), Yusuf Bello and one other simply identified as Yazeed.

Counsel to Isah Jabbi Usman, Barrister Ahmad Kwatarkwashi earlier informed the Chief Magistrate that the court lacked jurisdiction to hear the matter and urged him to transfer the case to a court of competent jurisdiction.

The state government urged the court not to grant bail to the two suspects who appeared before the court, to enable the Police conduct their investigations as well as arrest the other three suspects, including Dr Bashir Maru.

The Chief Magistrate, Sa'adu Gurbin Bore after listening to arguments by Counsel to Zamfara State Government, Barrister Muhammad Aminu and the accused persons, adjourned the hearing to a date to be communicated

PFN declares PVC Sunday nation-wide

By **DANLADI DUK**

THE Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) has adopted Sunday, June

26, 2022 as Permanent Voters Card (PVC) Sunday across the country.

The decision was

taken on Thursday, June, 16 after the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Lagos.

In a statement issued and signed by the PFN, Plateau State Chairman, Rev. Dr. Steven Dangana and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** it said all members of the Pentecostal churches are to attend service on that day with their Permanent Voters' Cards.

Dr. Dangana also said that the church leadership will also ensure that statistics of those with their voter's cards are taken and forwarded to the state chairmen, who will in turn forward the

statistic of the national office.

All heads of churches Pastors and leaders of PFN in the state are advised to use the PVC Sunday to pray for Nigeria and the forthcoming elections in particular.

The National leadership has directed that all PFN churches should mobilize their members who are 18 years and above to register and collect their PVC.

Meanwhile, the PFN has constituted a national committee that will advise the leadership of the Fellowship on the candidates to vote for in the forth coming 2023 election.



Dangana

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



2023: Is Nigeria poised for a national rebirth?

Continued from Page 10
0, Tien Jack Rich-0, Ikeobasi Mokelu-0. There was however 13 void votes.

Out of the 23 aspirants, seven had earlier stepped aside for Bola Tinubu. They were Senator Godswill Akpabio, former Ogun State Governor, Ibikunle Amosun, Ekiti State Governor, Kayode Fayemi, Gbenga Daniel, Jigawa State Governor, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, Sen. Ajayi Borroface. Pastor Felix however stepped down for Prof. Yemi Osinbajo.

In his acceptance speech, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, described the day as a "historic one". He said the media wanted to "write the obituary of the party but we rallied ourselves, steadied the pillar and became the master builders".

Tinubu thanked those who stepped aside for him and that those who did not support him need not to fear because he holds no grudge.

He lambasted the opposition PDP for 16 years of profligacy. "We are sure, no intruders, no destroyers can bring Nigeria backward, forward we are going," he added.

Tinubu also preached on

the sanctity of life and the need for citizens to love one another. "We have to be tolerant of each other. The blood you cannot replenish, the life you cannot bring back would definitely hunt you and you cannot live in peace," he advised.

All things being equal, the 2023 General Elections may be a re-enactment of the first and second republic elections which featured persons from the three main regions; North, West and East as major contenders.

The first and second republics failed because ethnic politics took the centre stage. The voting pattern reflected ethnic sentiments. Since then Nigerians have been clamouring for a national rebirth.

Looking back, the regional parties were based upon, and derived their main support from the major groups in their regions: NPC (Hausa/Fulani), AG (Yoruba), and NCNC (Igbo). A notable and more ideologically-based political party that never achieved significant power was Aminu Kano's radical Northern Elements Progressive Union, (NEPU) which opposed the NPC in

the north from its Kano base.

Meanwhile, Wikipedia gave a succinct comparison between the first and the second republic politics which can as well be used to analyze the 2023 elections. Five major parties competed for power in the first elections in 1979. As might be expected, there was some continuity between the old parties of the First Republic and the new parties of the Second Republic. The National Party of Nigeria, (NPN) for example, inherited the mantle of the Northern People's Congress, although the NPN differed from the NPC such that it obtained significant support in the non-Igbo states of southeastern Nigeria. The United Party of Nigeria, (UPN) was the successor to the Action Group, with

Awolowo as its head. Its support was almost entirely in the Yoruba states. The Nigerian People's Party, (NPP) the successor to the NCNC was predominantly Igbo and had Azikiwe as its leader. An attempt to forge an alliance with non-Hausa - Fulani northern elements collapsed in the end, and a breakaway party with strong support in parts of the north emerged from the failed alliance. This northern party was known as the Great Nigerian People's Party, (GNPP) under the leadership of Waziri Ibrahim of Borno. Finally, the People's Redemption Party was the successor to the Northern Elements Progressive Union and had Aminu Kano as its head.

By extension, there seem to be a reincarnation of the first and second republic politics in Tinubu's APC,

Atiku's PDP, Peter Obi's Labour Party and Kwankwaso's NNPP. Tinubu's political philosophy is similar to the Late Awolowo while Atiku is of the Late Shehu Yar'Adua's political school of thoughts which draws its strength from Tafawa Balewa's NPC. Peter Obi is attracting the attention of the highly agitated Ibo ethnic group as a messiah of sorts as one who would actualize an Ibo Presidency. He represents everything about the great Zik. Kwankwaso is described as the reincarnation of the Late Aminu Kano with his radical Northern Elements Progressive Union and Peoples Redemption Party, which were very popular among the masses in the first and second republics.

It is however instructive that the first and second republics ended without the quest for a nationhood being fulfilled. The political parties and actors could be said to be partly responsible due to interests that were anything but nationalistic. Therefore, would the emergence of any among the new breed of politicians as our next President do the magic and birth a new united, cohesive and progressive nation? Time will tell.

"All things being equal, the 2023 General Elections may be a re-enactment of the first and second republic elections which featured persons from the three main regions; North, West and East as major contenders. The first and second republics failed because ethnic politics took the centre stage. The voting pattern reflected ethnic sentiments. Since then Nigerians had been clamouring for a national rebirth."

METRO-FOCUS

Indecent dressing and its implication

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IT may sound weird to believe that the attributes of immorality is not less attached to the way we dress and behave in the society. Some see indecent dressing as a generational style and do not believe it has its way of influencing vices that should not have occurred.

We have allowed it to influence our way of life simply because our attention is driven to how fast we can make money and still come back to cry when it stings. They say "charity begins at home", but it is unfortunate that it is easier said than done in most families.

As parents, we no longer pay attention to either the way our children dress or behave claiming civilization that consumes our psyche. You see young girls and boys coming out half naked in the name of fashion and not much is done to practically address that because parents seem to be behind curtains.

Sadly, it has continued to bring home pains and bitterness with the report of rape and unplanned pregnancy that very few could manage. Today, because of how careless we are about simple issues like that, we have recorded a number of young people plugged into early family life that promises nothing but bitterness.

Speaking with one Adamu Balami, a resident of Jos, the Plateau State capital, he said, "in those days, even when women were wearing leaves, there was no reports of immortality like what is happening today. What I cannot explain today is the fact that our children are tactically going back to the stone age of dressing half naked.

"I have watched young girls dress in such a way that can attract attention of whoever cares to watch and hunt. The boys are not left out. It is now the norm for boys to wear a trouser leaving his boxers exposed. I sometimes think the world is coming to an end because no matter how you lament on issues like that, parents of these children will not see reason to it.

"I thank God I have children who are far grown up and cannot suffer myself talking to them about such things. But as a father, it would not be right for me to close my eyes to such indecency. We must work towards teaching our children morals because civilization is not madness", he enthused.

Mama Yop Daniel, who sells



boiled egg in Hwolshe said, "I have once talked to a girl I know about how indecent she used to dress but I received the shock of my life. She said I am operating in an analogue lifestyle. She said we were dressing this way to attract men who would possibly marry us and that, men are scarce these days.

A student of the University of Jos who would not want his name in print said, "it make these girls look attractive to us and we do not see anything wrong in a girl dressing sexy. I know this has caused many of them pains, but it depends

on where they enter. Some go to clubs like that and they end up being raped and fill the streets with lies that they were raped while going to school.

"You see them moving with bags, but therein are their extra clothes. They may come out from home looking decent, but change immediately while in school to play along. It is because of that, that the University decided to introduce Dress Code", he explained.

All efforts to chat with young girls proved abortive and none of them agreed to speak out.

This, no doubt, has been a heavy task on parents because immoral act is a definition of how careless we are as parents. In the name of civilization, we dumped our cultural values and embraced the Western culture that is consuming us now.

This has not only affected the present generation, but the generation yet to come because of how we seem to manage this. It has also promoted immorality in our society. Today, the value of marriage before child birth is fast eroding. This is because giving birth out of wedlock is

now a norm.

Our native wears are only ceremoniously worn especially when going to Church or wedding. We must commend some of the churches and other establishments for placing a standing order that forbids indecent dressing.

It is certain that the beauty of any woman and man is not in how attractive you may seem to dress, but it is in how well mannered and decent you look. So, it is incumbent on parents to watch how our children dress and save the lives of those coming behind.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

NCPC BOSS, VON DG, NUJ PRESIDENT PAY VISITS

Executive Secretary, NCPC, Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam recently visited the Director General, Voice of Nigeria (VON) Osita Okechukwu, received the National President Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Chris Isiguzo at the NCPC Headquarters, Abuja



Mr. Osita Okechukwu, Director General, VON (right) in a handshake with Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam, Executive Secretary, NCPC



NCPC boss, Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam (left) receiving the National President of NUJ, Comrade Chris Isiguzo



His Grace, Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama, Catholic Bishop of Abuja (right) with Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam, NCPC boss during the farewell of 1st batch of intending Christian Pilgrims last week in Abuja



A cross section of Christian Intending Pilgrims at the ceremony

PETER AND ANNA BAWA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ABOUT TO BE COMMISSIONED

The Peter and Anna Bawa Memorial Multi-Million naira Modern Hospital, situated in Kwande, Qua'an Pan LGA by Dr. Godfrey Bawa Shitgurum MON, CEO of Duncan Group of Companies inspected recently by the CEO and management of the Hospital



Dr. Godfrey Shitgurum Bawa, CEO of Duncan Group (middle) Dr. Benedict Mairiga (right) with others inspecting facilities at the Multi Million Naira Hospital



Hospital beds fixed in one of the wards



Side view of Peter and Anna Memorial Hospital, Kwande



Some hospital equipment yet to be displayed captured during the inspection of the hospital

Road Runner
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 SAFER TOGETHER

Night driving (i)



DRIVING in the night is one of the special driving conditions that no doubt poses a lot of challenges to greater number of people. Night in this context refers to anything short of full daylight. As a general rule, driving requires keen observation of prevailing conditions and a clear knowledge of immediate environment. Observing in the night is more difficult and yields less information. This is because as the light dwindles, your ability to see the road ahead also declines-contrast falls, colours fade and edges become more blurred and indistinct.

At night your eyes need all the help you can give them. Windows, mirrors and the lenses of the lights and indicators should all be clean to give the best possible visibility. The slightest film of moisture, grease or dirt on the windows or mirrors will break up light and increase glare, making it harder to make out what is going on. The lights should be correctly aligned and adjusted for the vehicle load. The bulbs should all function well and the switching equipment should be functional as well. Windscreen washers, wipers and de-misters should be in proper working condition.

Lights

On unlit roads, your headlights should be on the main beam unless they are dipped because of other road users.

Use dipped headlights:

In built-up areas when visibility from streetlighting is poor.

In situations when dipped headlights are more effective than the main beam, for example when going round a right-hand bend or at a bump back bridge.

In heavy rain, snow and fog when the falling droplets reflect glare from headlights on full beam.

to avoid dazzling oncoming drivers, the driver in front or other road users when overtaking another vehicle and return to full beam when you are parallel with it.

You should always drive so as to be able to stop within the area lit by your headlights unless there is full street lighting. Even in the best conditions, your ability to access the speed and position of oncoming vehicles is reduced at night, you need to allow an extra safety margin.

Dazzle

Headlights shining directly into your eyes may dazzle you. This can happen on sharp right-hand bends and steep inclines. And when the lights of oncoming vehicles are dipped, undipped or badly adjusted. The intensity of the light bleaches the retinas of your eyes and bleaching effect can continue for some moments afterwards. During this time, you can see nothing, which is clearly dangerous.

To avoid dazzle, look towards the nearside edge of the road. This enables you to keep to your course but does not tell you what is happening in the road ahead. Hence you need to slow down or even stop if need be, if you are dazzled by undipped headlights, flash your own lights quickly to alert the other driver, but do not retaliate by putting on your full beam. If you do so, you and the other driver would be converging blind. You suffer temporary blindness, stop and wait until your eyes have adjusted.

Following other vehicles at night

When following another vehicle, dip your headlights and allow sufficient gap so that your lights do not dazzle the driver ahead of you. When overtaking, move out early with your headlights still dipped. If necessary you can flash your headlights to notify the vehicle you are overtaking of your presence. This is preferable to honking which may end up confusing the other driver. When you are side by side with the other vehicle, return to full beam. If you are being overtaken, dip your headlights as the overtaking vehicle draws alongside yours and keep them dipped until they can be raised without dazzling the other driver.

NEWS

NAWOJ Plateau elects new Exco

Stories by EZEKIEL DONTINNA

A new leadership has emerged for the Plateau State Chapter of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) with Comrade Nene Dung, of the PRTVC as its new Chairman to be deputized by Comrade Grace Akwe Gotip of the NTA.

Others elected included Comrade Mwuese Adem of HighLand FM as Secretary and to be assisted by Comrade Yvonne Ishola of THE NIGERIA STANDARD with Comrade Eunice Agabus of the PRTVC as the Treasurer and Comrade Patience Aliyu of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) as Financial Secretary while the position of Auditor went to Jenet Jinawa of the State Ministry of Information and Communication respectively.

Announcing the names of candidates who contested, the Credentials Committee Chairman, Mrs. Esther Nasara of the PRTVC, said, the Committee has carefully screened all candidates and were certified and eligible to contest. She revealed that all positions were unopposed and they all returned elected as they were sworn-in immediately.

Earlier, the National Vice President Zone 'D', Comrade Jamila Abubakar, commended the outgoing State Chairman, Jennifer Yarima, for lifting the name of NAWOJ high with her wonderful work as Chairman, she charged Nene Dung challenging members to give

their support for her to succeed.

Delivering her acceptance speech, the newly elected Chairman, Comrade Nene Dung thanked members for the confidence reposed in her and promised not to disappoint them. She called on them to give her their support so that, together they would move the association high.

She said, "as female Journalists in Plateau State, we have what it takes to do our jobs and a good number have received recognition for doing so.

Therefore, this exco will try to have a database of NAWOJians and all the activities carried out by the association so that, by the click of a button, you can have access to information about NAWOJ and NAWOJians in Plateau State".

On her part, the outgoing State Chairman of NAWOJ, Comrade Jennifer Yarima, thanked members for the support given to her saying, "I am eternally indebted to all our members who through their resilience, sacrifice and good advice, were able to facilitate career many achievements we have recorded.

"However, as a leader, I know that I must have also stepped on some toes and may have been sincerely wrong in my sense of judgement. Therefore it would

be only logical that I apologize from the depth of my heart. As I bow out, I want to call on us to pledge our entire support to our national body and the incoming EXCO in the state", she appealed.

However, the Plateau State Chairman of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Mr Paul Jatau congratulated the new EXCO and urged them to be focus and not get distracted by the shackles of unionism because it was all sacrifice. The NAWOJ was first incubated on the Plateau and as such much is expected of Plateau NAWOJ.

He promised to give the support in all they would do at any point in time as he also pledged to donate one office for NAWOJians for them to carry out their activities effectively. There were words encouragement from former National Secretary of NAWOJ who is also the Political Editor of The Nigeria Standard, Comrade Lucy Chindaba, former State Chairman of NAWOJ Comrade Tongnan Dada, Head of News NTA Jos, Mark Agadu, Comrade Nanbam Fwenji Go'ar and Theodora Damulak of Ministry of Information who doubled up as representative of Commissioner of information and Communication, Dan Manjang respectively.

Peter and Anna Bawa Memorial Hospital to commence operation

THE multi million Naira ultra-Modern Peter and Anna Bawa Memorial Hospital Kwande, in Qua'an-Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State is set to commence full operations in October 2022 as the Management starts test running of service in September, preparatory its full take off.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Stephen Sarki Musa for the Management of the hospital and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Thursday.

The statement disclosed that, the Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Duncan Group of Companies, Dr Godfrey Bawa Shitgurum, MON, disclosed this in Kwande on Saturday June 11, 2022 after he led his management team and medical personnel to an inspection tour of the facilities in the hospital.

Dr Shitgurum, who is the Noetsen (Wusai) of Kwo Chieftom, said the hospital was built by one of their outfits, the Peter Bawa and Amanta Foundation as a way of giving back to the people of the community and its environs.

He said "once operational, the 50 beds hospital, comprising of 6 male and female Wards in addition to Children and Maternity wards is expected to have 3 doctors and other essential professional personnel to run it".

Collaborating with the GMD/CEO, Miskoom Larry Peters Bawa, the Goena (Barade) of Kwo Chieftom, he informed the team that equipment, drugs and most of the essential materials for the takeoff are already in place for the takeoff in October.

He commended the Medical Team for ensuring that the hospital was of international standards and urged them not to relent in meeting all the necessary requirements before the October 2022 commencement date.

Bawa, disclosed that the idea behind the establishment of the hospital was based on the philosophy of the Foundation to provide "modern health facilities for rural areas", adding that the provision of such services would assist in ending unnecessary deaths and suffering of the people within the area.

Miskoom Bawa opined that apart from the provision of

medical services, the establishment of hospital would create jobs, boost the economy of the area as well open other opportunities that would better the lives of members of the community and its environs.

Speaking on behalf of the Medical Team, Dr Benedict Baamshal Mairiga, commended the Duncan Group of Companies and Peter Bawa and Amanta Foundation for its commitment towards the project and assured them of prudent management of personnel and resources, adding that the best hands would be recruited to meet the standards, vision and mission of the hospital.

Some of the major facilities available at the hospital include Ultrasound scan, ECHO and EGG. Laboratories, Ambulance and mortuary. While the services to be rendered include medical, surgical, maternity, neonatal and other specialized care.



CHANGE OF NAME

WUDAPBA	PETER	DANIEL
I, formerly known as DESHI GOLTUMWA , now wish to be known and addressed as WUDAPBA GOLTUMWA DESHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KOPTING NANDING , now wish to be known and addressed as PETER NAANDING KOPTING . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DANIEL KWAMNAAN SHAISUK , now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL KWAMNAAN ALFRED . Correct date of birth is 13/01/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
NANNA	ADAMS	CLEMENT
I, formerly known as SELBAR TIMOTHY NANNA GLORIA , now wish to be known and addressed as NANNA GLORIA SELBAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAMS DALING STEVEN , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMS DALING STEPHEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as CLEMENT DAVID MOSES , now wish to be known and addressed as CLEMENT DANIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
MOHAMMED	MUSTAPHA	MUHAMMAD
I, formerly known as SANI B. DANMARAYA , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED SANI BALA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MUSTAPHA SULAIMAN now wish to be known and addressed as MUSTAPHA IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MARYAM MOHAMMED YUSUF , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD MARYAM YUSUF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
GABRIEL	ZALIHA	DABOER
I, formerly known as LEYITNA'AN HOSEA PANPO , now wish to be known and addressed as GABRIEL SUCCESS HOSEA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ZALIKHA TIJJANI , now wish to be known and addressed as ZALIHA AHMAD MOHAMMED . Correct date of birth is 15/01/2003 not 15/01/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as VICTORIA ADUA YOUNGMUK , now wish to be known and addressed as DABOER VICTORIA YOUNGMUK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

NEWS

IFAD/VCDP begins monitoring of rice farming activities

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE International Fund for Agricultural Development/Value Chain Development Programme (IFAD/VCDP), on Friday, commenced monitoring of rice farming activities of the beneficiaries of its agric inputs in Kogi State.

The National Coordinator of the programme, Dr. Fatima Kabir Aliyu told journalists that the essence of the exercise is to ensure that beneficiaries of both youth and women rice farmers make judicious use of the agric inputs provided them by the international agricultural agencies.

The National Coordinator who was represented by her Technical Assistant, Alhaji Hamza Shehu disclosed that the farm inputs distributed to rice farmers in Kogi recently is aimed at cushioning the effect of Covid-19 pandemic on their livelihood as well as boosting the nation's food and economic security.

According to Dr. Fatima Kabir Aliyu "the monitoring exercise is going to be a continuous one ranging from plantation, harvest and judicious use of the proceeds by the rice farmers.

"The monitoring exercise is also very critical in our commitment to justify our huge investment in agriculture to reduce the aftermath effect of Covid-19 pandemic.

The monitoring team visited three rice farms located at Magajiya, Kabawa and Geregu in Lokoja and Ajaokuta Local Government Areas of Kogi state where the team expressed satisfaction with the positive response of the rice farmers for the opportunity given them.

Three leaders of the farming

groups, Fatima Shehu, Kudu Mohammed and Ali Abi expressed joy for the rare privilege given to them with an assurance that they will comply with the conditions attached to the farm inputs provided them.

PUBLIC NOTICE

KOINOS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

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

NAMES OF TRUSTEES

1. JEREMIAH AJAYI ISHAYA
2. SEYI ADEDEJI ADEFIOYE
3. ELLY SHAKES SAJO
4. DAUDA BATURE
5. NAHUM UPAH BUTARI
6. JOHN OJILI MICHAEL
7. ISHAYA YANI IBRAHIM
8. AARON YANI IBRAHIM
9. ELIJAH BULUS

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To provide social and humanitarian services to host communities.
- Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

SURE AMOS ANZAKS HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

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

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Anzaku Amos | - Chairman |
| 2. Ovey Joseph Anzaku | - Secretary |
| 3. Ibrahim Mailafiya | - Member |
| 4. Gloria Amos | - Member |
| 5. Musa Sajud Ruku | - Member |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To support the education of the less privilege in the society through scholarship and provision of education materials.
 2. To support orphans and orphanages both in cash and kind.
 3. To support community schools with infrastructure and education materials.
 4. To engage widows within the community in a productive venture.
 5. To also provide financial support for the elderly in the society.
 6. To support community clinics with health materials
 7. To also support community development through sensitization on matters of health, hygiene and environmental sanitation, through symposiums, seminars, rallies and provision of portable drinking water, culverts etc.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar, General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication

Signed: Chairman



BOKKOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL PLATEAU STATE

INVITATION TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND BID FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REVENUE (DTR) CONSULTANCY AND TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVISION FOR BOKKOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, JUNE, 2022

Sequel to passage of the Plateau State Revenue Law 2020 and the F&GPC approval of Bokkos Local Government Council for Digitization and Automation of Revenue Collection of Bokkos Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), invitation for Expression of Interest and bid for engagement of Digital Transformation Revenue Consultant & Service Provider from competent companies/or enterprises is hereby made.

PROJECT: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REVENUE (DTR) CONSULTANCY AND TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVISION FOR BOKKOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
PROJECT CODE: BKKBDIC-PPP-013

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS: Revamping of Bokkos Local Government Area's Revenue Collection processes from analogue to smart digital channels, in order to enforce transparency, accountability, reporting and ease of doing business through a Public Private Partnership Concession Model, scalable for integration on the Plateau State Revenue Technology/Automation and Harmonization Programme.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS DATE:
20th JUNE, 2022

IFB NO: IFB/BKKBDIC/PPP/REVENUE/001/2022

1. Bokkos Local Government of Plateau State Nigeria, through the special purpose vehicle; Bokkos Development & Infrastructure Company Limited (BDIC) have identified new areas of revenue collection challenges across Bokkos Local Government Area that need urgent PPP intervention with aim to create new jobs and boost the internally generated revenue of the LGA and Plateau state as a whole.
2. Bokkos Local Government Council wishes to invite interested and competent companies, organizations and / or entities with expertise in Digital Transformation Revenue Collection Consultancy and Technical Services who must have registered with (Bokkos LGC) to submit a bid along with abridged business case/feasibility studies with respect to Bokkos Local Government Area Public Private Partnership as Digital Transformation Revenue (DTR) Consultancy And Technical Service Provider For Bokkos Local Government Area.
3. Bokkos LGC reserves the right to conduct interviews and other activities related to the qualifications of the vendors".
4. Deadline for questions is Friday, June 24th, 2022 by 4:00 p.m.
5. Deadline for submitting the proposal/bid is 4th July, 2022 by 4.00 PM.

Proposals must be in duplicate (1 original and 1 copy) in the manner designated, enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing on the outside of the envelope the name and code of the proposal, as well as the name and address of the Bidder, to be sent to:

**Executive Chairman,
Bokkos Local Government Council.
Attention: The Managing Director,
Bokkos Development & Infrastructure Company Ltd (BDIC),
Bokkos Local Government Council Secretariat. Bokkos,
P.M.B. 2010 Barkin-Ladi, Plateau State.**

ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

Firms/companies who are interested in bidding for this job must possess the following eligibility requirements which should be attached along the bid proposals;

- A. Copy of Certificate of Incorporation/Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- B. Copy of MEMART, Form 2 & CAC 7
- C. Company Profile & Capability Document
- D. Copy of Consent Letter with Technical or Financial Partner (where available)
- E. Draft PPP Agreement with LGC
- F. Draft Service Level Agreement for ICT Automation Project
- G. Copy of Receipts and Forms of Contractor Registration with Bokkos LGC
- H. Evidence of completion of similar jobs, i.e. engagement letters/satisfactory Job completion certificates.
- I. Detailed RFP with detailed Feasibility/Business Case

All submissions are to be made in English Language. All enquiries to be directed to the undersigned on **08062588170** or bokkosinvestment@gmail.com

**SIGNED:
Hon Michael Adangu Arange
Supervisory Councilor – Special Duties
For: Executive Chairman**

SUNDAY SPORTS

NPFL

Plateau United still nursing title hopes



Plateau United players celebrating a goal

THE 2021/22 Nigeria Professional Football League, (NPFL) season for long periods has been a two-way battle between 2017 champions Plateau United and Rivers United.

The two teams have been slugging it out until Rivers United opened a five-point gap, then seven and it has now become a ten-point gap at the top of the log.

Powered by Chijioke Akuneto and Rafiu Ishaq's goals, Rivers are top of the table with 70 points, 10 more than the nearest rivals, Plateau United.

With five games left of the season, a lot of pundits have already given the title to the Port-Harcourt side, considering they can wrap up the title with just two wins from their remaining games.

Only a monumental disaster from Rivers, a major one at that matter, will see Plateau sneak in, but they also have to probably win all their remaining games.

Despite the odds stacked against them and the title looking to head to Port-Harcourt, a lot in Plateau United's ranks feel the title race isn't over yet.

Centre back Andrew Ikefe, forwards Jesse Akila and Nenrot Silas told www.npfl.ng that they are still hoping for a miracle and have not given up the chase – at least not yet.

"A ten-point gap is massive no matter how you look at it, but we will not give up yet. Football isn't mathematics, as you know, so we will keep pushing until it is impossible again," Ikefe enthused.

"We are still fighting, there is still hope, but we will only give up based on the outcome of the next two games, that is when we will feel it is over.

"For us, if we win our next home game (vs Gombe United) we are very sure of second place then after the next two we will know our fate, but we are not giving up," he added. Forward Jesse Akila was also equivocal about his team's title chances as he suggested.

the title chase isn't over yet as Plateau United will keep fighting.

Akila, who has scored eight goals for Plateau United this

season, feels there is more to come from this season as the title has not been lost yet by his team

"We haven't given up yet because mathematically we still have hope because I learnt Rivers have two away games," he told npfl.ng

"We are hoping they drop points there, and then we see how it goes, but be rest assured that we are still fighting," Akila concluded.

Nenrot Silas, who has been a mainstay in the team this season also revealed the mood in the team is one of

hope as it isn't over until it is over.

"It is football, it is never over until it is over. There is always a chance, and that is what I believe.

"Despite how the table looks at the moment, we at Plateau United will continue to believe it is doable as we are still fighting for the title," he added.

This weekend, Plateau United will contend with Gombe United in Jos while their title rivals Rivers United are away to Rangers International of Enugu in Awka.

Sports ministry to hold maiden U-18 basketball championships

THE Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development says it will commence the Under-18 basketball championships from July 27 to July 30 with a view to ensuring more youth participation in the sport.

Mr Mohammed Manga, Director, Press and Public Relations in the ministry, made this known in a statement in Abuja.

Manga said, the Minister, Mr Sunday Dare, recently inaugurated an Interim Management Committee, (IMC) to oversee the development of youth basketball and domestic league following the country's withdrawal from international competitions.

"The committee was charged to commence a youth basketball league and domestic league to help in nurturing home-based players so as to provide a reservoir of players.

"The players will represent the country in international events after the period of withdrawal.

"The committee has adjusted the date for the U-18 basketball championships, initially slated to commence from June 15 to July 30, while the finals will come up from Aug. 8 – Aug. 14, 2023," he said.

This is to afford the committee ample opportunity to study, rethink and restructure the logistics and organizational arrangements.

According to him, the shift



Dare

will enable the committee to ensure that states are adequately informed and prepared for full participation.

"To this end, top athletes and outstanding coaches selected from the championships will form the core of the National U-18 teams.

"They will be camped

Ahmed Musa poorest goal poacher

SUPER Eagles captain, Ahmed Musa has emerged as the 'poorest' performer among Nigeria's all time leading goal scorers.

The former Kano Pillars and Leicester City of England striker is placed ninth in the list of 10 top scorers with only 16 goals from the highest number of international matches played.

The fleet-footed attacking winger has managed to score 16 goals in a whopping 106 international appearances.

Musa made his international debut with the senior team in 2010 in an AFCON qualification match against Madagascar.

He scored his first goal in 2011 in a friendly match against

THE 2021/22 season of the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) has produced some outstanding displays, great goals and breakout stars.

Dakkada's Emmanuel Anyaosi was relatively unknown before the start of the season but he, alongside Mustapha Salisu of Katsina, has been one of the revelations of the season.

The youngsters' have come into the league and stamped their authority within a season in which they've shown they will be stars of the future if everything goes on well.

Nduka Junior, captain of Remo Stars, has also shown his quality with some brilliant displays for the Ikenne side as they keep in touch with the big players at fifth place on the log.

Abdulazeez Yusuf of Gombe United is proving himself as capable with his goals keeping Gombe United in mid-table, far away from where pundits reckoned they will be by this time of the season

Fifteen goals in 33 games isn't a bad return for him but he is in good company as three other players are currently tied with him for the top scorers diadem.

Enyimba's Victor Mbaoma needs no introduction – 15 goals (including a hat-trick against Kwara United last weekend) have shown why he is highly rated.

His form has been helpful to Enyimba's fourth position on the table and was recently part of the Super Eagles tour of North America.

Chijioke Akuneto of Rivers United has quietly worked his way into the limelight with 16

Records of NPFL outstanding displays



Dakkadafe in one of their outings

goals for Rivers United who are in the first place.

Much attention was on Nyima Nwagwa to get the goals for the Port-Harcourt side following his move from Kano Pillars but Akuneto, alongside Ishaq Rafiu has been the men with the goals.

Ishaq's 14 goals and Akuneto's 16 plus five from Nwagwa has made the table toppers the highest-scoring team in the league with 53 goals, eight more than second-placed Plateau United.

There is also the small matter of Chijioke Ejiogu who has continued to defy logic and start first team games in his 22nd season as a professional in the top flight.

Despite Heartland's woes, Ejiogu has been one of the

shining lights of another bad campaign for the Owerri side.

Plateau United have the third meanest defence in the NPFL (23) and this can be attributed to the centre back pairing of Andrew Ikefe and Buhari Ibrahim who has stood like the Rock of Gibraltar.

Ibrahim, especially has been doing the business at the back and upfront.

Not contented with defending goals, the centre back, who was also part of the Super Eagles for the friendly games with Mexico and Ecuador, has notched up six goals – the highest for any defender this season.

All of these players – and a lot more, have made the 2021/22 a brilliant one for fans.

– July 5.

He said the clinic would have special sessions for young coaches and referees expected to play crucial role in the grassroots development of the game.

According to him, the clinic will prepare officials generally for the premier league.

He said that the women leagues dates would be announced after due consultation with relevant stakeholders as well as the ministry.

"The committee invites all basketball stakeholders to join hands with the committee at this crucial moment towards the re-engineering of the sport," Manga said.

According to basketball stakeholders, the latest move by the ministry has come in handy especially after the recent ban on Nigerian

basketball by the government.

Recently, stakeholders in Nigeria expressed shock over the suspension of basketball in the country, describing the action as 'overkill.'

Respondents, reacting to the news of the suspension, noted that the decision will only worsen the state of basketball in Nigeria.

Reports say that President Muhammadu Buhari recently approved the immediate withdrawal of Nigeria from all international basketball competitions for a period of two years with immediate effect.

Sunday Dare, the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, disclosed this while briefing newsmen recently in Abuja.

Dare, represented by Ismaila Abubakar, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, said a committee would be set up to oversee basketball leagues in the country.

"Following the unending crisis which have plagued and nearly crippled the development of basketball in Nigeria, President Buhari has approved the withdrawal of Nigeria from all international basketball competitions for a period of two years," he said.

"This is with immediate effect," he said, adding that the withdrawal of Nigeria is in order to concentrate efforts by government towards revamping the sport from the grassroots as well as domestic leagues which have become moribund.

Odion Ighalo is tied with Musa on 16 points, but the former Man United man is ranked eighth because he played only 37 matches, 69 less than the Super Eagles captain.

Although Napoli forward Victor Osimhen is tenth with 15 goals, he has played only 23 matches, which means Musa has played 83 matches more than him.

Meanwhile, only two of the all time leading goal scorers, Musa and Osimhen are still active for the Super Eagles.

29 year-old Musa is in the twilight of his career so Osimhen who is only 22 years old is looking like the man who will break Yekini's record of 37 goals.

Kenya.

Meanwhile, the scorer of Nigeria's first ever senior World Cup goal, the late Rashidi Yekini tops the list with 37 goals in 62 games and is followed by 'Mathematical' Segun Odegbami with 22 goals in 47 games.

Yakubu Aiyegbeni comes in third with 21 goals in 58 games, Ikechukwu Uche is fourth with 19 goals from 46 games, Obafemi Martins is fifth with 18 goals from 42 games while late Sunday Oyarekhua is sixth with 17 goals from 34 matches.

Samson Siasia is tied with Oyarekhua on 17 goals but is ranked seventh because his goals came in 49 matches, 15 more than the former.

SUNDAY SPORTS



Iwobi reveals what's next after Super Eagles' games

The former Arsenal midfielder had a long year as he had to battle a bad form and various coaching decisions to get back to his normal level. Iwobi, just six months ago was nothing near favoured at Everton as he struggled to convince the coaches and for game time. With the Super Eagles, he had also lost his

place in the team ahead of the AFCON and picked up a red card against Tunisia as the Super Eagles got eliminated in the round of 16. He as a result of the AFCON suspension missed the games against the Black Stars and played no part as Nigeria missed out on the World Cup for the first time in four

editions. The season has however ended on a high for Iwobi as he revealed that his next plan is to rest and prepare the incoming season. Meanwhile, Plateau United Football Club of Jos have suffered a 2-0 loss against the league toppers, Rivers United but maintain their second position.

Mbappe must have changed dream - Perez

REAL Madrid president Florentino Perez says Kylian Mbappe "must have changed his dream" after the France striker rejected a move to the Spanish club.

BBC SPORT said that, Mbappe, 23, signed a new lucrative three-year contract at Paris St-Germain instead of moving to the La Liga club.

"His dream was to play at Real Madrid," Perez told El Chiringuito.

"We wanted to do it last August and they didn't let him leave, he kept saying he wanted to play at Madrid and 15 days before changed the situation."

According to Spanish football expert Guillem Balague, Mbappe had agreed a financial package with Real months ago for a potential switch to Spain prior to opting to stay with PSG.

Spain's La Liga reacted angrily to the news, calling the deal "scandalous" and has since filed a complaint to Uefa about what it believes to be Financial Fair Play breaches by PSG and Manchester City.

"This is not the Mbappe I wanted to bring, he is another one, who must have changed his dream," Perez was quoted as saying in Marca from the interview with El Chiringuito.

"He changes, he is offered other things, he is pressured and he is already another footballer."

"There is no-one at Real Madrid above the club. He is a great player, he can win more than others, but it is a collective sport and we have values and principles that we cannot change."

Mbappe has not ruled out moving to Real Madrid in the future, saying it is "never over" when asked about joining the Spanish champions.

Perez added: "The Mbappe who was going to come here is not this one. If it is, I prefer him to stay at PSG. I want the one with



PSG and Mbappe were knocked out of the Champions League by eventual 2021-22 winners Real Madrid

the dream." Real Madrid won La Liga and the Champions League last season with France striker Karim Benzema scoring 44 goals in 46 games. He is one of the favourites to win the Ballon d'Or and Perez suggested the 34-year-old's

exploits were behind them not signing striker Erling Haaland, who has joined Manchester City.

"We have the best nine in the world and we weren't going to bring in Haaland to have him on the bench, right?" said Perez.

"We have no interest now other than to build the new team with the youngsters we have and some reinforcement."

In the interview, Perez also said the formation of a European Super League "is still alive".

We achieved our goals - Peseiro

SUPER Eagles coach Jose Peseiro is happy with his side's performance in



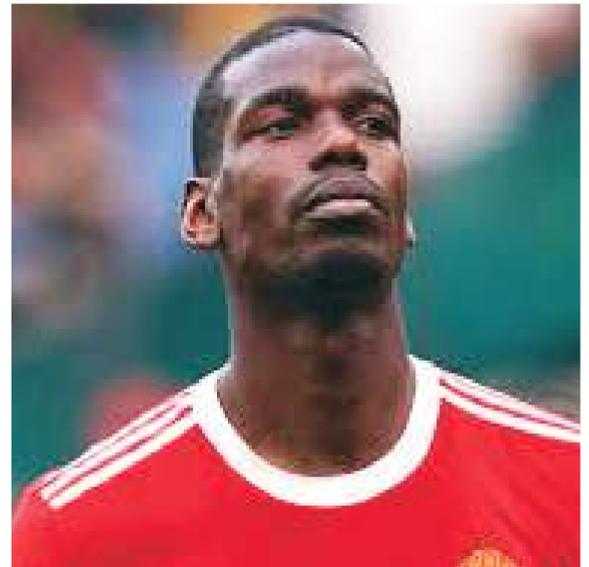
Peseiro

the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, but he still believes that they could still improve in some areas.

Goal said that, Peseiro took over the reins of the Super Eagles in May, but he lost his opening two games against Ecuador and Mexico by one-goal margins.

However, under his tutelage, Nigeria rose from the two defeats and fought back to beat Sierra Leone in their opening fixture of the AFCON 2023 Qualifiers.

'I'll show Man Utd they made a mistake' -



Pogba

PAUL Pogba has vowed to show Manchester United that they "made a mistake" in allowing him to hit free agency, with the France international midfielder questioning why he was not offered a new contract sooner at Old Trafford.

Goal said that, the World Cup-winning midfielder is leaving Old Trafford as a free agent this summer after six testing years with the Premier League heavyweights.

The enigmatic 29-year-old is preparing to take on another new challenge after allowing his deal with Premier League heavyweights to run down - with GOAL able to confirm that a retracing of steps to Serie A giants Juventus is now on the cards.

Pogba is looking for a change of scenery after six testing years in England that saw him break transfer records in an £89 million (\$108m) move, collect three trophies under Jose Mourinho in his debut campaign with the Red Devils, but ultimately struggle to find the form

that would have allowed critics to be won over.

Pogba is eager to silence his doubters in whatever the future holds for him, with there a desire on his part to prove a serious point to those that he is leaving behind at Old Trafford.

He has said in his new Amazon Prime documentary: "My thought process is to show Manchester (United) that they made a mistake in waiting to give me a contract."

"And to show other clubs that Manchester had made a mistake in not offering me a contract."

United did attempt to tie Pogba down to a new deal during the summer of 2021, with improved terms put to him despite already pulling in a reported £290,000-a-week wage packet.

Mino Raiola, who sadly passed away in April, can be seen in a show dubbed 'The Pogmentary' discussing an offer from United with one of his more high-profile clients.

Pogba, though, is clearly unimpressed at seeing the Red Devils wait until 12 months from his expiry

date before entering into talks, with the Frenchman saying: "How can you tell a player you absolutely want him and offer him nothing?"

Pogba, who graduated out of United's famed academy system to make his senior debut under Sir Alex Ferguson in 2011, was considered by many to be a serious Ballon d'Or contender when he returned to Manchester in 2016.

He is walking away from United after 226 appearances, but he contributed only 39 goals across those outings and never found a settled role in ever-changing systems that allowed him to produce his best on a regular basis.

Raiola said of those struggles: "We must try to make you feel as good as when you are with the French national team."

"You're different with them. You understand? You're another Pogba with the Manchester United team. It's not normal."

"With the France team, you're the real Pogba, the Pogba of Juventus, the Pogba that everyone loves. With Manchester, there's something blocking you."

The Super Eagles had to cope with the absence of fans, and the situation was worsened by the plantation-like pitch. Still, they ground out the 2-1 win.

Then, the three-time African champions followed up with another victory in Agadir. This time on a better playing surface, they demolished Sao Tome and Principe 10-0 - Nigeria's biggest victory in over 60 years.

Nigeria's next game is in August when they play

Guinea Bissau in their third fixture of the qualifiers. But in the meantime, Peseiro is happy with his team's performance.

"We achieved our goal of points won, grew as a group, and conquered a historical record, always based on fundamental values: team spirit and mutual help", The Portuguese tactician said.

"We made the Nigerian nation proud. We are focused on improving our work to achieve our goals." He added.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Raducanu expected to be fit for Wimbledon



Raducanu

EMMA Raducanu is expected to be fit for Wimbledon after a scan showed the injury which forced her to retire at the Nottingham Open was a side strain.

BBC SPORT said that, the US Open champion retired just seven games into her first grass-court match of the season in Nottingham on Tuesday.

The injury is not said to be serious, however she will not be able to play in next week's WTA event in Birmingham.

The 19-year-old has been

advised to rest for a few days and is likely to play in Eastbourne the following week.

"It was disappointing to go out this week with a side injury and unfortunately I will no longer be able to play in Birmingham," Raducanu said.

"I'm looking forward to being back on the match court soon though to enjoy the rest of the grass season."

The British number one said she had "no idea" if she would be able to recover in time for Wimbledon - which begins on

27 June - after sustaining the injury to her left side against Swiss world number 55 Viktorija Golubic.

It was the world number 11's third mid-match retirement since her 2021 US Open win, having also bowed out of matches in Guadalajara in February and Rome in May with injuries. Meanwhile, Plateau United Football Club of Jos have suffered a 2-0 loss against the league toppers, Rivers United but maintain their second position.

BRITAIN'S number one-ranked doubles player Tara Moore has been provisionally suspended under anti-doping rules.

BBC SPORT said that, she provided a sample containing substances on the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) banned list while competing in Colombia in April.

"I have never knowingly taken a banned substance in my career," Moore said in response to the suspension.

"I am investigating how the positive result could have occurred."

She added: "I look forward to proving that I am a clean athlete. I am deeply saddened by the provisional suspension and hope to be back on the court as soon as possible."

The 29-year-old, who competed at the French Open last month, tested positive for nandrolone metabolites and

Moore provisionally suspended under anti-doping rules



Moore

Boldenone.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said Moore can request that the B sample is analysed.

"This matter is the subject of ongoing due process which will be managed

independently by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)," the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) said.

"To preserve the integrity of the process the LTA will not comment further until the matter has been concluded."

McIlroy: LIV golfers doing it for 'cash'

THE golfers playing in the inaugural Saudi-funded LIV Golf event this week are doing it for "boatloads of cash", says Rory McIlroy.

BBC SPORT said that, the major champions Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson are reported to have been paid \$200m and \$150m respectively to play in the fledgling series.

McIlroy is defending his Canadian Open title this week on



McIlroy

the PGA Tour.

"We all know why everyone's playing in London this week," he said of the LIV Golf event.

"It's boatloads of cash and it's money up front. I get it and for some guys that's really enticing."

The first tournament of the \$250m eight-event LIV Golf Invitational Series is taking place at Centurion Club, near London, this week.

It is the most lucrative tournament in the world, featuring a \$25m prize fund, with \$4m to the winner and \$120,000 for last place in the 48-man field.

LIV Golf is being fronted by former world number one Greg Norman, who says he has secured an extra £1.6bn of funding from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund to turn the series in to a 14-event league by 2024.

Northern Ireland's McIlroy reiterated that he has no desire to play in the series but has called on the game's leading administrators to "get in a room and figure it out".

Norman, who says he wants his new venture to run alongside existing tours, has claimed that he has not spoken to PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan despite repeated attempts to do so.

Monahan said in March that the tour will "not be distracted by rumours of other golf leagues" and the PGA Tour has threatened to ban its members who play in the LIV Golf events, a move Norman called "anti-golfer, anti-fan and anti-competitive".

"I feel like the professional game was on a nice trajectory, where everything was becoming more cohesive and now it's becoming more fractured again and I don't

think that's a good thing," added McIlroy.

"I do understand why they are playing. I just think they're thinking very short term. But everyone has to do what's right for themselves and who are we to say otherwise?"

"Would you play in Russia?" Poulter & Westwood face grilling McIlroy conceded that he has accepted appearance fees to play at tournaments worth more than the prize for winning the event.

"The first few times, I felt a little flat," he said. "I felt like I didn't need to try because I'd already earned the money, and that didn't work out too well. So I had to learn from early on in my career that you show up and still give it 100% to try to win the tournament."

His fellow European Ryder Cup players Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood, Sergio Garcia and Graeme McDowell are among those in the LIV Golf field this week, putting their futures in the biennial event in jeopardy.

The DP World Tour, which has a 'strategic alliance' with the PGA Tour, has also threatened to ban players who take part in the new series. And players who are not members of the European-based Tour are ineligible for the Ryder Cup.

McIlroy thinks that despite their defiance of the Tour, "they should still be able to play".

He said: "They've been such a part of the Ryder Cup. Look at the history Poulter has, it would be a real shame for him not to be involved going forward, whether as a vice-captain, captain or one last time in a playing capacity."

However, he accepted "it's a weird time in pro golf and were going to have to see how this season plays out".

Rome Diamond League: Asher-Smith praises Felix

DINA Asher-Smith says American legend Allyson Felix has been an inspiration as they prepare for Thursday's 200m Diamond League race in Rome.

BBC SPORT said that, Felix, who has won 20 major championship gold medals, will retire at the end of this season, aged 36.

Felix also forced a change in sportswear giant Nike's policy, ensuring female athletes

would not lose out on pay if they become pregnant.

"She's an absolute legend, an icon of grace and dignity," said Asher-Smith.

"She has done so much for us, so much for our sport. I can now have the feasible option to go and have a child and come back without the stress over whether my career would be the same when I do.

"A lot of us have her to

thank for that."

Asher-Smith, the 200m world champion, will line up against Elaine Thompson-Herah, the Olympic champion over the distance, and Shaunae Miller-Uibo, who won 400m gold in Tokyo, in one of the headline events of the fifth Diamond League event of the season.

Felix won 200m gold at London 2012, where a 16-

year-old Asher-Smith worked as a kit carrier, transporting athletes' tracksuits.

"I remember the first time I raced her," added Asher-Smith.

"It was 2015 in Birmingham and I felt like I was now a professional athlete because I was in a race with Allyson,

"It is an absolutely amazing line-up [on Thursday] and personally I feel really privileged to be in a race with Allyson in her retirement season."

Bahamian Miller-Uibo confirmed that she will move away from the 400m after this summer's attempt to add world gold to her two Olympic crowns. She has won 400m silver at Beijing 2015 and Doha 2019.

"I am planning on wrapping it up," said the 28-year-old.

"I have accomplished so much in the event, for me it is about getting the world title now. I don't think I will be doing it in two years time."

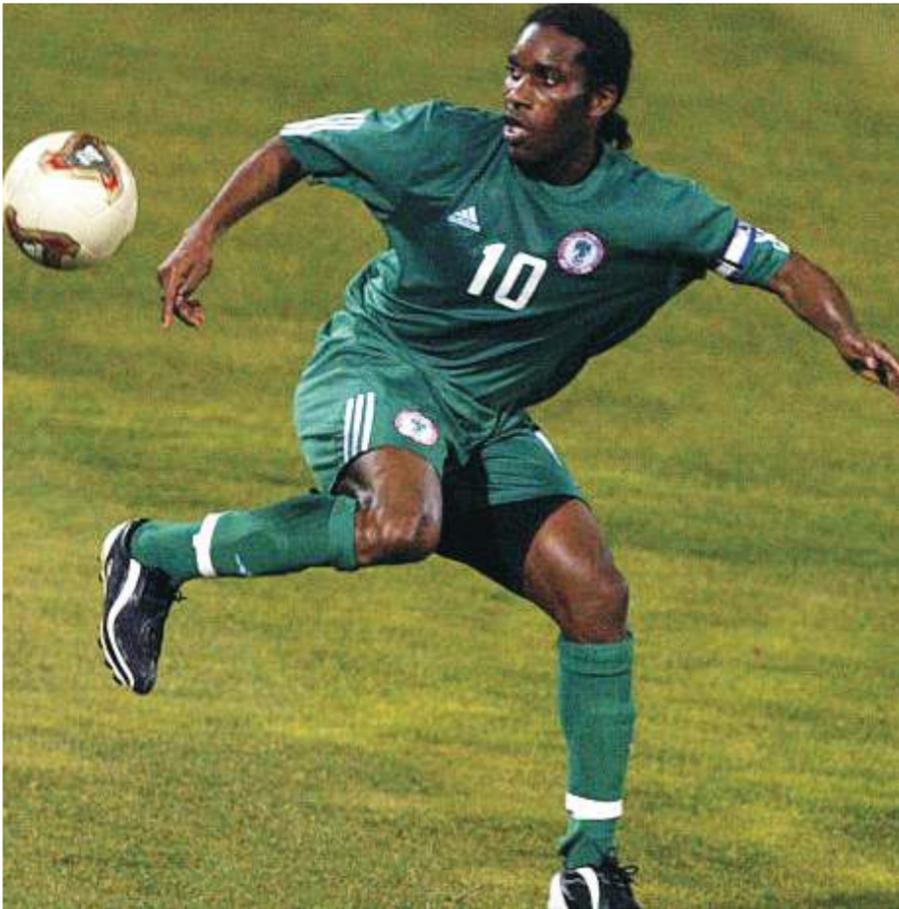
Miller-Uibo, who is married to Estonian decathlete Maicel Uibo, told BBC Sport last year that she planned to turn to multi-eventing.

Elsewhere in Rome, American Olympic champion Athing Mu returns to 800m after she withdrew from the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene in May. Britain's Jemma Reekie lines up



Asher-Smith

SUNDAY SPORTS



Okocha

Super Eagles never pleased with Okocha's dribbling –Oliseh

FORMER Super Eagles captain, Sunday Oliseh has disclosed that a few members of the team were unhappy with Austine Okocha's excessive dribbling in the senior national team.

Oliseh made this known on Athlete's Podcast, a Special Delivery with Emmanuel Babayaro and Matthew Efafe, where he stated that Okocha was gifted but his excesses were difficult to cope with for defensive players, and they lost it many times.

"With Jayjay, most people would say he was a difficult player to play with, as

teammates, as defensive players. But I personally had a way, an understanding with Jayjay that made it easy for me to play with him.

"There was one particular game, I'll share a story with you. We were playing and Jayjay was doing his normal thing and Nigerian fans were going crazy. In our team, as much as we disagreed, every player was a king in their position. We had match winners – most of the players could win games but if someone did something bad in the group, the defenders always tell me, 'Sunday tell am o'.

"They knew I was the only

one who could say to Jayjay that 'my man, release the ball and Jayjay would release. There was one particular game, he was doing it and we lost the ball. And the ball was coming and Taribo was going crazy about him. And he lost the ball one more time, and I told him 'hey my man, I'm tired of running. And the next time he went on dribbling and lost the ball. I left the man. I let the opponent pass and they almost scored. Taribo went crazy, he crossed ahead of me and I had to grab him. Don't joke with Taribo. He wants to win. He's fanatical about winning," Oliseh said.

Sports minister to receive football development masterplan report

THE Ten Year Football Development Master Plan Committee set up by the Presidency to redesign football development in

Nigeria will on June 29 2022, submit its report to the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Chief Sunday Dare, in his office,

Completesports.com reports

The Ten Year Football Development Master Plan Committee led by reknowned sports administrator, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima, was innauagurated late last year to map out a 10 year development plan for Nigerian football.

"They have done a fantastic job and the Honourable minister is quite satisfied with what they have done and has now fixed a date for formal handing over of the report. God willing Wednesday June 29, the committee will wind down with the handing over the report," Chief of Staff to the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Alhaji Abba Yola



Members of the committee

SPORTS stakeholders have made an appeal on philanthropists to come to the aid of the Jolly Nyame Stadium in Jalingo in order to boost sporting activities in the state.

The Chairman, Taraba State Football Association, Timothy Magaji and State Director of Sports, George Shitta, made the appeal during the final of the Aiteo Challenge Cup in Jalingo.

Magaji who described the stadium as one of the best in the country, said the pitch is the only problem of the stadium.

He, however, assured that something is being done to maintain the stadium.

For the Director of Sports,

Stakeholders decry state of Jalingo Stadium

By Victor Gai, Jalingo

government alone cannot maintain the facility and called on philanthropists to intervene like they did in some government owned facilities.

"We are appealing on private individuals to come in. Government alone cannot do it.

"The one in Abuja was renovated by Dangote, the one in Lagos was renovated by Baba Ijebu," he stated.

Shitta also said the Aiteo

Cup would groom talents that would play for the state professional football club, Taraba FC, in the future.

Meanwhile, 12 teams participated in the competition, with Gamji FC emerging winners after defeating Nasarawo United in the finals. The two teams would represent Taraba in the round of 64 and 32. The winner would then represent Nigeria in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Referees told to promote good officiating

AS the NPFL approaches the crucial stages of the game, referees involved have been admonished to adopt best approaches in football Officiating.

This order was handed down by the President of the Nigeria Referees Association, NRA, Otunba Tade Azeez.

Otunba Tade Azeez who advised the referees to blow by the rules and refrain from any act that will bring the game to disrepute.

He disclosed that the referees body is concerned about the performances of members appointed for matches adding that zero tolerance to acts not in conformity to the laws of the game is still in force.

He wishes all traveling officials best of luck and journey mercies.

As Kwara United play host to



NPFL Referees

Sunshine, an Asaba based lawyer Ibodor Ovie of the Delta State Referees council will lead the refereeing team comprising Court Sampson of Abia Kaduna's Yahaya Ikara to Ilorin for the game.

An apostle of good officiating from the Kano State Referees council, Imam Malik joined by Yusuf alongside Sufiyanu two assistants; Ismail Abubakar and Abubakar Jimoh

both of Taraba and Lagos councils respectively will be for the crucial Rangers vs Rivers Utd in Awka while the Kano State Referees council chairman, Mallam Nasiru Ibrahim will assess how two women FIFA referees;

Akintoye Yemisi and Abibatu Yusuf alongside Sufiyanu Bazza will handle the Niger Tornados vs Nassarwa clash.

"I want to play for Nigeria"

EMMANUEL Osadebe has voiced his ambition to one day wear the green-and-white kits of Nigeria's Super Eagles, shutting the door on his chances of representing the Republic of Ireland.

Born in Dundalk, Ireland, to Nigerian parents, Osadebe is eligible to play for both



Osadebe

countries at the international level.

The former Tottenham Hotspur schoolboy has played at the youth level for the Republic of Ireland, earning a first call-up to the U-21 setup in 2015.

Now 25, the midfielder has switched attention to the Super Eagles, and he hopes success at Bradford City can present him with more opportunities to open the door to international football.

"Ireland's not for me; I want to play for Nigeria," Osadebe told the Telegraph and Argus.

"I'm still only 25 years old, and if I have a good season this year and then a couple more higher up, I know it can happen.

"I believe it will happen, and I hope that being at Bradford starts that process up, and we

keep moving up because the goal is to get promotion."

Osadebe scored three goals and supplied eight assists in 43 games for Walsall to earn his move to Bradford City, where he will play under former Blackburn boss and Manchester United striker Mark Hughes.

Both Walsall and Bradford City are in League Two, the fourth tier of English football.

Nigeria currently have several options on the right midfield where Osadebe excels.

Leicester City's Ademola Lookman, Watford's Emmanuel Dennis, and Villarreal's Samuel Chukwueze offer stiff competition on the right flank of the Super Eagles.

Dennis and Lookman were on target as Nigeria recorded a historic 10-0 win over Sao Tome and Principe on Monday.



NFF election: Pinnick faces impeachment

As the September 2022 Nigeria Football Federation, NFF Election gathers momentum, NFF President, Amaju Pinnick faces impeachment as 28 out of 37 Football Associations chairmen plot a major shakeup in the buildup to the electoral congress

Following expiration of extended two-week ultimatum issued by the 28 FAs Chairmen on the NFF Executive Committee Board led by Amaju Pinnick on June 14th, there are indications that the chairmen who are drawn from across the six geopolitical zones of the country are planning to unsettle the Executive Committee.

On May 15, 2022, the FA Chairmen issued a resolution to the NFF Executive Committee demanding for the vacation of an exparte order from a Federal High Court in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, which has stopped any NFF Congress meeting, as well as for a General Assembly to be called.

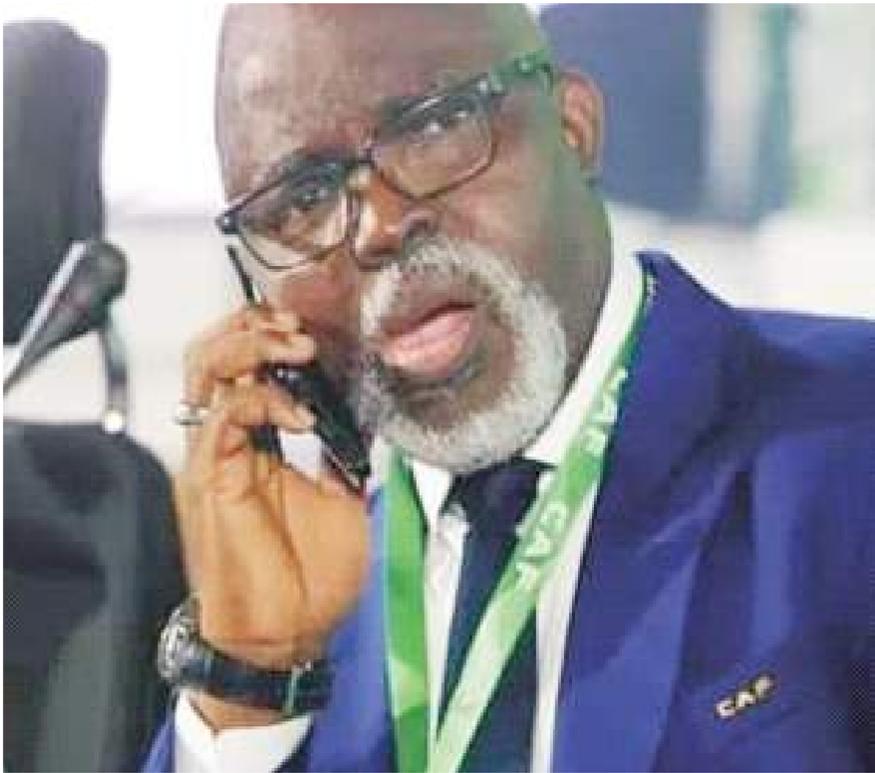
The notice first deadline ran out, before a two-week extension was then given with a new deadline of June 14, 2022.

Best Choice Sports gathered that on both occasions, the NFF secretariat did not reply the chairmen.

Instead, Insidetheglasshouses reports that Mr Pinnick dismissed the notice of the congress men, saying it is without any basis and simply full of mischief.

What Next For The 28 FA chairmen?

In December 2021, a High Cort in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State through Hon. Justice Isa Dashaen stopped the planned NFF Annual General Assembly,



Pinnick

AGA scheduled to hold on Friday, December 17 that year

NFF, it was gathered, have not applied to the court to set aside the order giving indications that the planned September election, may, after all, not hold.

And with the deadline given by the 28 Chairmen to the NFF Executive Committee led by Amaju Pinnick elapsing, what are the options for the concerned "rebel" Football Associations chairmen?

a. Will the chairmen impeach the president, Amaju Pinnick? Analysts believe that this is a probable option but most cumbersome to execute

b. Will they pass a vote of no confidence on the NFF

Executive Committee, led by Mr Pinnick? This is another viable option which will lead to impeachment of the president

c. Will the 28 chairmen withdraw their mandate which they bestowed on Mr Pinnick and the Executive Committee Board on September 20, 2018? This option is the most viable among others.

Removal of their mandate will automatically return Amaju Pinnick to the floor as an ordinary member and a caretaker committee could be set up.

In the event the NFF cannot stage fresh polls on the day, the federation's secretariat will take temporary charge of

Nigeria football before world football governing body FIFA set up a Normalisation Committee to design a new road map for the country's No 1 sport.

However, Mr Amaju Pinnick is surreptitiously perfecting plans and strategies to return for a third term as the federation's boss, bestchoicesports.com.ng can exclusively report

This paper scooped that the former First Vice President of the Confederation of Africa Football, CAF is secretly wooing some state Football Association chairmen and key stakeholders to back him in his latest bid.

This is coming after a group of 28 FA Chairmen have vowed to dismantle any plans to scuttle the planned election. The group, after its ultimatum issued in May expired on June 14, is currently exploring its options with regards to the election.

The Chairmen had issued ultimatum to the Executive Committee Board of the NFF led by Mr Amaju Pinnick to immediately initiate processes to vacate an Bayelsa State High Court Exparte Order barring the federation from holding any Congress or Annual General Meeting.

The Deadline had long passed with inside sources saying that despite receiving two correspondences, Mr Pinnick had ignored the group.

Pinnick's latest move could come as a shock to many who still hold firm to his April declaration that he would not stand for a 3rd term.

Mr Pinnick who have been in the helm of affairs of Nigeria's football since 2014, announced in April that he would not seek for a third term even though he was eligible for it.

"I'm eligible to run according to the statutes," he had said in an interview with the Arise News TV.

"Do I want to run? It's a no-no. My family is very key to me. They said it's taking a toll on me and the family.

"They believe that I've done my best, and it's time to move on. It's a regrettable decision, but it's the best," he added.

Pinnick's tenure, which was renewed on September 20, 2018 in an elective congress held in Katsina State, is expected to relinquish powers

in September.

However, findings by this paper indicate that the former Delta State Football Association Chairman is working assiduously secretly for a 3rd term in office.

A state FA Chairman from North East zone of the country told our correspondent that Mr Pinnick's 3rd agenda is very alive.

He noted that it was part of the reasons some state FA chairmen are working against adding that Mr Pinnick's moves are strategic.

"Well, I would not want to go there," the FA Chairman started in confidentiality

"I am aware of Pinnick's 3rd move. He is working behind the scene. Few individuals are away of it but people are keeping mute for now to study the situation.

"He is meeting some of the FA Chairmen. In fact, he is secretly lobbying to get a soft landing.

"You are aware of the stand of some FA Chairmen currently on the issue of the election. Pinnick's 3rd plan is one of the issues these chairmen are working to prevent. But for now, this is all I will say," the source said.

With the election slated to hold not later than September 30, 28 FA Chairmen are gearing for an onslaught against Mr Pinnick's led NFF Executive Committee Board.

The concerned chairmen tagged "rebel" are calling on the Executive Board to make

a move to set aside an Bayelsa State High Court Exparte Order barring the federation from holding any congress.

Morocco 2022: Our focus is on securing World Cup ticket

SUPER Falcons forward Asiat Oshoala has stated that the most important for the team in the upcoming Women's African Cup of Nations is to secure a ticket to the next year's FIFA Women's World Cup.

Oshoala who is one nineteen players currently in the team's camp that was officially opened in Abuja ahead of the tournament in Morocco, told NFF TV in an interview that priority of the team is to qualify for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup billed for Australia and New Zealand later in the year.

"I think the most important thing is to make sure we get a ticket to the world cup. That's our primary aim to qualify for the world cup and also possibly to win the tournament is one of the goals we have going into this tournament as a team and personally as an individual I just want to be better than the last tournament that's all," she said.

Nigeria will be counting on the importance of Oshoala who had an impressive season with Barcelona Femini in the just concluded season, making history by becoming the first African woman to win the golden boot in the Primera División

(women) when Super Falcons begin their quest for their 12th WAFCON title against continental arch rival, the Banyana Banyana of South Africa in the opening match of the Group C on Monday, 4th of July, 2022.

The tournament will also

serve as the African qualifiers for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, the top 4 teams will automatically qualify for the Women's World Cup billed for Australia and New Zealand from 20th July - 20th of August, 2022.

- Oshoala



Oshoala

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clues and search for the word

E	K	S	H	M	J	W	I	L	L	I	A	M
I	L	P	E	A	K	S	R	B	M	T	S	A
S	J	G	E	L	K	A	N	E	M	I	T	L
M	O	R	R	I	S	C	I	U	O	V	E	A
A	I	E	H	P	T	B	D	E	P	F	N	I
N	K	E	G	R	Q	R	Y	D	A	X	O	K
E	U	C	A	B	G	A	N	F	T	U	C	A
A	V	E	S	E	B	I	H	N	R	W	L	K
C	L	A	J	X	Z	M	D	P	I	C	A	N
M	O	R	O	C	C	O	Q	T	C	S	F	M
Z	R	Y	S	Q	V	H	O	B	E	C	O	A
L	J	N	E	Y	G	P	B	F	A	N	X	Z
A	I	B	R	A	H	I	M	O	V	I	C	A

- Clues**
- Sandy.....(6) American Polevaulter
 -Mihambo (7) German long jumper
 - Sadio.....(4) Liverpool/Senegal striker
 - Host country of the 2022 Africa women's Nations cup
 - Musa.....(7) Nigeria's head tennis coach
 -Troost-Ekong (8), Super Eagles captain
 -Pesiero (4) Super Eagles coach
 -Motsepe (7) CAF president
 - Where the Olympics started (6)
 - Plateau.....(5) Jos based basketball team
 - Nigeria's Junior national football team (9)
 -Warriors (8) Maiduguri football outfit

By IBRAHIM T. LOT