

Lalong did not abandon Plateau for Lagos



'FG spends N1.243 trn monthly on fuel subsidy'

PVC: Massive turn out as Lalong declares work free day

Zamfara prescribes death penalty for banditry, kidnapping

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Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan, has said that efforts will be made by the National Assembly to amend the Electoral Act 2022 to serve as safeguard against weaknesses identified in the law.

Lawan made this known on Tuesday during plenary following a matter of public national importance brought to the floor by Senator Yahaya Abdullahi (APC, Kebbi North).

Lawan described the judgement by the Supreme Court on Section 84(12) of

NASS to amend Electoral Act 2022

the Electoral Act as a "landmark" judgment that vindicates the National Assembly.

According to him, further amendment to the act would strengthen it ahead

of the 2023 general elections.

He said: "Let me say that this is one major landmark judgement by the Supreme Court that the National Assembly had done their job and the court upheld it."

"The idea of what method of primaries should be adopted at the moment is entirely left for the political parties to decide.

"But as we implement the Electoral Act 2022, we are supposed to be very observant of the strengths and weaknesses of the law.

"This law is supposed to improve on the electoral processes and procedures in our country.

"So, it is for us to ensure that where there are weaknesses, we try to

come up with measures, amendments to deal with the issues of weaknesses in the law.

"And, I'm sure it will come full circle when the 2023 elections are held.

"I have no doubt in my mind that all of us in the National Assembly, not only in the Senate, but in the House as well, feel that we must do everything and

everything possible to make this Electoral Act serve the purpose for which it was passed and assented to.

"Therefore, I believe that we should work tirelessly to take note of those areas that we feel are not strong enough - that are weak points in the law - with a

Cont'd on Page 2



Lawan



Gbajabamila

...Senate to probe ex-CJN

The Senate on Tuesday vowed to proceed with its ongoing probe of corruption allegations levelled against former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Tanko

Muhammad.

The red chamber had, at plenary last Thursday, mandated its Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to probe

allegations of corruption raised in the petition by the 14 justices of the Supreme Court.

The ex-CJN resigned his appointment on Monday on health grounds.

The Senate, at plenary on Tuesday, however said the resignation notwithstanding, its committee would still go ahead with the probe.

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Suspected memory disorder forced ex-CJN's exit

A new page was turned in the history of Nigerian Judiciary Monday, following the sudden resignation of Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Tanko Muhammad.

Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, 67, the second most senior justice of the Supreme Court, stepped in as Acting CJN. He took the oath of office before President Muhammadu Buhari to run the Judiciary while awaiting the Senate's confirmation of his appointment as the 22nd CJN.

Justice Muhammad bowed out of office with one and half years to his statutory retirement on health grounds. He would have retired on December 31, 2024.

It was learnt that Muhammad, who was appointed in 2019, had been battling with memory disorder, making him unable to fully discharge his responsibilities.

It was also learnt that the ex-CJN could no longer cope with the rigours of the bench, especially legal research.

But he didn't want some forces to take advantage of his challenge to hijack or influence Supreme Court decisions, which they reckoned could cause crisis in the country.

The protest by his colleague-justices against his management of the apex court exposed his deteriorating condition.

The 14 justices on the

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Acting new CJN, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola (left) signing the oath papers being administered by President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday at the Presidential Chambers after the resignation of the former Justice Ibrahim Tanko Mohammed

Photo: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA

News

NASS to amend Electoral Act 2022

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view to strengthening them before we finally take our exit in 2023."

Rising under Order 42 of the Senate Standing Orders, Senator Abdullahi lauded the 9th Assembly for resisting the pressure from the executive to amend section 84(12) of Electoral Act 2022.

He also applauded the Supreme Court for the clarity, decisiveness and unanimity of its verdict in upholding the separation of powers principle enshrined in our 1999 constitution.

He said the Supreme Court verdict is a major victory toward true democratic governance anchored on the rule of law.

"In my view, the Supreme Court verdict should be celebrated for the following reasons. It restored and anchors the power of making laws to the National Assembly; and establishes a principle that once the president assents to a bill he/she can't approbate and reprobate, i.e. he/she cannot go to the courts to amend/reject the Bill in part or in whole," he said.

Abdullahi, however, underscored the need to amend the Electoral Act to revert to the direct mode of primaries.

"One issue still remains outstanding, and that is amending the act (after the 2023 elections) to revert to our earlier stance on direct primaries.

"Our recent nasty experience of the misuse of consensus and delegate system has vindicated our earlier position on the merit of direct primaries provided that a verifiable membership register of political parties kept simultaneously at the ward level and with INEC with all the necessary safeguards against corruption and data manipulation, is put in place.

"As the political process towards 2023 unfolds, the National Assembly needs to be observant of the loopholes and weaknesses of the 2022 Electoral Act, so that a comprehensive assessment is undertaken to provide adequate grounds for making amendments to the act before the end of the term of office of the 9th Assembly in May 2023," the lawmaker added.

Cont'd from Page 1
apex court bench wrote to the ex-CJN on the poor condition of service they were faced with.

Sources said Justice Muhammad got a medical advisory to "slow down drastically."

Investigation revealed that the ex-CJN had wanted to resign about eight months ago, but he was prevailed upon to stay for a while.

It was also gathered that the resignation of the CJN was delayed to allow Justice Mary Odili to leave the bench, because if she had taken over, it would have been for a short period, thereby causing instability in the system. She retired on May 12.

Acting CJN Ariwoola will retire in 2024.

A source, who spoke in confidence, said: "Right from the time he took over from former CJN Walter Onnoghen, CJN Tanko Mohammed had been managing his health challenges.

"The weight of office as the CJN made him to slip into suspected dementia. Each time he had meeting with his colleagues, he would forget resolutions and might not follow up with any action.

"Apart from the rigours of legal research, the health situation of the CJN could not allow him to attend to some administrative duties, including non-signing of amended Rules of Court for almost three years.

Suspected memory disorder forced ex-CJN's exit



chambers.

Others are internal problems including non-signing of amended Rules of Court for almost three years; sudden stoppage of two to three foreign workshops and trainings per annum for justices; no provision of qualified legal assistants

"In the midst of the protest by Justices of the Supreme Court, there was a medical advisory that he should slow down drastically.

"The situation was becoming complex and to avoid some forces taking advantage of the ill-health of the CJN to tamper with crucial judgments, he had to quit."

"He has no disdain for his colleagues, but his health challenge accounted for the lapses which led to a letter of protest by Supreme Court Justices.

"In spite of the fact that on March 23, the CJN constituted a Welfare Committee, all was not well in the Supreme Court.

"The committee on March 24 submitted a list of demands by the Supreme Court Justices to the CJN, which could not be met.

"The issues raised by the justices are non-replacement of poor vehicles; accommodation problem; lack of drugs at the Supreme Court clinic; epileptic electricity supply to the Supreme Court; increase in electricity tariff; no increase in the cost of diesel; lack of internet services to residences and

Zamfara prescribes death penalty for banditry, kidnapping

The Zamfara State House of Assembly has passed a bill, prescribing death penalty for all banditry-related offences.

Special Adviser on Intergovernmental Affairs to the Governor, Abdullahi Shinkafi, said the bill would be signed into law Tuesday.

"Today, the governor is going to sign into law, death penalty for kidnappers, informants and any other banditry-related issues.

"The House of Assembly, yesterday in Zamfara passed into law death penalty to kidnappers, informants and the contributors."

Shinkafi said the 'shoot on sight' order by Bello Matawalle, the governor, is limited to a section of the state.

"The issue of shoot on sight is only limited to Mada town in Gusau LG, where there's a rampage of banditry attacks on the innocent citizens of Zamfara State," he said.

This development comes on the heels of the governor's directive that residents should arm themselves against bandits.

Matawalle also directed the police command to issue gun licences to all who qualify and are willing to obtain firearms to defend themselves.

...Senate to probe ex-CJN

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The upper chamber took the decision after the consideration of a motion by the Chairman of the Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele.

The red chamber accordingly resolved that: "Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to go ahead with its assignment in the quest to find a lasting solution to the matter by interacting with relevant

stakeholders to address the complaints raised in the petition by the Justices of the Supreme Court;

"Mandate the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to interface with the relevant stakeholders in the three arms of government, as well as at the Bar and the Bench and collate aggregate views and positions on the short term, medium term and long term measures

needed to decisively address the crisis facing the Judiciary, including the immediate fiscal intervention, as well as long term and sustainable budgetary allocations, required for the optimal performance of the Judiciary, in line with global best practices; and

"Urge the Senate to wish the Hon. Chief Justice well, following many years of meritorious service to the nation and to pray for his good health."

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"Urge the Senate to wish the Hon. Chief Justice well, following many years of meritorious service to the nation and to pray for his good health."

PVC: Massive turnout as Lalong declares work free day

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IT appears the two work free day declared by the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, to enable people register for Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) would not be enough as mammoth crowd trooped Registration Centres to participate in the exercise.

This is because all the PVC Registration Centres visited by our correspondent, revealed that the show of interest by electorate to participate in the ongoing registration exercise ahead of the forthcoming General Elections was a pointer to the fact that people are ready to elect the representatives of their choices come 2023.

However, in the course of trying to ensure that their families gain entrance to the Registration Centre to be registered, some hoodlums broke the gate of Jos-South INEC office. It took the intervention of police and officers of the Special Task Force to control the situation.

Speaking to the Electoral Officer of Jos-South INEC Office in Dadin-Kowa, Mr. Emmanuel Fayor, he said, "a number of hoodlums who are not after the registration came up to this place and broke the gate and I had to call the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) to bring more

hands assist. "They almost broke the Machine we are using in registering them. I pleaded with them to be patient since this exercise may be extended, but to no avail. When I looked carefully, I discovered that those boys were not after the registration because when they entered, they went and sat down without trying to register.

"So, I told the Police to order them out, but they were unable to do that because of the crowd. I called my Commissioner and he

contacted the Director in charged of Security to the Government House and at a point in time, I saw officers of the Special Task Force (STF) who came and helped in sending them out. Some of them did not come back here again", he narrated.

Fayor described the exercise thereafter as okay and that the response was alright because all the four machines were working and the registration was going on smoothly. But said, "actuality, if I say we will finish the crowd today, I am a liar because of

the way the crowd is.

"Since the holiday is meant for two days, we will still try our best to see what we can do. We will register a reasonable number today and before 3pm, we should be able to register a good number of people so that, at the end of the day, we will be able to capture a reasonable number", he assured.

Communities like Alheri, Jenta-Adamu, Tudun Wada etc, of Jos-North Local Government Area, people were seen as early as 7:00 am at the PVC Registration





Business & Economy

TETFund: Revamping agriculture through quality education, strategic collaboration

Before the discovery of crude oil and gas in commercial quantity, agriculture was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. The sector was a resilient sustainer of the economy and the Nigerian people in terms of food supply, employment and national income generation. This was possible as a result of focused regional-based policy and commodity comparative and absolute advantage. RAHMA OLAMIDE OLADOSU writes.

However, the sector has struggled to perform the above stated functions since the 1980s due to policy neglect, economic distraction and the indiscretion of successive Nigerian governments.

The "oil boom" experienced in Nigeria in the 1970s heralded an era of decay and decline in agricultural output and the overall contribution of the sector to the economy. The oil boom changed Nigeria's perception of the place and role of agriculture in national development.

Strong, efficient and productive agricultural sector has the capacity to enable a country feed its growing population, export and earn foreign exchange, generate employment and provide raw materials for industries. The agricultural sector has the potential to be the industrial and economic platforms from which the speedy development of a country can take off. Through agriculture, environmental benefits such as sustainable management and renewal of natural resources, preservation of biodiversity, land conservation as well as contribution to the development and viability of rural areas can be derived. At micro and macro levels, the agricultural sector is strategically positioned to have a high multiplier effect on any nation's quest for socio-economic and industrial development.

Looking back, the history of agriculture in Nigeria dates far back to the pre-colonial era. Subsistence agriculture was overwhelmingly dominant on the eve of British colonial rule in Nigeria. In this enterprise, food production featured prominently and there was self-sufficiency in food supply. With the country's vast agricultural resources and large expanse of arable land and well distributed rainfall and a warm temperature all year round, agriculture played a progressive role in serving as the major source of livelihood to the country's population.

As we mostly know, agriculture is broadly divided into four sectors in Nigeria—crop production, fishing, livestock and forestry. Crop production remains the largest segment and it accounts for about 87.6% of the sector's total output. This is followed by livestock, fishing and forestry at 8.1%, 3.2% and 1.1% respectively.



Abubakar

Agriculture remains the largest sector in Nigeria contributing an average of 24% to the nation's GDP over seven years (2013 – 2019). In addition, the sector employs more than 36% of the country's labour force, a feat which ranks the sector as the largest employer of labour in the country.

In recent times, the sector has been having a whole lot of challenges especially lack of access to finance. To mitigate that, the government has provided several facilities through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) such as the Anchor Borrower's Programme which helps provide small scale farmers with adequate financing. This is however grossly inadequate.

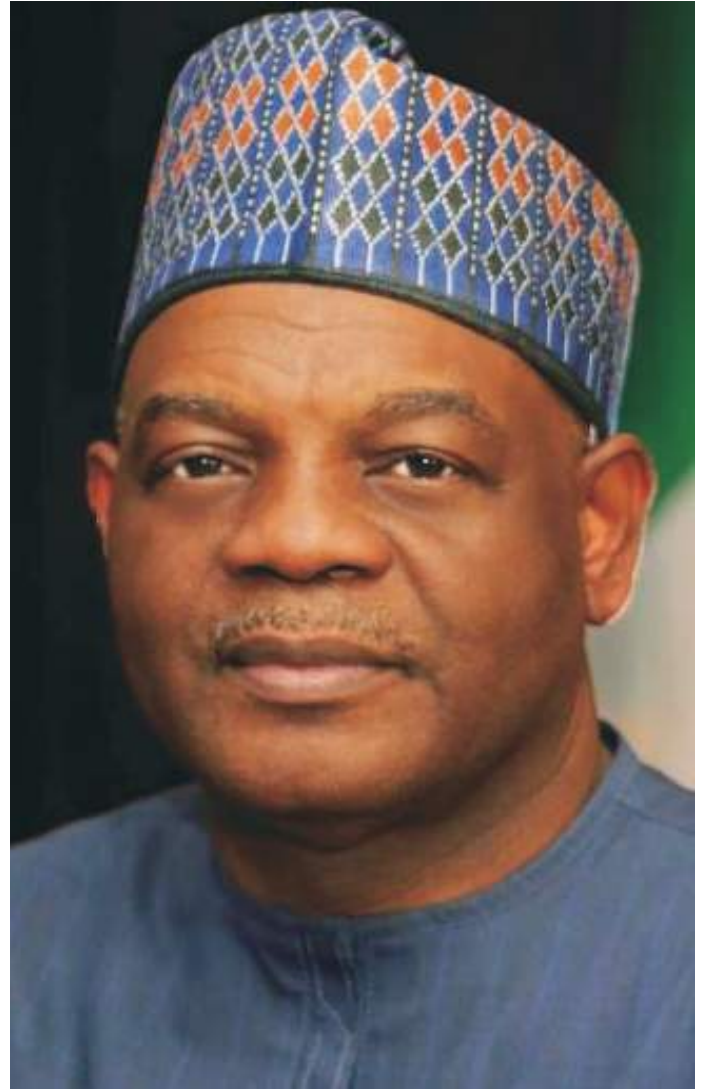
Outdated methods of agriculture such as the use of hoes and cutlasses reduce efficiency as these methods are costly and time consuming. Nigeria's failure to adopt advanced mechanised systems has reduced the quality of its agricultural products. Violent conflicts due to desertification and water depletion in the northern part of Nigeria is a big problem. Nomadic herdsmen are now shifting towards the southern part of the country in search of grazing fields and water for their animals and this has resulted in clashes with crop farmers in the south,

thereby causing food producing states to decline in output. Resource shortages is another big challenge because over the past years, Nigeria has dealt with very low yields per hectare due to shortages in the supply of inputs such as seedlings and fertilisers as well as inadequate irrigation and harvesting systems, which hinders productivity and yield rates. And lastly, with a population of roughly 200 million people, Nigeria's agricultural productivity is insufficient to meet the food demand of its growing population, thus increasing the demand and supply gap in Nigeria.

As part of efforts to reverse this trend and cause a transformation in the nation's agricultural sector, the Federal Government, through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), recently struck a partnership deal with Brazil and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

This deal was sealed at the First Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA) Symposium, held at Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil, with the theme "Pedagogic Retooling Strategy for Africa's Agricultural Research and Innovation System: Lessons from Brazil."

The essence of the deal is for



Echono

Nigerian institutions like TETFund to be able to send young students to Brazil to study how it was able to use agriculture to drive its economy into the stage it is at the moment. Already TETFund is currently sponsoring about 120 scholars who are running their Masters and PhD programmes in Brazil with the sole objective of under-studying their Agricultural Revolution Policy and its impact on the national

economy. This latest agreement would therefore empower TETFund to be able to do more of this.

Nigeria stands to benefit a lot from this collaboration, considering the advantage of similarities the two countries have in climate, ecology, and types of crops, which means that whatever grows in Brazil will also grow in Nigeria.

Source: Economic Confidential

"Strong, efficient and productive agricultural sector has the capacity to enable a country feed its growing population, export and earn foreign exchange, generate employment and provide raw materials for industries. The agricultural sector has the potential to be the industrial and economic platforms from which the speedy development of a country can take off. Through agriculture, environmental benefits such as sustainable management and renewal of natural resources, preservation of biodiversity, land conservation as well as contribution to the development and viability of rural areas can be derived. At micro and macro levels, the agricultural sector is strategically positioned to have a high multiplier effect on any nation's quest for socio-economic and industrial development."



Business & Economy

“FG spends N1.243trn monthly on fuel subsidy”

The amount spent as subsidy by the Federal Government on every litre of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, consumed in Nigeria is currently above N600, oil sector operators stated this recently.

Also, the latest PMS evacuation data obtained from the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) on Sunday showed that the year-to-date daily consumption of petrol in Nigeria was 66.8 million litres.

Going by the above figure from the NNPC, it, therefore, implies that the Federal Government spends about N40.1bn daily when subsidising every litre of petrol consumed in Nigeria by at least N600. This also means that the government is spending about N1.243trn on fuel subsidy every month. Oil marketers told our correspondent that the cost of petrol (if not subsidised as done in Nigeria) was often higher than the cost of Automotive Gas Oil, popularly known as diesel. They said diesel price was currently between N800 and N850/litre, while the approved subsidised pump price of petrol had remained at N165/litre. Diesel is not subsidised.

Based on this, it implies that the federal government through NNPC currently spends nothing less than N600 as subsidy on every litre of petrol consumed across the country.

“The cost of petrol in Nigeria is about the cheapest in the world. And this is because of subsidy. The subsidy is not small, it is so great,” the Deputy National President, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, Zarma Mustapha, told our correspondent.

He added, “Diesel is going for about N850/litre currently because there is no subsidy on it. And this means petrol price should be almost same price if not for subsidy.”

Zarma explained that this humungous subsidy spending by the government through NNPC was unsustainable, stressing that the crisis in the downstream oil sector was now affecting retail outlets seriously.

He said, “Many independent marketers who were selling at the N165/litre price have closed shop over time because it is not sustainable and is killing our businesses.”

“So with the current dynamics going on in the



Kyari

industry, it is not realistic to sell PMS at N165/litre. I want to tell you one thing, in the whole world there is no place that petrol is being sold at the price we are selling it in Nigeria.”

NNPC has been the sole importer of petrol into Nigeria for several years. The oil firm has continued to shoulder the burden of subsidy over these years, a development that has been making it unable to make monthly remittances to the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee.

Also speaking on the burden of fuel subsidy on the economy, the President, Petroleum Products Retail Outlets Owners Association of Nigeria, Billy Gillis-Harry, told our correspondent that the subsidy regime was no longer sustainable.

“You can’t buy petrol at a high price and sell this low. Crude oil is about \$130/barrel, the cost of fuel, if you hear it, you will run away; but you are selling at N165/litre. So definitely you don’t expect money to remain for government to run other activities when it spends heavily on subsidy,” he stated.

In June last year, the NNPC helmsman had explained that the cost of petrol should be more than the N280/litre price of diesel as at that time.

Kyari had stated that organised smuggling was the reason for the huge petrol consumption volume in Nigeria, stressing that the low petrol price in the country was also an incentive for this.

The NNPC boss had said, “Today we are paying N162/litre (for petrol). I am sure many people buy AGO (diesel) in the market and it is selling at N280/litre in the market today.”

“So (there is) nowhere in the

world diesel sells more expensive than PMS. That means that the price of petrol anywhere in the world, assuming you are going to sell it at the market, you are going to sell it above that price you have seen.”

Nigeria's PZ Cussons profit hit 277% amidst inflation

PZ Cussons Nig Plc has released its Q4 2021/22 unaudited results for the period ended May 31, 2022, recording a profit of N758.37 million, representing an 11.71% increase year on year.

The company's performance follows a year of high inflation in which consumers and businesses both had to deal with rising costs of products and services. As a result, buyers now pay more for the same amount of goods.

PZ makes money when it sells household and personal/body care products, as well as electrical items such as air conditioners, amongst others. The company also makes money from scrap sales and rental income, not excluding profit from disposal and impairment of fixed assets.

A close look at the result reveals that the company's profit was driven by a significant rise in the company's main business segments – the sale of home and personal care products and durable electrical appliances.

These segments delivered revenue of N25.50 billion during the period compared to N22.60 billion in the same period last year. Revenue growth from the segments was at 12.85% year on year. Meanwhile, from year-to-date, that is Q1-Q4 2022, the company reported a profit of N6.40 billion, reflecting an increase of 277.45% compared to the corresponding period of 2021.

Likewise, Revenue for the period was supported by sales in the company's

The federal government has announced plans to strengthen Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission to make the country's capital market competitive on the global stage.

The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed made the commitment in Abuja, when she received the Revised Nigerian Capital Market Master Plan (2021-2025).

The plan was submitted to the minister by the Capital Market Master Plan Implementation Council (Cammic) led by the Director General of SEC, Lamido Yuguda and other top officials of the commission.

The minister said the review of the Capital Market Master Plan underscores the fact that capital market growth resonates with the current administration's unwavering commitment to deepening and re-positioning the country's financial markets as a key anchor to achieving a private sector-led development of the economy as encapsulated in the National Development Plan objectives.

Ahmed commended the Securities and Exchange Commission, Capital Market Masterplan Implementation Committee and other

... pledges support to strengthen capital market

stakeholders for the laudable accomplishments so far recorded in the Master Plan implementation journey.

The SEC DG who spoke at the event said through the implementation of the 10-year Nigeria Capital Market Master Plan (2015 – 2025), the commission and other stakeholders have recorded significant milestones over the years.

Yuguda listed some of them to include full dematerialisation of certificates, direct cash settlement, recapitalisation of CMOs, E-Dividend Mandate Management System, National Savings Strategy to grow domestic risk capital formation, the Roadmap on Enhancing Commodities Trading Ecosystem, the establishment of the West African Securities Regulators Association (WASRA) to encourage the integration of capital markets in West Africa, among others.

He says the Master Plan document recommends a periodic review of the assumptions, goals and objectives of the plan to better align it with current realities and innovations in the global financial system.

As part of the review, he said the commission embarked on a comprehensive review of the plan, driven by PriceWaterHouseCoopers with funding support from Financial Sector Deepening Africa (FSDA).

Also speaking at the event, the Chairman of CAMMIC, Olutola Mobolurin who was represented by Dr Sulaiman Adedotun noted, “The world as we know it has changed since 2015 and we cannot continue to rely on a plan that we made since then.”

“Technology, in particular, has remained a major driving force for change and disruption, not to talk of the seismic disruption that was on the global national economy by the global pandemic.” He said we must articulate a plan to utilise the opportunity presented by fintech, and the reverse master plan has taken care of that adding that without a good referee, the market cannot operate efficiently.

He further urged the federal government to examine SEC's financial sustainability, in order to ensure that it is able and fit to regulate and develop capital markets for the long term.

segments, generating a total of N100.04 billion.

Revenue for the prior year was N82.5 billion representing a 21% increase year on year. The company did not provide a breakdown of the components its revenues.

The company also closed the year with a strong cash flow of N52.8 billion, significantly

more than its entire equity of N39.9 billion.

It however has a trade payable of N57.8 billion and trade debtors of N7.1 billion suggesting most of the cash belongs to its creditors.

PZ Cussons Nig Plc had earlier this year declared interim dividend of N0.25kobo for the year

ending May 2022. Earnings per share for the period was recorded as N1.61, a 335% increase compared to N0.37 recorded in 2021.

Since the company started the year at N6.10 per share, PZ Cussons Plc shares closed at N11.25, having returned over 84.4% from year to date.

Importation of raw sugar gulps N410.6bn

Raw sugar to the tune of N410.6 billion was imported to Nigeria in one calendar cycle from the second quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2022, reports by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) have disclosed.

The commodity, which is the main ingredient for sugar production in the country and among the list of commodities on the foreign exchange restriction list of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), according to the reports, has consistently recorded among the top 10 goods imported, mainly from Brazil.

A breakdown of each quarter indicates that the commodity, termed “Cane sugar specified in Sub-Heading Note 2 to Chapter 17, meant for sugar refinery” indicated that N114bn was imported from Brazil and Andorra in the second quarter of 2021; while N135bn was used to import it from the same countries in the third quarter of 2021.

However, its importation dropped to N85.3bn and N81.5bn in Q4 2021 and Q1 2022 respectively.

Economic Confidential reports that the drop may be connected to the renewed drive to ensure that the four sugar companies that refine the product in the country

adhere to a quota system in the importation of the commodity to accelerate local production.

Recall that with Nigeria lacking the capacity to produce large scale sugar cane plantations to use in producing sugar that would meet up with consumption, the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP) was launched in 2013, christened Backward Integration Project (BIP). Its launch was to help stop the importation of refined sugar.

With two decades down the line, its objective has been partially achieved with the birth of Dangote Sugar Refinery, BUA Sugar Refinery and Golden Sugar Refinery.

According to the Executive Secretary/Chief Executive of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Mr Zacch Adedeji, their existence has led to the country refining 3.5m metric tonnes of sugar, a figure that doubles what is consumed in the country.

With Nigeria having a large market for the commodity, the companies spend more to import raw sugar used in refining it, thereby not enabling the utmost success of the BIP which has the intention of limiting importation of the commodity,

as well as creating millions of jobs for Nigerians.

But compliance was not adhered to judiciously, thus Mr Adedeji, at a meeting in February, announced to the sugar companies that subsequent quota for allocation of raw sugar would no longer depend on the size of refining capacity but the extent to which operators had complied with the BIP policy.



Adebayo



Business & Economy

Digital identity management and national economies

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Pantami has announced that Nigeria is making progress in building a digital economy through the implementation of the National Identification Number (NIN). The Minister stated this at the ID4Africa 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Morocco. FOM GYEM writes

It is for this reason that Pantami urged fellow African countries attending the ID4Africa 2022 AGM to prioritize data privacy and protection in securing foundational Identity systems toward achieving stable and thriving national digital economies across the continent.

ID4Africa, a non-governmental organization (NGO), was founded in 2014 to accompany African countries on their journeys to develop robust and responsible identity ecosystems in the service of development and humanitarian aid.

Annually, ID4Africa hosts an AGM in a different African country to bring all identity stakeholders under one roof and provide the continent with a long-term voice on identity issues.

The objective of the AGM is to give the continent a sustainable voice on identity matters. This is where African governments meet physically to jointly explore how digital identity and allied services can advance socio-economic development in their countries, and the international community is able to participate to advance discussions.

A key component of ID4Africa's activities is the AGM which is an important engagement tool that provides the community with the mechanisms for information dissemination, networking, and collaborations.

ID4Africa paves the way for the responsible adoption of digital identity systems that not only empower millions of people who currently have no identity but also support state service delivery and promote the emergence of revenue generation through identity.

"Therefore, it is crucial to comprehend each entity participating in the value chain, their unique requirements, and the difficulties each user experience presents. What is evident is that practically all governmental and business organizations now prioritize digital identity at the top of their digital agendas. In order to interact with their residents, clients, and suppliers in the manner they want, they must have a defined plan for this sector."



Pantami

The organisation is an ID-4-All movement with representation from African governments, development agencies, and industry to develop robust digital ID ecosystems. It combines the two most powerful platforms, the physical annual meetings and virtual live feeds, to create the first-of-its-kind augmented conferencing experience, dubbed Augmented General Meeting by the ID4Africa community.

The ID4Africa 2022 AGM, held over two days in Marrakesh, Morocco, on June 15 and 16, with two special summation and wrap-up live streams on June 28 and 30. In a nutshell, the AGM begins with a physical event and ends with a virtual one. ID4Africa 2022 is centred on the theme "Identity in

Context: The Digital Transformation Journey Begins".

The field of digital identity is one that is always evolving, with a lot of activity currently taking place and quick technology advancements in a complex sector that poses problems for both individuals and corporations. Because the advancement in this field is still in its early stages, there is a lack of universal standards or comprehensive solutions to satisfy every need.

Therefore, it is crucial to comprehend each entity participating in the value chain, their unique requirements, and the difficulties each user experience presents. What is evident is that practically all governmental and business organizations now prioritize digital identity at the top of their digital agendas. In order to interact with their residents, clients, and suppliers in the manner they want, they must have a defined plan for this sector.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 494 million individuals lack formal identification. As a result, officials across Sub-Saharan Africa are rapidly investing in biometric digital identification (ID) systems and digital technology with transformative potential.

Digitizing ID systems has the ability to expand access to

universally valid proof of identity, which is frequently required for citizens to gain access to basic government services and live a decent life. Digital IDs can have a wide range of transformative effects, but there is little solid research on how to best use them. Digital identity will probably develop in the context of several ecosystems.

The ecosystem, which embodies the diversity of digital identities, is present at one level (such as what one finds in digital identity federation, distributed identity, or even the e-commerce of sector-specific digital identities operating in silos). There are ecosystems at a different level, which are made up of service delivery platforms supported by digital identities. These are the foundations on which several economies will be developed.

There are already a large number of service ecosystems that rely on digital identification, and they have shown to have compelling value propositions, which is encouraging for scaling and sustainability. To mention a few, these include gig economies (short-term/freelance jobs), agritech, healthtech, Edtech, cleantech, and e-commerce ecosystems.

Consumers will find it difficult to access services online without these

platforms, and service providers—whether in the public or private sectors. They will find it challenging to embrace new, more successful business models for providing reliable and affordable services.

African nations agree that the ID4Africa Movement is playing a vital role in helping them to overcome these challenges.

Nigerian Ambassador at ID4Africa Movement, Godswill Chinemerem Ukauwa, summed up the current situation when he said, "African countries' identity management systems are characterized by lack of continuity in agenda, cynicism, inconsistency, technological backwardness, absence of digitalized identity registration, vulnerable class, and lack of access to some rural areas, the political instability that may derail existing agendas due to party interests, non-compliance to development agencies' programme, and much more."

"Hopefully, by the end of the AGM, Nigeria and indeed the African continent will have a more unique role in coordinating activities that will benefit the whole of Africa and its citizens in other to have a more stable digital identity system".

Source: Economic Confidential

Politics

Ansaru bans political activities in Kaduna communities

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

A group, Birnin-Gwari Emirate Progressives' Union, (BEPU) of Kaduna State, North West Nigeria has cried out that Ansaru terrorists group has banned political activities in many communities in the Eastern part of Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of the state.

This is just as the adherents are reportedly calling for the establishment of an Islamic state

A statement signed by the Union's Chairman, Ishaq Usman Kasai and made available to newsmen, indicates that the group has continued to gain strength in the area whereby locals, particularly the youth are being recruited.

"Infact the group continues to gain acceptance from many members of the communities particularly in Old Kuyello and Damari of Kazage Ward.

"Even this week, two members of the group were engaged for wedding with two girls and will be tying the nuptial knots by the coming Saturday.

"The Ansaru (grooms) laid down some rules to the in-laws for the wedding. They ruled that, after the wedding, they will take the brides to the forests and live there with them and do not want the bride's to go along with any furniture except plates (coolers) and mattresses because anything other than that, is not in tandem with their beliefs and convictions."

It said the Union noted with dismay that the locals who have joined the group are afraid to live in the town because of the fear that they could be arrested by the police or security agencies.

According to BEPU "the clarion call among the newly recruits, is for the establishment of an Islamic state.

"The Ansaru and the newly recruits are of the belief that their numerical strength will help them to bring the present democratic government down.

"Presently, the Ansaru are going round distributing memory cards to the locals which contains their beliefs and doctrine.

"A disturbing scenario is where the group banned all political activities in many communities such as Damari of Kazage Ward. Politicians from these communities have to go far away secretly to the neighboring communities before they hold political meetings.

"For instance, this week an okada rider who lives in Unguwar Makera of Kazage Ward was seen with a sticker of one of the candidates vying for the Kaduna State House of Assembly and he was thoroughly beaten by the



el-Rufai

Ansaru.

"People in these communities are now disenchanted and frustrated about participating in political activities.

"We don't know how the coming elections will take place in those areas. Because even the last local government election did not hold in the area due to the escalating insecurity which made the election results to be declared inconclusive and a Sole Administrator was appointed overseeing the affairs of the local government up to now.

"In short, the Ansaru are now in charge of many of the communities in the area and the group is expanding its occupation. They now call the shots and determine what is to be done in the villages they are dominating.

"Those among the locals who are interested in joining the group are increasing. Those who have joined already used to come back to the communities and take those interested to the

forests to spend days for indoctrination. When they come back, they usually narrate that, the Ansaru members used to tell them to go and join them to fight Government and democracy in order to install Islamic State.

"We are disturbed that despite the worrisome development, no meaningful response from authorities. Even recently when our people were attacked and 8 cars were burnt and scores of our people were kidnapped on Birnin-Gwari to Kaduna Road, nothing has been done by the Government. Government has never acknowledge the incident or sympathize with our community.

"Our communities are being attacked, people kidnapped and killed daily without a response, acknowledgement or report from government.

"We call on Government to please organise a coordinated security operation both aerial and ground to the hideouts of these criminals in our forests in order to flush them and

Lawmaker present car to 5 Loaves

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

SENATOR I. D Gyang, of Plateau North Senatorial District has presented an OPEL ZAFIRA car to 5 loaves gospel music crew, to support their ministry.

Gyang had during the 5 Loaves Album Launch at Zang Secondary School Bukuru on Sunday 17/04/22, announced the donation of a car to support the group's evangelism ministry.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Special Assistant on media to Senator Gyang, Precious Nyako.

The Senator while presenting the Car to the group in Jos on Saturday 25th, June 2022, through his Senior Legislative Aide,



Gyang

Hon. Daniel Dem accompanied by other staff, said, the gesture is to promote the commendable evangelism activities of the group.

In his speech having received the car, the Leader of the group, Mr. Davou

THE Executive Chairman of Qua'an Pan Local Government Council, Plateau State, Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a has enjoined eligible voters in the locality to take advantage of the two days public holiday declared by the state government to register and acquire their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs).

He made the appeal in a statement issued and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** newspapers, Jos by his Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs, Stephen Sarki Musa.

He also called on the eligible voters to continue to patronize the designated Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) continuous voters registration centers for the registration exercise and cautioned them against waiting until the last minute.

According to him, with the two days public holiday and the extension of time by INEC for Continuous Voters Registration exercise, he appeals to all eligible voters to turn out in their numbers to register and obtain their PVC, the chairman said.

The statement added that the advantages of obtaining the cards are numerous, as it creates opportunities for choices in election of credible

Katsina Varsity disowns "one-man" protester

From Ibrahim Suleiman Ingawa, Katsina

The Federal University Dutsin-Ma ((FUDMA), Katsina State said that Lawal Abba, the "one-man" protester, who carried a placard to register his displeasure over the ongoing ASUU nationwide strike, was not a registered student of the institution.

This is contained in a statement issued by Malam Habibu Aminu, Public Relations Officer (PRO), of the University in Katsina on Tuesday.

"Abba, is not a student of the University. He is rather, a ghost student who said he was disturbed by the

ongoing national ASUU strike.

"His claims that he has been pursuing a Bsc Degree for a four-year programme due to incessant strike actions, is completely false, baseless, unfounded and misleading.

"To any sane person such claims wouldn't have desired a reply because they may just be a waste of time but for

the benefit of setting the record straight and clearing the name of our exalted citadel institution I on compelled to clear such unwarranted statement which are just full of lies and figment of his imagination. "The university management is urging the media not to publish unverified stories," the management said.

Da'a enjoins eligible voters to register

By DANLADI DUK

leaders in the 2023 and subsequent elections in the country.

Hon. Da'a commended the independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, for listening to the voices of the people by extending the period of the exercise. And

appealed to them to provide more facilities and personnel to meet up with the upsurge in the number of people coming out for the exercise.

The chairman also called on traditional and religious leaders to join the various authorities of Government in educating and mobilizing their wards towards the success of the exercise



Da'a

ongoing national ASUU strike.

"His claims that he has been pursuing a Bsc Degree for a four-year programme due to incessant strike actions, is completely false, baseless, unfounded and misleading.

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the benefit of setting the record straight and clearing the name of our exalted citadel institution I on compelled to clear such unwarranted statement which are just full of lies and figment of his imagination. "The university management is urging the media not to publish unverified stories," the management said.

Bello swears-in new Kogi CJ

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, on Monday, sworn-in the newly appointed acting Chief Judge of the state, Justice Josiah Mejebi with a charge to strive to perform his duties without fear or favour.

Governor Bello while performing the ceremony at the Lugard House, Lokoja, also charged the erudite jurist to ensure quick dispensation of justice in the state.

He described the Chief Judge as a man of impeccable character and urged him to sustain the feat.

He promised that his administration will give him necessary support and enabling environment to perform his duties without interference.

Responding, Justice Mejebi assured the governor that he will

deliver on his constitutional responsibility to the expectations of the citizens of the state.

"In addition I will endeavour to uphold the tenet of an unbiased judiciary under my watch" the new CJ further promised.



Bello

Politics

Lawmakers rescind on decision for direct primaries

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja

THE Senate and the House of Representatives have recinded the decision to make direct primaries compulsory for use by political parties in the choice of candidates for elections in the country. But differed slightly on the method of congress approved for adoption by parties.

The Senate reversed itself on the use of direct primaries and stated that political parties can adopt either direct, indirect or consensus options in the nomination of their candidates for elections.

The Senate while announcing its decision during plenary said it was opting for different options to ensure that the conduct of the party primaries move smoothly using any options suitable for each political party.

The Senate said it amended clause 84 of the contentious Electoral Bill to include direct, indirect and consensus options of



Lawal

nominating party candidates for party elections.

On its part, the House of Representatives also adopted only the direct and indirect means of primaries for political parties but voted against the use of consensus option to pick party flag bearers.

The provision of both the direct and indirect method of primaries was the original provision in the extant law of the Electoral Act of 2010, before the National

Assembly, in the course of amending the Electoral Act, decided to expunge the indirect primary mode from the bill before forwarding it to President Buhari for assent.

The Electoral Bill, however, ran into troubled water late last year when President Buhari withheld assent citing the impracticability of the direct primary mode at this time and the burden it would place on political parties in the country.

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Chairman of the Peoples Democracy Party (PDP) in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Hon. Aliyu Babayo has observed that the current political blunders and undemocratic tendencies being exhibited by the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) in both the state and the country clearly shows that the party cannot be trusted by Nigerians again for any leadership responsibilities.

Making an overview about the outcome of the various primary elections conducted by the APC in many places that resulted to gale of defections and disagreements here and there within the party while speaking with newsmen in Keffi during the weekend, Babayo contended that the party is not prepared to lead as such it should be totally rejected by Nigerians come 2023 general elections.

Given the rate of mess, high degree of political

Chairman questions APC leadership responsibilities



Sule

blunders as well as enhancing our electoral indemocratic practices by fortunes come 2023" he the ruling party it clearly asserted.

Babayo who re-assured Nigerians that the PDP is now fully back on track and very much ready to take over the mantle of leadership, urged all politically minded people that have the desire and sense of patriotism and love for Nigeria to pitch their tent with the party so as to collectively work and salvage the country from the current mess and insensitivity to the plight of the citizens.

He stated that now the party is on the path of restoring its lost glories and fully prepared to clinch all the available political offices given the ways and manner in which it peacefully and successfully conducted its primary elections all over the country.

On the forthcoming general elections in the country, the Chairman expressed his optimism that his party would come up victorious especially that it was lucky to pres

Ent to Nigerians a quality Presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar and other Governorship as well as the National and State's Assemblies candidates.

He therefore solicited for the support and cooperation of all Nigerians to enable his party bounce back and receive the mantle of leadership in the country again.

Speaking about the current spate of insecurity facing some parts of the country, the PDP Chairman assured that his party has the capacity to address the situation if elected as such he advised all Nigerians to use their opportunity to reverse the situations for good.

However many people spoken to said such a bill was of no effect since it will not change the poverty situation the people are faced with.

Bello signs VAPP Bill into Law



Bello

THE Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello has finally signed the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill into law.

The Secretary to Kogi State Government, Dr. Folashade Arike Ayoade disclosed this to newsmen in Lokoja on Monday.

Our correspondent gathered that, VAPP Bill has already been signed into law by 32 states of the federation. With the signing of the bill by the Kogi State Governor, only three states are left with the signing of the bill.

Speaking on the signing of the VAPP bill on Monday, the Chairman of the VAPP bill Steering Committee, Mike Abu maintained that the bill has all it takes to protect citizens against violence of any kind. Abu commended Eunice Abimbola Agbogun,

Executive Director, Challenged Parenthood Initiatives, (CPI) for sponsoring the bill. He added that, through her painstaking efforts the bill was passed by the State Assembly.

He further thanked members of the State Steering Committee for their efforts in advocating for the signing into law the VAPP bill.

"The law in summary seeks to protect Women and Children and other person's under the perpetrators care, destitute and without any means of subsistence.

"The law looks at the circumcision of the girl child or women, civil proceedings, damage to property, use of dangerous weapons, domestic relationship and economic abuse.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

" The law looks at emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, forced isolation from family and friends.

The law equally looks at sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual intimidation. "The VAPP Bill also seeks to protect against violence in public sphere which

includes wrongful arrest and detention, use of force without lawful authority, unlawful entry into premises or demolition of property without due processes.

"The law seeks to protect against rape and defines rape as intentional penetration, without consent and when consent is obtained by force".

Adamawa Assembly to ban sale of Ogogoro

From: GYANG PAM, Yola

THE Adamawa State House of Assembly plans to ban the sale and consumption of illegal gin popularly called ogogoro in the state.

The House also plans to stop the cultivation of Indian hemp which it says has had a lot of negative effect on its citizens.

The Bill was sponsored by member representing Guyuk Constituency, Honourable Adwawa Donglock.

The bill tagged, 'a bill for a law to prohibit the production of illicit gin, cultivation of Indian hemp and the abuse of local substances and



Fintiri

provide for matters incidental thereto'.

Our Correspondent reports that it is very common seeing people especially youths consuming these assorted brands of gins along the highways.

Most of the people care less about the danger the gins have on their health.

However many people spoken to said such a bill was of no effect since it will not change the poverty situation the people are faced with.

IMAGES

INEC REGISTRATION EXERCISE 2022

The Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently declared Monday and Tuesday as public holiday in the state to observe the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Permanent Voters Cards registration for those from 18yrs and above. THE NIGERIA STANDARD newspapers reporter and photographer went round Jos North and Jos South LGAs to monitor the compliance of the exercise



Plateau State Governor, represented by the Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (left), exchanging views with the representative of INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner in the state, Hussaini Halilu Pai in her office in Jos



Members of the security agencies controlling crowd at the Jos North INEC office



A cross section of INEC staff sorting out PVCs ready for collection at its Jos South office



Mr. Emmanuel Fayor, Electoral Officer of Jos South answering questions



One of the persons being captured at the of the INEC office during monitoring of the exercise



Potential voters waiting patiently to register or collect their PVCs



Hon. Ezekiel Shina Agada, Deputy Chairman of Jos North LGC answering questions from reporters



A mammoth crowd waiting for their turn at the Jos South INEC Office

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Politics

APC VP: As group echoes Lalong's name

THE leadership qualities of the Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, Hon Simon Bako Lalong, the Plateau State Governor, has echoed, as a group under the auspices of Northern Nigeria's Front for Equity and Good Governance strongly kicked against agitations for Muslim – Muslim ticket as the only way for victory for the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2023 presidential election, describing the position as misleading and very unfortunate. JOHN FWAH, writes.

THE Northern group in an elaborate Press Conference in Kaduna recently said the positions of those persons are not only incorrect, but an attempt to mislead the good people of the Northern region into thinking that religion or ethnicity is the major determining factor for the voting pattern of the North

To demonstrate how untrue such positions of religion are, one can give a good example with the current leadership of the Northern Governors Forum which is chaired by the Governor of Plateau State Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong who happens to be a Christian amidst his colleagues who are majorly Muslims.

"Again, such very unfortunate voices seem to destroy the foundation of unity, oneness and equity which the founding fathers of the region toiled for", they said.

The group which was represented at the Press Conference held at the Kaduna State NUJ Council secretariat, by its President Zakariya Abdul'aziz, General Secretary Mr. Moses Ladan Auta and the Publicity Secretary Bashir Bala Mustapha, respectively noted that the position of Muslim-Muslim ticket is divisive, careless and callous. "For some persons to say that the choice of a Christian from the North will not guarantee Northern votes for certain political parties.

"Again, such very unfortunate voices seem to destroy the foundation of unity, oneness and equity which the founding fathers of the region toiled for", they said. "As a group, we are very concerned and disturbed by the utterances of some few voices that have attempted to push out their narratives (using religion and ethnicity) under the guise of speaking for the North over the choice of political party candidates and their running mates.

"In particular, we find it very divisive, careless and callous for some persons to say that



Tinubu



Lalong

the choice of a Christian from the North will not guarantee Northern votes for certain political parties.

"For instance, they have brazenly and openly said that only the choice of a Muslim from the North as running mate to candidate of the ruling party can guarantee the votes of the North.

"In other words, they are saying that a Muslim-Muslim ticket is the only way to victory for the ruling party. This is misleading and very unfortunate.

"The position is not only incorrect, but an attempt to mislead the good people of the region into thinking that religion or ethnicity is the major determining factor for the voting pattern of the North. Again, such very unfortunate voices seem to destroy the foundation of unity, oneness and equity which the founding fathers of the region toiled for.

"To demonstrate how untrue such positions of religion are, one can give an example with the current leadership of the Northern Governors Forum which is chaired by the

Governor of Plateau State Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong who happens to be a Christian amidst his colleagues that are majorly Muslims.

"Despite that, he has led them well and enjoyed their full cooperation and support. Where then is the religious dichotomy coming from? It is our strong view that this argument is unfair and capable of portraying the North as being politically insensitive in the current effort to conclude the nomination exercise in some political parties.

"Our stand has always been that the North is known to be at the forefront of promoting inclusive politics in the country. Despite some challenges, the North always emerged exceptional in expressing itself as a nationalistic region.

"The recent stand of the Northern Governors Forum led by its Chairman and Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong and political leaders, who insisted on power shift to the Southern part of the country, is a clear demonstration of the patriotism of the Northerners which should not be lost by the

actions and utterances of a few persons. We have always made sacrifices to maintain the unity of the country in spite of obvious pains in some instances.

"In that regard therefore, we insist that justice, equity and fairness must be allowed to prevail in all situations. "To this end, the organisation wishes to make a clarion call for due regard and respect for the country's diversities in fielding candidates for national offices.

"Most importantly, offices of the President and the Vice President of the country require careful thought and balance in the current fragile state of affairs where the main concern is to bring all segments on board. This, when done would sustain the current political balance thereby ensuring peace and harmony.

"While we believe that competence should always be considered, it needs to also be stressed that as a result of the perceived attempt to neglect the critical aspect of justice and fairness in building our national unity, some actors are trying to overheat the polity. "Others who are sensing exclusion on the grounds of faith or ethnicity are also agitated. This ought not to be so because the North has respected and supported power sharing arrangements (written and unwritten) overtime", they said.

The group therefore called on the political leaders to, as a matter of national concern, demonstrate appropriate patriotism and make

necessary sacrifices to maintain peace, promote unity and stability in the country by insisting on fairness, equity and justice for all people irrespective of their faith, ethnicity, state of origin and others", adding "The North is one and we must remain united.

"The North has done justice and fairness to other parts of the country; it is therefore imperative that such should be seen within it in terms of equal opportunities to all. We have no doubts in our minds that our leaders are mindful of this and do not have to wait to be served a reminder to do the needful.

"While we appeal for calm and decorum on the part of all, citizens and leaders alike, we reiterate our call to religious, political, traditional and community leaders in the North to bring their voices to the fore in stopping the very toxic narrative by a few selfish voices who are bent on creating divisive tendencies in the Northern region.

"For equity and fairness in handling sensitive issues that have a bearing on our peaceful coexistence and shared prosperity, inclusion should be our collective pursuit as against exclusion", it added.

According to them the unity which puts the general good above personal and group interests was initiated and sustained by their revered father, the Sardauna of Sokoto and Premier of the Northern Region, the Late Sir Ahmadu Bello; late Sir Kashim Ibrahim; Late J.S. Tarka and a host of others in spite of political, ethnic and religious differences.

"The group which was represented at the Press Conference held at the Kaduna State NUJ Council secretariat, by its President Zakariya Abdul'aziz, General Secretary Mr. Moses Ladan Auta and the Publicity Secretary Bashir Bala Mustapha, respectively noted that the position of Muslim-Muslim ticket is divisive, careless and callous. "For some persons to say that the choice of a Christian from the North will not guarantee Northern votes for certain political parties".

NEWS

NHRC calls for torture, degrading treatments eradication

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE National Human Rights Commission NHRC has called for the eradication of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment meted out on citizens by security and law enforcement personnel.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Chief Tony Ojukwu, SAN, made this call in Abuja Over the weekend as Nigeria joins the rest of the world to commemorate the 2022 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The Day is observed on 26 June every year.

The Executive Secretary called on security agencies to desist from any form of torture inhuman and degrading treatment while carrying out their operations, urging them to embrace international best practices in conducting investigations which according to him gives high regard to respect for human rights. Ojukwu equally expressed concern over private citizens' involvement in this ugly practice, describing it as deeply disturbing to the Commission.

According to the Chief Human Rights Officer, "the international event is significant because it provides the opportunity to reassess the conduct of law enforcement agencies, groups, and individuals in order to ensure that they operate within the ambit of national, regional, or international law.

The Senior Advocate of Nigeria disclosed that violation of the right to freedom from torture and ill-treatment has remained one of Nigeria's highest recorded human rights violations. "A good number of the complaints treated by the Commission during the Independent Investigative Panel on Alleged Human Rights Violations by Officers of the disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad and other Units of the Nigeria Police relates to several



Farouq

incidents of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the Police, our records are there to show," he said.

He further stated that the commission has conducted several trainings and developed manuals on mainstreaming human rights in the operations of the law enforcement officials including those involved in counter-insurgency operations in the northeast. Similarly, he said the commission has embarked on a series of advocacy visits and conducted inspections in detention facilities across the country to ensure that their operations are in line with international human rights standards. "Where we are not satisfied with what we observe, we make recommendations to appropriate authorities for improvement" Ojukwu added.

Finally, the Human Rights boss called on the government to up its game in providing the needed security to everyone living in Nigeria in order to protect them from falling victims of the dreaded kidnap activities which have recently become the order of the day,

expressing concern that many victims have lost their lives as a result of the inhuman treatment in which they are subjected to. "The government must put a mechanism in place to get rid of these syndicates and prosecute those of them that have been arrested to serve as a deterrent to others" he added.

Bauchi LGA boss assures communitie of justice

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE Chairman, Bauchi Local Government Council, Hon. Mahmood Baba Ma'aji has assured communities of Kofar Dumi Ta Gabas and Kofar Dumi Ta Kasa of Majidadi B that his council would exhibit justice in the planned construction of water drainage cutting across the two wards.

Hon. Mahmood Baba Ma'aji was speaking while being conducted

A Northern group, the Coalition For Peace and Progress says the best suited person to hold the position of Vice President under the APC government is Hon Yakubu Dogara, the former Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives.

The National Coordinator of the group, Dr. Muhammad Chindo, during a Press conference at NUJ Kaduna State Council secretariat, said, "we of the coalition for peace and progress, have unanimously come to the conclusion that the best person most suited to hold the position of the future Vice President under the APC, is none other than the Rt. Honourable Yakubu Dogara, former Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives of Nigeria."

He said, the coalition took into considerations a number of factors in arriving at the group's decision to pick Rt Honourable Yakubu Dogara as running mate

Coalition for Peace, Progress endorses Dogara for VP

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

to Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

"It is imperative that the future Vice President must be a Christian who could transcend primordial sentiments bordering on religion, and

the twin evils of tribalism and sectionalism. Such a person must also be a good Christian who could promote the cause of unity and togetherness among the diverse and heterogeneous citizens of our great country."



Dogara

2023 census: NPC to use field functionaries for trials

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE National Population Commission, (NPC) has said that it is going to use a total of 13,500 field functionaries for the upcoming trial census in Nigeria.

The field functionaries comprises of 11,510 Enumerators, 1,529

Supervisors and 823 facilities for the trial Census toward 2023 population and Housing Census.

The Chairman National Population Commission, Nasir Isa Kwarrar made this known during the flag off ceremony of state level trial Census training in Lokoja, Kogi State.

The chairman who was represented by the Federal

commissioner of the Commission in Kogi State, Professor Jimoh Habibat Isah said, the trial Census will cover thirty six states and federal capital territory.

He assured that the trial census will be carried out meticulously, professionally and scientifically to provide a good foundation for the smooth conduct of the 2023 population and Housing Census.

He said that six local government areas will be selected from six states in the six geo-political zones of Nigeria for full population enumeration while forty-five EAs shall be selected each from the remaining thirty states and FCT.

"In total, four thousand, six hundred and eight EAs have been selected for this trial census to test run their suitability and readiness for the actual census.

"The quality of the personnel for the trial census has a great impact on its outcome. The need to

properly train the enumerators and supervisors at the state level cannot be over emphasized," he stressed.

According to him, the commission is determined to successfully conduct the trial census in their quest to deliver a credible, reliable, acceptable and verifiable census to the nation.

He further disclosed that the commission has introduced new technologies such as census PAD and CSP to ensure that the upcoming trial census serves as a good rehearsal that will make the 2023 Population and Housing Census credible, reliable and acceptable.

"To ensure that the trial Census does not lose focus in view of predetermined objectives and processes, Monitoring and Evaluation instruments have been developed to assess the extent to which objectives are being met or not and whether the processes are being adhered to or not.

drainage construction that could minimize flooding that has for more than a decade been ravaging inhabitants of the area.

Chairman Baba Ma'aji said he would after the team and stakeholders' decision report to Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed about the flooding ravaging the two communities for the state government's intervention and the way forward on the problem.

Baba Ma'aji described the two Kofar Dumi communities as birds of the same feathers who should bury their minor differences to flock together into the peacefully larger Bauchi society championing its socio-economic, political and cultural development for the benefit of all.

It could be recalled that the Kofar Dumi ta Gabas community Sunday reached a decision to cut-off the state government's newly constructed Kofar Dumi road to provide for water passage following flooding affecting four houses and Jordan Jumu'at Mosque in the ward.

The cutting off of the

Kofar Dumi new road to provide for water flow from the side of Kofar Dumi Gabas was however reacted to by communities from Kofar Dumi Kasa who sought that the flooding would over loaded to them, and who for over a decade been suffering from ravages of annual flooding affecting over 50 houses, as it had four years ago consumed the lives of three school children.

Speaking during the inspection visit to the flood affecting sites, the Ward Head of Kofar Dumi ta Kasa, Alhaji Ibrahim Mai Unguwa said, following the protest Sunday by some people in his domain, he took along with him some elders to the Bauchi council Chairman, Hon. Baba Ma'aji to lodge complaint on the matter.

Alhaji Ibrahim Mai Unguwa commended the sagacity of the council chairman, Hon. Ma'aji for listening to their grievances, where Ma'aji assured of site visit to the affected waterways Monday which they did today, and appealed to people to remain calm for possible solution to the flood problem by the Bauchi LG council.



Bello

News

Lalong did not abandon Plateau for Lagos

PLATEAU State Government has debunked allegations and described as false, some media reports that said Governor Simon Bako Lalong had abandoned governance of his state relocating to Lagos State to lobby for Vice President post.

Government's response to the allegations was given in a statement signed by the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Governor, Dr. Simon Makut Macham.

"The attention of the Governor of Plateau State has been drawn to a story published by Sahara Reporters on its online platform dated 24th June with the caption "How Governor Lalong abandoned Plateau for Lagos, desperately lobbying, squandering state resources to become Tinubu's Running Mate-Sources", which is being consumed and circulated by innocent persons that are unaware of its falsehood, mischief and bad taste" said the statement.

The statement described the report as "The perfect case study for fake news, yellow journalism, and sponsored hatchet job".

According to the statement: "The "Source" also claimed that the Governor is spending billions of the state's funds for the said endeavour".

"But to put the records straight, Governor Lalong has not been to Lagos in the last couple of months. The last time he was in Lagos was during the inauguration of the Dangote Fertilizer Plant and the new Murtala Mohammed International Airport Terminal which was performed by President Muhammadu Buhari and attended by many Governors".

"We challenge the "Source" to come up with the details or at least show pictures of Governor Lalong in the "relocated" part of Lagos if he has any".

"On the contrary, we have many reports of official engagements of the Governor in Jos and Abuja where he performed his official duties that were widely reported by the media. The "source" who perhaps lives on another planet has either chosen to demonstrate total ignorance or go on with his mischief".

The statement referred the public and Sahara Reporters to the official handles of the Government and the Governor's Directorate of Press (https://www.facebook.com/plsgdoppa; https://www.facebook.com/PLSGov) for stories and pictures of the Governor's activities and engagements during the period the allegations were made.

On the "billions" purported to have been spent by the Governor, the statement

By PALANG KASMI

- govt spokesperson

described it as cheap allegations that are without substance, adding that "The "source" could not quote a figure even after the claim of having collaborators at the office of the Accountant General" because it lacks facts to back it up. It is urging members of the public to disregard the fabrication which is totally false and another gimmick sponsored by opponents of the government.

The statement challenged writers of the story for not giving a fair hearing to both sides and advised Sahara Reporters to uphold one of the most basic tenets of journalism which is fair hearing and balanced reporting which demands

that two sides of every story are presented to the public always.

"It is clear that Sahara Reporters has availed the enemies of Lalong their platform for misinformation and mischief. We wish to remind those behind this hatchet job to calm down over Governor Lalong's name being considered for running mate to Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, APC Presidential candidate Stating further "It is not a coincidence or matter of lobby that his name keeps resonating, it's because he fits the post and is ably qualified in his own right".

Based on Lalong's political "Let everyone remember that it is God who gives power to whomsoever he pleases" the statement stressed.



Lalong

Ethnic groups tasked on promoting unity for development

THE Executive Chairman of Bogoro Local Government Council, Hon. Iliya Habila, has admonished all ethnic communities living in the local government area to use their various platforms to promote the unity and development of the area.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Local Government Information Officer, Gomna James and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital after delivering his goodwill message during a football match between Zaar community and Ayaah community of Bogoro LGA.

The Chairman charged the Zaar (sayawa) and Ayaah (Boyawa) two indigenous tribes in Bogoro to contribute to the progress of the local economy saying, "the development of Bogoro LGA will have no positive impact without the cooperation of the existing different ethnic groups living

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

in the area.

"I urge the good people of Bogoro LGA to support the administration of Governor Bala Mohammed towards sustaining the developmental blueprint laid for our dear state", he admonished

He, thanked the organizers of the football match and urged leaders of ethnic groups to sensitise their members on the dangers of disunity and attitudes that breed hatred among them in the area.

Earlier, the branch Chairman of Zaar Youth Development Association (ZAYODA), Comrade Habila Yawa Ndit, said, the objective of the football match was to reactivate the spirit of unity, love for one another and create a platform for more development support in Bogoro LGA and Bauchi State.



Sending wrong signals

THE 2023 elections are around the corner and political activities are gaining momentum. Rallies and political meetings are the order even though it is yet eight months away from when the elections are to be held. It is expected that in the next few weeks, the tempo of political activity would increase and usual hyped up activities would again become the order. Since the conclusion of the primary elections, alliances and realignments have occupied the time of the political gladiators and they have been cautious not to further hurt the many interests that exists so as to alienate the various candidates.

Unfortunately, mundane things that should not have stirred up issues and the things that have occupied political discourse and is threatening to tear apart the disparate groups and interests in the country. What should not have mattered at all seem to be what is central at the moment? All parts of the country are brandishing

“So fighting for and on behalf of God has become the order. The 'mallam yace' would die for what they truly know nothing about. And their rewards? Hunger, disease, kidnapping, banditry, and lack of good quality schools, hospitals and other infrastructure. Yet twenty something years after we have refused to wise up and act like reasonable beings. Again, we would rather travel the part to perdition than change course and redeem ourselves. So long as we allow ourselves to be toyed with we will continue to turn in circles and not get anywhere. We would keep being messed up and accept to continue to wallow in abject poverty rather than carve a niche for ourselves and make progress.”

the religious card. They are threatening hell should their interests not be reflected in the various choices that would be made of the leaders that would govern the country come 2023.

For the moment, issues that have taken the centre stage are not those that would in any way impact on the society positively. Instead, issues that would further polarize the society have become the order. For instance, what value has the Muslim/Christian or Christian/ Muslim ticket added to the country since 1999 when democracy was restored in Nigeria? I dare say none. But that is the way of our country where what matters are our sentiments not what value or quality can be added for the growth of the society. We invest so much energy fighting on behalf of our religion, tribe and region that we forget the real essence of governance.

And because our politics is warped and laced with selfishness, we are not able to develop our potentials. Look at how endowed our country is yet we depend on other less endowed countries for basic provisions. Our democratic experience in the fourth republic is over twenty years, yet we glorify the past rather than making progress. We talk glowingly about what used to be instead of how much we have improved. That is the sad reality that has come to define our present day democracy. Painfully, we seem to have learnt nothing from the past and are not building our institutions in any sustainable manner.

Our education has suffered these past years. As a result, we have failed to do right. This is reflected in the fact that our health institutions have become mere consulting clinics. And, indeed, we have not only lost our value systems but our sense of responsibility have taken flight. Look at our road infrastructure, they are in very deplorable and sorry state even when we churn out engineer's year in and year out from our institutions of learning.

What about other aspects of life? They are all full of decay and nothing is being done to bring us out of the

wood but we occupy our time with what should not be.

Some of us have made deliberate efforts to ensure that majority of the population remain as uneducated as possible so that we can always find an army of destitute to be used to fight our wars. Yes, we would rather have a follower ship that would die fighting for us rather than those who would make rational decisions and ask the right questions. Because of the very large illiterate population we keep feeding them wrong information that are not found in either of our religious books so that when our interests and ambitions are unfulfilled, we go back there fetch them and unleash mayhem on the very society we aspire to lead.

So fighting for and on behalf of God has become the order. The 'mallam yace' would die for what they truly know nothing about. And their rewards? Hunger, disease, kidnapping, banditry, and lack of good quality schools, hospitals and other infrastructure. Yet twenty something years after we have refused to wise up and act like reasonable beings. Again, we would rather travel the part to perdition than change course and redeem ourselves. So long as we allow ourselves to be toyed with we will continue to turn in circles and not get anywhere. We would keep being messed up and accept to continue to wallow in abject poverty rather than carve a niche for ourselves and make progress.

We must therefore, not make the same mistakes like we did in the past. We must choose quality over sentiments. We must accept that we are stronger as a collective rather than as single entities. We must begin to set agendas and move away from being tools in the hands of a few who truly do not believe in the Nigerian project but their own interests alone. That way we would not be taken for granted and the bumpy rides that we have been made to go on would be stopped.

News

Lalong, others grace DG ITF son's wedding

By PALANG KASMI

It was a gathering of distinguished personalities as Dr. Shitnaan Ari; son of Industrial Training Fund, (ITF) Director General, Joseph Ari got married to his hearthrob Laetitia.

The wedding took place on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at St. Monica's Catholic Church, State Lowcost, Jos Plateau State.

Among dignitaries that attended the Church solemnisation were Plateau Governor Simon Bako Lalong and his wife Regina, Deputy Speaker, House of Reps, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase, former Plateau Governors Sen. Jonah David Jang and his wife Talatu, Samuel Bitrus Atukum, Fidelis Tappun, including member representing Plateau Southern Zone, Senator Nora Daduut, and Executive Secretary, Nigerian Christian Pilgrims Commission.

Other distinguished guests that graced the event were ministers, parliamentarians at the national and state levels, government officials, politicians, traditional rulers, members of the academia, business men and women, and



Dr and Mrs Ari

people from the public and private circles.

Seven Bishops led by Bishop Matthew Audu of the Catholic Archdiocese of Jos were among the clergy who attended, including members of the Knights of St. Mulumba, family members and friends of the couple.

Governor Simon Bako Lalong in his remarks described the groom as his son and prayed God to bless and give the couple a peaceful home.

He stated that anytime he attends celebrity weddings, he admonishes the couple to remember the cream of distinguished guests that gathered to grace the ceremony to play their part by

keeping to their promise of marriage.

In a homily, Archbishop of Jos, Rev. Fr. Matthew Audu described marriage as a step of faith which couples are willing to take because of love.

He decried the high level of broken homes in the society blaming it on selfish attitude, lack love and respect which spouses display to one another.

He challenged the couple to show each other love, build their home on Biblical tenets and bring God into their home with prayers.

Bishop of Nasarawa State, David Ajang, performed the marital rites urging the couple to keep to their promise to each other.

THE Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has congratulated the Ujah Anaguta, Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji on the occasion of his one year anniversary on the throne.

The Chairman in a congratulatory message described Pozoah Johnson Jauro Magaji as a unifier who believes in the unity, love and security of his domain as well as uniting his community as an agenda for development.

He explained that his administration had enjoyed the support, cooperation and understanding of the ujah since his accession on the throne.

Usman who conveyed his greetings on behalf of his Deputy, Leader and Members of the Council, Legislative and Executive Arm as well as the good and hospitable people of Jos North Local government Area, not that the Ujah Anaguta Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji is a kind-hearted King whose reign endeared many towards the well-being of his people.

He commended the

Jos North boss eulogizes Ujah Anaguta on anniversary

Monarch for collaborating with his administration to organize a unique social cultural programme "tagged" Unity Day with the aim of bringing people of area together irrespective of tribe, religion and ethnic differences.

He urged the Monarch to

continue to be a unifier and nationalist who worked with other patriots to strengthen the unity of the state and the country through his efforts and advocacy as a great Monarch.

Usman also wished Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji sound health and many more years

Guluwa facilitates with pastor Sagai on birthday

EXECUTIVE Chairman Bokkos LGC, Hon Joseph Guluwa has congratulated Hon Pastor Alheri Sagai on his birthday.

In a statement issued, Guluwa prayed our Lord, grant him many more years to serve Him and humanity.

The chairman noted that the man of God has over the years been a blessing to the people and served the Lord diligently.

According to him, "I wish to on behalf of the good people of our area congratulate him over the mercy of God which has seen him through all these years. We are really grateful to our Lord for His tremendous blessings."

He prayed God to continue to bless Pastor Sagai as he serves the Lord for the rest of his life here on earth.

CP Onyeka deploys policemen to secure FCVMLT, Vom

By BULUS GAMBO

The issue of security was the focal point of discussion between the Commissioner of Police Plateau State Command, C P Bartholomew N. Onyeka, and the management of Federal College of Veterinary and Medical Laboratory Technology, Vom, Jos when the CP visited following a distress letter he received from the institute recently.

While speaking at the security meeting, the Commissioner of Police said that he was in the institute as the Chief of Internal Security in the State to deliberate with the management of the institute on how to strategize and make it habitable and conducive for learning.

The Plateau Police helmsman hinted that most of the hoodlums, terrorizing the staff and students could be people within the school community, since it was alleged that the assailants usually cover their faces when they come around.

CP Onyeka further tasked the school management especially the representatives of students union to provide information that will assist the Police nip crime in the bud, adding that, part of their role as SUG officials involves securing those who elected them leaders.

To adequately secure the institute; the CP directed the Department of Operations (DOPs), 8 PMF and State Intelligent Bureau, (SIB) attached to his Command to

deploy a good number of their personnel to the institute immediately to contain further attacks.

CP Onyeka who bemoaned the level of moral decadence in our contemporary society, blamed some parents for failing to put their children and wards on a rational course when they deviate, adding that some of them find it unnecessary to question their children's source of affluence, knowing that they are jobless.

Earlier in his remarks, the Provost of the institute, Dr. Joseph Okwori told the Commissioner of Police that in recent times, the college had become almost difficult to run as a result of activities of kidnapers who

trespassed into the college, carry out their nefarious acts and escape easily because the institute is partially fenced.

The Provost further disclosed that recently, a staff of the institution was picked by kidnapers until ransom was paid before she was released while a final year student of the college was shot dead by unknown gunmen. He added that the school needs security cover to carry out its functions properly.

Dr. Okwori also told the Police boss that his entry to the college with his gallant convey has allayed their fears and given them hope that the insecurity being witnessed in the College will soon be a thing of the past.

Rector's community gets classroom block, borehole

THE Kogi State government through the State Community and Social Development Agency, (KCSDA), has honoured the Rector with the provision of classroom block and borehole worth N14.9m to his community, Angwa Ogebe, in Ankpa Local Government Area of the State.

The Head, Public Relations and Protocol Unit of the institution, Uredo Omale in a statement made available to Our correspondent in Lokoja on Saturday noted that the General Manager of Kogi Community and Social Development Agency, (KCSDA) Alhaji Dauda Momoh, while speaking at the flag off of the projects in Ankpa, lauded the exemplary and resourceful

leadership style of Governor Yahaya Bello as evidenced in ensuring that rural communities in Kogi State continue to benefit from the World Bank assisted projects which are executed through counterpart funding.

The statement posited that Alhaji Momoh assured the people of Angwa and other communities of the state government's determination to provide their basic needs through the interventions of the agency.

The General Manager according to the release also applauded the Rector of Kogi State Polytechnic, Dr. Salisu Ogbo Usman for being a committed disciple of His Excellency's good governance, vision and for

being a worthy ambassador of his community as reflected in the facilitation of the projects and payment of counterparts fund on behalf of the Angwa-Ogebe community.

In his remark, the Rector, Dr. Usman described Governor Yahaya Bello as a selfless and people oriented leader who is passionately committed to the development of every part of the state, particularly the rural areas.

Dr Usman, urged the Angwa-Ogebe community to utilise the fund prudently, transparently and efficiently so as to justify the confidence reposed in them.

The Rector assured his community of Governor Bello's unrestrained efforts to see to the completion of all projects initiated by his administration for the benefit of mankind.

He stressed that the achievements recorded thus far in Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja and the facilitation of the projects would never have been possible without the uncommon support, invaluable encouragement and enabling environment created by His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Bello.

He described the Governor as a promise keeper and pillar of support at all times.

Earlier, Dr. Usman had joined the KCSDA team in flagging, off similar projects at Abache Community in the same Local Government, where cheques for construction of a clinic and a borehole were also presented to the Youth leader of the community.



Bello



CP Onyeka

Foreign Commentary

Russia, Ukraine vying to control vital grain routes

From the opening days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, one of Moscow's earliest strategic aims quickly became apparent as its armoured columns advanced along the coast in an effort to seize Ukraine's coastline and cut it off from the sea. The seizure of Ukraine's ports would strangle the country economically at a time when Ukraine most needs the funds to fend off Russia. ALEX GATOPOULOS writes.

SEVERAL months in and Russia has been partially successful. Two of Ukraine's five main commercial ports have been taken – Berdyansk and, after a brutal siege, what remains of the port of Mariupol. Both are in the northeast of the Black Sea.

Commercial shipping that sails from the Black Sea is well placed, having immediate access both to the countries bordering the Mediterranean and to the Suez Canal and the markets beyond.

Ukraine accounts for 9 percent of the world's wheat, 15 percent of its maize and 44 percent of global sunflower oil exports. A quarter of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia and Pakistan's wheat comes from Ukraine.

The country's main port, Odesa, is still in Ukrainian hands, as is Mykolaiv. Between the two of them, they accounted for 80 percent of Ukraine's pre-war grain exports. Russia's attempts to take these important trade hubs and the surrounding territory have failed and its advance has stalled. Russian units now face mounting resistance as Ukrainian units have launched a sharp counterattack on Russian forces in and around Kherson and Mykolaiv, as they struggle to retain control of this vital southern coastal sector.

Odesa, Mykolaiv and Chernomorsk still function as ports but Russia has initiated a blockade in order to ensure no grain leaves the country. Commercial shipping has been warned off, sea mines have been deployed in the waters leading to the port and the whole area of the Black Sea is constantly patrolled by Russian warships and fighter aircraft.

The key to this blockade has been Snake Island. A tiny islet 48km (30 miles) off the coast of Ukraine and Romania, it was taken by Russia in the opening days of the war. Strategically placed, it controls the approach waters to Ukraine's last three remaining commercial ports and is being heavily armed by Russia.



A worker loads a truck with grain during barley harvesting in the Odesa region

Ukraine's navy is almost non-existent and at the start of the conflict Russian warships operated with near impunity. That all changed when the Russian heavy missile cruiser Moskva was sunk on April 14. The powerful warship – the pride of the Russian navy – was hit and sunk by two Neptune anti-ship cruise missiles some 96km (60 miles) from Odesa. The Neptune is locally made and based on an earlier Russian design. With a range of 280km (174 miles), it is designed to drop to between 3 metres and 10 metres (10-33 feet) above the surface as it approaches its target, making it hard to detect. Its 145kg (320 pounds) warhead is designed to sink vessels of up to 5,000 tonnes, but two strikes on the Moskva did so much damage that it eventually sank, much to the alarm of the Russian navy, which pulled back its warships from the Ukrainian coast. Snake Island has since then taken on greater importance and has been heavily

fortified with advanced weapons. Considered an "unsinkable destroyer" by some analysts, the island is bristling with search radar, at least five Tor and two Pantsir anti-aircraft systems and fuel and ammunition dumps. Protected by trenches and revetments, it is now a far tougher target for Ukraine's military to destroy. Several attacks by Ukrainian armed TB2 drones have done damage but many of these valuable weapons have also been shot down in the process. Heavily armed, the Russian forces on the islet are increasingly able to repel attacks. The expected arrival of offensive systems like long-range artillery and S-400 air defence units would allow Russia to dominate the airspace over the south of Ukraine in addition to the northwestern section of the Black Sea. The addition of artillery would allow the island to act as a firebase from

which targets on land could be attacked and destroyed.

Ukraine's military, supremely aware of Snake Island's strategic position, has kept up the attacks which have helped degrade Russia's military presence there. A helicopter supplying troops has been shot down, at least one radar site has been damaged and a supply boat delivering troops, food and an air defence system to the garrison was hit and sunk by a newly-supplied Western Harpoon missile, in an effort to drive Russian forces from the island.

Russia still has control of Snake Island and its position and heavy defences are a thorn in Ukraine's side. The battle between the two sides has intensified as Ukraine tries to take back control of the islet, striking out at other targets in order to draw Russian forces away.

On June 20, a Russian offshore oil platform was badly damaged by air raids – by American-made rocket artillery, according to the Russians. Situated off the coast of Crimea, the platform is the latest target to be considered by Ukraine as it seeks to increase the number of targets it strikes, hoping to spread Russia's forces and defences over a wide area, thinning them out and exhausting Russia's large reserves of military equipment. The Kerch Bridge joining the Crimean Peninsula with the mainland is now said to be a target, requiring Russia's military to expend even more resources defending it.

While attacks pick up the pace, more subtle weapons have been brought into use by Russia as it attempts to ensure civilian shipping is not tempted to brave it out and use the commercial ports still under Ukrainian control. Sea mines have been laid at the entrance to these ports, most notably in Odesa.

While these ships may have been tempted to call Russia's bluff on whether they would be fired on by manned weapons systems, mines

are automated and will explode regardless of the nationality of the vessel that collides with them.

One of the dangers of floating mines is they will eventually drift. Warnings have been issued to maritime traffic in the Black Sea and mines have been spotted as far south as the Bosphorus. The Turkish military has defused them and urged, along with a host of other countries, that a solution be quickly found. Turkey controls much of the Black Sea, which it considers a vital interest to the country. It also controls – and is the custodian of – the sole waterway that leads from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea, making Turkey a strategic player in the region.

A Turkish military delegation is due to visit Moscow to negotiate safe passage of commercial shipping to Ukraine's commercial ports, in an effort to kick-start stalled grain exports that are vital for food production in countries around the world. There are fears a growing food crisis – made worse by global climate patterns affecting harvests and a general global supply-chain slowdown – could start to have serious consequences for regional stability if these vital commodities do not begin flowing in serious quantities. Meanwhile, Russian missiles continue to hit Ukraine's economic infrastructure and grain silos in Mykolaiv have been badly damaged, further hampering Ukraine's ability to supply the large amounts needed.

The naval war in Ukraine, the mining of its ports and the attacks on strategic targets are Russia's attempt to strangle Ukraine economically, denying it the raw materials and funds needed to fight an industrial war. In 2020, Ukraine's exports amounted to \$52.7bn and it badly needs the money as the prospect of a longer war now seems more likely.

Vital crops in Ukraine are due to be harvested in a few weeks which has added to its sense of urgency. Despite alternative routes being considered for its exports, such as a route to Baltic ports, most are overland and just do not have the capacity to export these commodities in the amounts needed. A single container ship is equal to 50 trainloads of grain and with at least 80 percent of all global trade travelling by sea, control of these Black Sea ports is vital.

Russia's grip on Ukraine's vital trade arteries shows no sign of easing up, despite international pressure. The effect of the blockade is not just being felt in Ukraine but around the world as both demand for, and prices of, basic foodstuffs continue to rise. With Ukraine's harvest season almost here, most of its able-bodied population caught up in the fighting and the continued attacks on the country's agricultural infrastructure, the likelihood that Ukraine can export the amounts it needs to sustain its war with Russia is starting to fade, which is exactly what Russia is hoping for.

(Al Jazeera)



A screengrab from a drone video shows a fire on Snake Island on May 8, 2022

Foreign News

Rival Libyan officials hold UN-led election talks

TWO senior Libyan officials began two days of talks on constitutional arrangements for elections, the latest United Nations effort to bridge gaps between the country's rivals.

Aguila Saleh, the influential speaker of the country's east-based parliament, and Khaled al-Meshri, head of the internationally recognised government's High Council of State, based in the west, in the capital, Tripoli, met at the UN headquarters in Geneva.

According to the UN, the talks will focus on a draft constitutional framework for elections after Libya's rival factions failed to reach an agreement earlier in June in their last round of talks in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

The criteria for a presidential candidacy were a contentious point in the previous round of talks, according to Libyan media.

The Tripoli-based council insisted on banning military personnel from running for the country's top post – apparently a move directed at the divisive commander Khalifa Haftar, whose forces are loyal to the east-based administration.

Haftar had announced his candidacy for presidential elections slated for last December, but the vote was not held because of myriad issues, including controversial candidates and disputes over election laws.

There are growing tensions on the ground, and clashes between rival militias recently erupted in Tripoli.

Living conditions have also deteriorated, mainly because of fuel shortages in the oil-rich nation. Tribal leaders have shut down many oil facilities, including the country's largest field.

The blockade was largely meant to cut off key state revenues to the incumbent Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, who has refused to step down.

Now, Dbeibah and a rival prime minister, Fathi Bashagha, appointed by



Fighters loyal to Libya's Tripoli-based Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah sit with their weapons in the back of a pick-up truck in the capital

the east-based parliament to lead a transitional government, are both claiming power. The rivalry has sparked fears the country could slide back to fighting after tentative steps towards unity last year.

Libya has been racked by conflict since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. The country was then for years split between rival administrations in the east and west, each supported by different militias and foreign governments.

"Libyans here aren't very hopeful talks are going to achieve any breakthrough."

"In the last years, since the UN started these talks, agreements are made and then when one

side of the conflict doesn't like it, things fall through", he said.

However, Traina added that even if the talks are successful, there are still pitfalls ahead.

"[If an] agreement is made and they agreed on a constitutional framework to hold elections, which government will oversee those elections?" Traina said.

The talks were aimed at moving Libya away from further conflict.

"What they are trying to do is to get the country of Libya back to an improved and more stable version of where it was on December 21 when those presidential and parliamentary elections were banned at the last minute," Challands said.

G7, UN condemn 'deplorable' Russian mall attack

THE leaders of the G7 have condemned a deadly Russian missile attack on a crowded Ukrainian shopping centre as an "abominable" war crime.

In a statement on Monday, the G7 leaders, who are holding a meeting in Germany, promised that Russian President Vladimir Putin and those responsible for the attack would be held to account.

At least 18 people were killed in the raids on the city of Kremenchuk, while 59 were wounded.

"Indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians constitute a war crime," the G7 statement said.

Ukraine accused Russia of deliberately targeting civilians, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

calling it "one of the most brazen terrorist acts in European history" in his evening broadcast posted on Telegram.

"A peaceful town, an ordinary shopping centre – women, children, ordinary civilians, inside," said Zelenskyy, who earlier shared a video of the shopping centre engulfed in flames with dozens of rescuers and a fire truck outside.

Ukraine's air force command said the mall was hit by two long-range X-22 missiles fired from Tu-22M3 bombers that flew from Shaykovka airfield in Russia's Kaluga region.

Russia's defence ministry on Tuesday said it had fired missiles at a weapons depot in Kremenchuk, with the

The United States military says it carried out a raid in Syria's Idlib province that targeted a senior leader of an al-Qaeda-aligned group.

The attack targeted Abu Hamzah al Yemeni, a "senior leader" of al-Qaeda-aligned Hurras al-Din, while he was travelling alone on a motorcycle, the US Central Command said in a statement.

It added that an initial review did not indicate civilian casualties.

"The removal of this senior leader will disrupt al-Qaeda's ability to carry out attacks against US citizens, our partners and innocent civilians around the world," the statement added.

The Syrian Civil Defence, a humanitarian organisation, said in a tweet that a man was killed shortly before midnight after his motorcycle was targeted with two rockets, adding it has transferred the body to the forensic department in Idlib city.

Dozens of inmates die in Colombia prison riot

At least 49 inmates have died and dozens were injured during a riot in a prison in the southwestern Colombian city of Tulua, according to officials.

General Tito Castellanos, the head of the national prisons agency, described the overnight incident on Tuesday as "a tragic and

US kills 'senior leader' of al-Qaeda- group

Huras al-Din was Khuraisat, also known as Abu Khadija al-Urduni. Separate US air attacks in Syria have also killed

In June 2020, the US military killed Khaled al-Qaeda's then second-in-command, Abu Kheir al-Masri, in 2017, the first al-Din, also in Idlib. A leader of ISIL (ISIS), Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in 2019, and his successor, al-Din commander, the Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi Jordanian citizen Bilal al-Qurayshi, in February.



Biden

disastrous event".

He told the local Caracol Radio station that 30 people were injured.

A spokesperson for the National Penitentiary and Prison Institute confirmed the death toll of what they described as an attempted prison escape, telling AFP news agency that the figure was preliminary and "may change".

Ivan Duque, the

outgoing president of Colombia who is on a visit to Portugal, said the incident would be investigated.

"We regret the events in the prison in Tulua, Valle del Cauca. I am in touch with [General Tito Castellanos] and I have given instructions to carry forward investigations that allow us to clarify this terrible situation," Duque said in a Twitter post.

subsequent explosion of ammunition triggering a fire in a nearby shopping centre.

"In Kremenchuk, Russian forces struck a weapons depot storing arms received from the United States and Europe

with high-precision air-based weapons. As a result of the precision strike, Western-made weapons and ammunition concentrated in the warehouse ... were hit,"

statement posted on its Telegram channel. "The detonation of stored ammunition for Western weapons caused a fire in a non-functioning shopping centre located next to the depot," it ministry said in a added.



At least 18 people were killed and 59 wounded in a Russian attack

Feature

National grid collapse, one too many

The National electricity grid has collapsed again, throwing the country in to total blackout the fifth time in 2022, the grid broke down on Sunday 12, June around 6:49 pm leading to shutdown of the outgoing electricity feeders of some distribution companies. You recalled Nigeria's power grid collapsed twice in March and twice in April this year, making the power generation on the system to fluctuate due to various concerns such as gas constraint, water management challenges, gas pipeline vandalism, among others. TIMOTHY JOSEPH, writes.

THE power outages prevented people from meeting routine businesses and household needs, resulting in huge economic and social cost.

"We regret to inform you that the power outage being experience in our franchise is due to system collapse of the national grid. The collapse of the national grid occurred at about 18:47 pm in the evening hence the loss of supply on all our outgoing feeders," Kaduna Electricity announced on Sunday evening. "Power supply shall be restored as soon as the national grid is powered back", the statement added.

Eko Electricity in its own statement said, " we regret to inform you of the ongoing system collapse on the national grid. This has affected our entire network and has impacted our ability to deliver optimum service". In its own statement, Abuja Electricity said, " The current power outage is due to system Failure collapse from the national grid, the system collapsed at about 6.49 pm today ,12 June, 2022 causing the outage currently being experience we appeal for your understanding as all stakeholders are working hard to restore normal supply."

While Head, corporate communications, Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EECD), Emeka Ezech, said the grid collapse has thrown five states under the Discos franchise area in to total blackout. Also "The management of Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JED), wishes to inform the general public that the current outage being experience is as a result of system collapse", Head corporate communications, Friday Elijah said.

Some experts have advocated for decentralized transmission system like that of the united states' in order to end the preponderance of grid collapse in the country. Others believe Nigeria should continue with the centralized grid system like that of the United Kingdom. Reports revealed that the U.S multiple system is divided into many parts comprising of eastern and western grid system, and other grid systems that are all synchronized. The country consist of 120,000 miles (190 km) of lines operated by 500 companies. Nigeria, like U.K. its former colonial master has a 330 kilovolt and 132 kilovolt transmission lines and sub-stations spanning over 20,000 km of transmission lines, according to the Transmission Company of Nigeria.TCN.

Supporting the decentralization of the national grid in the long run, national



president of Nigeria Institute of Power Engineer (NIPE), Engr. Israel Abraham, said the transmission system should be decentralized across regions and that Discos should be expanded from the current 11 units to 37, serving each State and the FCT to address the prevalent system of collapses. Others suggested that there is need for grid monitoring tools as the federal government through the Ministry's statement admitted the lack of them, especially the supervisory control and Data

Acquisition System (SCADA) to quickly isolate Nationwide outages. The various advocates for the decentralization of electricity system in Nigeria might not be far from reach if anything is to go by what President Buhari said recently, in an interview with Bloomberg News. According to the President the federal government has commenced the decentralization of the national grid to address the challenges of power supply across the country. He stated that "government had earmarked \$550 million for the provision of 20,000 standalone solar system (SHs) and solar Hybrid mini-grid in at least 250 locations across the country.

Available statistics from the independent system operator (ISO), a section of the Transmission Company of Nigeria, TCN, shows that in nine years (from 2013 to 2022), the national grid system has

recorded 115 system collapses. This was the period when the power sector utilities have been privatized. Random picks shows that there were 42 of such collapses in just a year (2010) and over 10 events every year until 2020.

Further analysis however indicate that the system or grid collapsed has declined in the last few years as only four collapses occurred in 2020, while two were recorded in 2021, being the lowest so far. However, three have been recorded already in less than a year, between March and June this year, mostly as a result of poor gas to Gencos, in the first instance while the second collapse was traced to the vandalism of power transmission tower in Benin, Edo state, and the third in Oku Iboku in Akwa Ibom State.

The Electricity sector is causing more problems for investors in this economy, already, they have enough problems they have been contending with, such as forex, logistics, credit and insecurity issues. If on top of all that we are faced with energy crisis, then this might be the worst time to experience system collapse because it is simply unbearable. This is even more critical for businesses that are energy intensive, mostly those in production, IT, Telecoms and banks, it's a major issue for the economy and the welfare of Nigerians.

Consumers must not be made

to bear for the inefficiency of the Discos, consumers must be compensated for loss of electricity over the decline in power services as there is a contract due to the service base tariff, which means that consumers should pay only for what they get. With all the contractual failure by the power sector value chain to give powers to Nigerian consumers, there is still no compensation to consumers for poor services. Customers are being illegally migrated from Band C and Band D to Band A and B and B Nationwide, even with the failure to deliver on the contract/service based tariff, Customers are mechanically configured and shortchange.

According to my findings, no customer of electricity distribution companies (Discos) had been getting 22/16 hours of electricity and steady 10 hours attached to each of the tariff bands. All the considerations and key indicators have failed roundly due to gas constraints, grid constraints, vandalism of gas to power infrastructure and vandalism of critical electricity grid value chain infrastructure, among others. In the face of all these, customers billing classifications are illegally being jerked up.

A world Bank sponsored report in 2021 showed that 85 million Nigerians are not connected to the grid, and that Nigeria losses about \$29 billion annually due to

erratic power supply. This is a significant amount of money which could be used to improve the economy and enhance living conditions of Nigerians. At the moment, the national transmission grid is owned and managed by government through the TCN. Government needs to invest in modern technology for surveillance and monitoring of the grid and to safeguard it against vandalism. Government and the power operators, residents and security operatives should deepen synergy to intercept vandals before they execute their acts.

The transmission company of Nigeria can upgrade and increase transformer capacity which will reduce the issue of load rejections, the Nigeria lawmakers had earlier supported the constitutional amendment bill to allow state governments to generate and transmit their own electricity, this will present an opportunity to investors and industries to participate in the Nigerian energy market. Also the states or businesses can transmit excess supply to the national grid, modern smart grid would allow data to flow between consumers and electricity retailers, this will enable grid operators to match electricity supply with demand, understand consumer behavior and plan grid expansion.

Timothy Joseph is of the ministry of Information and Communication

THE NIGERIA STANDARD'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Why beans is good for your health

Lots of Fiber

Beans is a great source of fiber. That's important because most people don't get the recommended 25 to 38 grams each day. Fiber helps protect against heart disease, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and digestive illness. Navy beans have about 19 grams of fiber per cup. Add some smoked turkey, kale, onions, and carrots, for a hearty soup.

Beans is a great way to get low-fat, low-calorie protein that already has the fiber and carbs mixed in. A single cup has around 15 grams. That's two to three times more than rice or wheat. It's especially good for a protein building block called lysine that you might not get enough of if you're a vegetarian.

keeps a healthy weight

If you make it a habit to eat beans, you're more likely to have a lower body weight, slimmer waist, and a lower body mass index (BMI). Studies show that obese men put on a protein-rich diet lost more weight with beans as their top protein source. Try a nourishing, low-fat, spicy kidney bean chili as a main course instead of meat

Boosts your heart health

You'll do your self a favor if you make beans a regular part of your diet. Studies show it can lower your LDL "bad" cholesterol.

A good food for diabetes control

Eating a variety of beans not

only seems to help prevent diabetes, it also to help control the high blood sugar that is both a cause and symptom of the disease.

Great source of iron

Your body uses iron to make blood proteins (hemoglobin and myoglobin) that help move oxygen around your body. It's also a key nutrient for your hormones, and connective tissue like tendons and ligaments. A cup of soybeans has almost 9 milligrams. You can cook soybean pods, also called edamame, in salted boiling water. Eat them warm, straight out of the pod.

Provides magnesium

Magnesium helps make protein and bone, and stabilizes blood sugar. Black beans is a good source at 120 milligrams in a single cup. That's about a third of the recommended daily amount. Try the tried-and-true combination of black beans and rice. Add a bit of shredded chicken and some lettuce and salsa for a delicious, healthy lunch.

Chock-full of potassium

Your body needs the stuff for almost everything, including your heart, kidneys, muscles, and nerves. Beans have quite a bit of potassium, especially lima beans, which will give you almost 1,000 milligrams per cup. That's about double what you'll get from a banana.

Loaded with zinc

Your cells need it to fight off



germs, make genetic material, and heal wounds. It helps children develop properly and aids your senses of smell and taste. A cup of chickpeas, also called garbanzo beans, has about 2.4 milligrams. That's about a quarter of what you need for the day. You can make it into a dip called hummus that works as a snack or a meal in itself.

Scads of folate

This B vitamin is especially important for women who are pregnant or trying to have a baby because it helps prevent certain birth defects. It's also good for heart health, cell division, and your nervous system. You'll get about 300 micrograms -- three-quarters of the recommended daily amount -- in just one cup of pinto beans. It's the traditional base for the delicious refried beans used in many dishes.

Contains resistant starch

Resistant starch acts like fiber in that it's harder to digest. It moves to the large intestine, where "healthy" bacteria in your gut feed on it. Resistant starches make you feel more full and keep your blood sugar down. You'll increase the resistant starch if you let your beans cool down and refrigerate them. Try a mixed bean salad.

Canned beans work, too

Don't worry if you don't have time to soak and cook your beans. You just need to heat them up, and you're good to go. Canned beans have many of the same nutrients, though home-cooked beans may have slightly more. Just watch out for the extra salt that some brands add. You can rinse some of it off with water after you open them.

What about the Gas?

There is one downside to beans. You may get gas if you

suddenly add a lot of beans to your diet. It's not usually unhealthy, but it can be unpleasant. You should get less gas after the first week, as your body gets used to it. Drinking plenty of water can help. So can over-the-counter meds. Preparation makes a difference, too. You'll get less gas from dried beans if you soak them overnight and throw away the water.

Source: Healthnews.



THE NIGERIA STANDARD'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Beauty-bytes

Facial treatments and their benefits

By **OREORITSE TARIEMI**

WE all dream of a soft, smooth and spotless skin. However, due to a variety of factors like sun damage, ageing, and lifestyle changes among others, our skin encounters dullness and pigmentation. One of the best ways to take care of your skin is through professional facial treatments. With a professional facial treatment, you can tighten saggy skin, soften skin texture, improve skin elasticity, fight hyperpigmentation and reduce wrinkles and fine lines on your face.

Getting a facial treatment is a great way to improve your look without resorting to plastic surgery. Below are the types of facials you can get to rejuvenate your skin and fade blemishes:

Brightening Facial

A brightening facial specifically targets areas of hyperpigmentation on our skin. It also helps to even out our skin tone. A brightening facial uses powerful ingredients like Vitamin C which improves skin texture while boosting radiance. It is definitely one of the must check out facials if you suffer from hyperpigmentation or dull skin.

Microdermabrasion

This facial is ideal for anyone looking to remove age spots and acne scarring. A microdermabrasion facial buffs away the top layers of your skin. It brushes off dead skin cells and, as a result, improves cell turnover and promotes elastin growth and collagen production. A microdermabrasion facial reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, blemishes,



age spots, blackheads and enlarged pores, just to name a few. It is important to avoid direct sunlight exposure for a few hours after getting this facial treatment.

Laser Skin Resurfacing

A laser skin resurfacing facial tightens the skin using infrared light. This procedure removes the outer layers of the skin and stimulates the production of collagen and new cells. It is also used to reduce the appearance of wrinkles and lines on the face and neck.

Viso Peel Glycolic Facial

Viso Peel Glycolic Facial has been praised for improving skin appearance. Viso peel glycolic facial combines Alpha Hydroxy Acids (AHAs) and Beta Hydroxy Acids (BHAs) to provide a clearer, fresher looking skin by removing dead skin cells through exfoliation. The ingredients penetrate and deliver anti-oxidants and vitamins into the skin, promoting new cells to grow stronger and healthier. This treatment combats acne and

oily skin. If you want youthful and radiant skin, you'll love this facial treatment.

Fruit Facial Treatment

A fruit facial is one of the best types of facial for your skin. AHA acids, which are derived from fruits, can help in gently removing dead cells and giving radiant skin. For example, lemon brightens while malic acid in apples is a great exfoliator. A fruit facial is rich in vitamins and anti-oxidants. It is a perfect option to deeply cleanse and improve tone and texture. It is also great at minimising the appearance of dark spots and wrinkles. It is recommended for all skin types and it has little or no side effects.

Chemical Peels

This type of facial is typically used as an anti-ageing treatment. A chemical peel is a technique used to improve the appearance of the skin on the face, neck, or hands. A chemical solution is applied to the skin that causes it to exfoliate and eventually peel off. The new skin is usually smoother and less wrinkled than the old skin. The new skin is also temporarily

more sensitive to the sun. A chemical peel can also be used to improve the appearance of mild scars, treat certain types of acne, reduce age spots, freckles, and melasma. After getting a chemical peel, your skin is more sensitive to the sun. It is important to avoid the sun for at least a week and use sunscreen too.

Dermaplaning

Dermaplaning (aka blading or microplaning) is a skin treatment that involves using an exfoliating blade to slough off dead skin cells and hairs from your face. Dermaplaning helps to deal with acne scars, sun-damaged skin, dull skin, fine lines and wrinkles.

Aromatherapy Facial

Aromatherapy facial is a type of facial that is prepared with essential oils which deeply nourish the skin.

This type of facial helps with stress relief because the essential oils have stress-relieving properties. It also detoxes your skin, relieves skin dryness, improves blood circulation in the body, treats poor skin conditions and, improves skin texture as the oils contain anti-inflammatory properties.



With a professional facial treatment, you can tighten saggy skin, soften skin texture, improve skin elasticity, fight hyperpigmentation and reduce wrinkles and fine lines on your face. Getting a facial treatment is a great way to improve your look without resorting to plastic surgery. Below are the types of facials you can get to rejuvenate your skin and fade blemishes:

Editorial

In support of continuous voter registration

AS our democratic experience grows older by the day, it is our expectation that citizens of the country would do everything it takes to make it enduring and a lasting experience. Contributing to the political development and the strengthening of our institutions would not only mean voting for candidates of ones' choice but ensuring that the elected government does the will of the people by performing its responsibilities as best as it can.

The continuation of the voter registration exercise by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), which is to allow eligible Nigerians who have attained the age of 18 is a call to duty. To participate in the democratic process, every eligible person needs to register. This opportunity should not be misused as it would guarantee that more Nigerians would have a say in the selection of their leaders.

Now that we are about ushering in another phase of electing our leaders, it is incumbent on Nigerians who had not done the INEC registration to spare some time and go to the nearest registration centres to get themselves registered so that they would be able to participate in the process of electing the political leaders of the country.

To ginger the people to participate in the process, some organizations have subtly threatened their members especially those that do not have their Permanent Voters Cards (PVC) to go and get registered or risk being sanctioned. This, to us, is a welcomed development considering the lackadaisical attitude of Nigerians to willingly perform their civic responsibilities.

As a matter of fact, the declaration by the Plateau State government to allow for work free days for its citizens especially the civil servants to participate in the process is commendable. This attests to the commitment of the present administration in the state to advancing the course of our democracy.

And, since a court of competent jurisdiction had asked INEC to go ahead with the registration, the citizenry must take advantage of the opportunity and make the most of it. On our part, we call on all well-meaning citizens that have reached the stipulated age of voting to use the opportunity to go to the nearest registration centre and exercise their franchise. We also call on the electoral umpire to make the process a continuous one so as to allow those who turn 18 at whatever point to register. Indeed, registration should be a continuous process and be done across all the electoral units in the country to take away the burden of travelling far distances to get registered.

It is our considered view that when registration is continuous, Nigerians would have no option but to participate and own the process. This would go a long way in ensuring that last minute rushes are avoided. That, as a matter of fact, would save the country a lot of money.

We appeal to all those that have not registered to do so, so as to elect leaders of their choice who would run our affairs fairly and not just anybody who would not add value to the growth and development of society.

Education can be defined as the field of study that is concerned with the pedagogy of teaching and training. Other definition include the act of process of training and developing the knowledge, skill, mind, and character. In a nutshell, education is the process of gaining knowledge.

In recent times, education has been faced with diverse challenges, ranging from insecurity, cultism, bullying, lesbianism, gayism, and a host of others. This has greatly retarded the wheel of progress and thrown the sector into a state of comatose and disarray. Parents, guardians, care givers are in a state of dilemma as to what to do next. With huge resources budgeted to the education sector, the downward spiral has remain unabated, with the sector begging for rapt and urgent attention.

Covid-19 is also a contributory factor to the nose diving of education in Nigeria. In the year 2020, schools were shut down for almost a year in a bid to contain the surge in the dreaded Corona virus pandemic resources in the hands of parents are quite lean, forcing them to withdraw their wards from schools, to a new one with a lesser school fees. The challenge on the part of parents is quite enormous with little options at their disposal, they struggle to make ends meet with the ever increasing school fees and other basic amenities in the market, and this has become apt in other to avert the imminent collapse of the education sector.

Discipline has been eroded in our institutions of learning as parents are ever ready to go fight teachers and school administrators, in view of that, the school management is likewise reluctant to instill discipline in this wards so as to avoid confrontation. Obviously, there is a trust deficit on the part of the parents and the school management. This has linger for so long that if not properly address, can lead to the burial of education in Nigeria.

Furthermore, students on their parts challenge teachers and school authority any time the rod is used. Some even come to school with dangerous weapons. A similar case was reported in a state in Nigeria, where a female

student brought a gun to school to shoot a teacher that flogged her. This dangerous trend is taking different dimensions that might possibly escalate if not properly tamed.

Moreso, the teachers become the albatross of some of this students' they engage in illicit affairs with this minors and naive set of students, taking advantage of their exuberance, which has led to teachers impregnating

The dwindling fortune of education in Nigeria

students and students impregnating their female teachers. This dirty and displayable act takes place in the education sector. What then is the future of education in our country?

Looking at the recent case at Downen College in Lagos, it leaves much to be desired, cultism among high school students, increasing rate of truancy and bullying. A lot of parents will be discourage to adopt the boarding facility of schooling because it led to the death of the boy in question.

In addition, lesbianism and gayism is on the increase in boarding houses, translating into monsters that will become albatross of others. This definitely negate the morality instill in them by their parents and wards. A lot



needs to be done urgently.

Government, through the affected agencies need to draft laws that will restore the trust deficit currently been experienced among school administrators and parents. Parent's needs to know that their children are in safe hands and not teachers praying on the students like the recent case reported in Kano State where a 5 year old Hanifa was murdered and buried in a shallow grave. It is a matter of national public importance to arrest the degrading and deplorable situation.

Charity begins at home, parent's needs to start the discipline from home before handing their wards to the school management, if both parties are playing their part concurrently, frictions will be greatly averted. Parents must inculcate the right values into their children.

Government must provide a secured environment that

will be conducive for learning. Without security, little will be adhered. In the world today, Nigeria has the highest out of school children with over 10 million students roaming the street or in IDP camps, wasting away. Security is paramount if we must stem the tide and change the narrative. Nothing can be achieved without proper security.

Deliberate efforts must be put in place to achieve the desired goal, students must be thought skills that will support the knowledge they are acquiring in school. Certificate is given in character and in learning. The students must be molded both in character and in learning. By so doing, generations unborn will benefits from this laudable step.

By Ajang Ajiji John, Rikkos, Jos.

Federal Government should improve on talent hunt

I want to use this medium of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD Newspaper** to urge the Nigerian government to improve on scouting for talents in the sports circles in the country.

Sport is one of the most regular activities that most people participate in and also earn a living through it.

Nigerian sports is facing a major challenge due to the absence of sporting facilities that are required. The country is known to have produced the best in most games in the world. That should give the government a better way of promoting people who are good and have dreams in doing so.

Most of Nigerian sports men and women nowadays, prefer to trade their talents outside Nigeria as a result of the country's underdeveloped sportsmanship.

For example in football, there are so many great footballers that are not playing for Nigeria as a result of the non development in the

football federation.

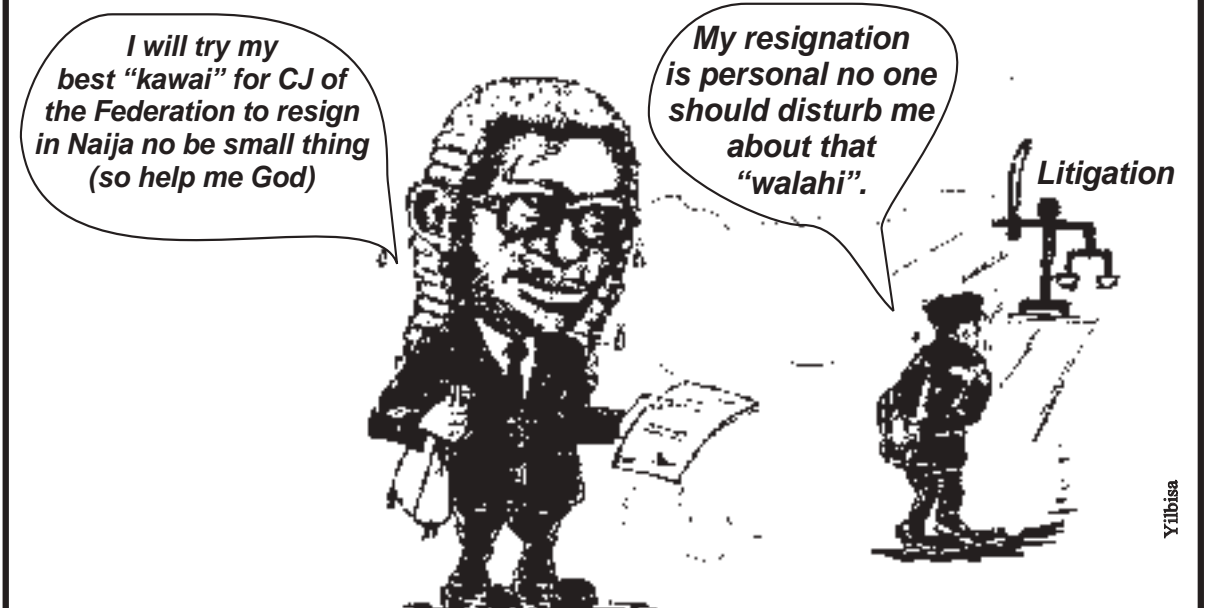
Nigerian government should work on the development of sports so as to help the upcoming youth who have the desire to go into sports and also help in bringing facilities that will help Nigeria's Sports to develop.

By Malynyim Jamaine Goma

BE PATRIOTIC AND RESPONSIBLY NIGERIANS BY GETTING YOUR PVCs AND VOTING DURING ELECTIONS

Standard Cartoon

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE FEDERATION ROLE IN



Opinion

Ekweremadu and Nigeria's image abroad

BY VICTOR ALI

Ike Ekweremadu, one of the big masquerades in Nigeria's democracy need not introduction to keep political watchers. But in a nation of about two hundred (200) million people, it will suffice to have a snippet of the Distinguishes senator. Ekweremadu, member of the opposition people's Democratic Party (PDP) had been a Senator since 2003. He served as Deputy President of the senate from 2007 to 2019. That was when that belligerent" senator Buloka sarak, held sway as the main man.

Recently, the Enugu- born lawmaker has been in the news, for the wrong side of the law. The new media is awash with the serious accusations that the lawmaker, alongside his heartthrob, Beatrice Nwaneka Ekweremadu, embarked on a mission of organ harvesting in the united kingdom (U;K) and the duo were promptly assisted and arraigned before a united kingdom (UK) court over allegations centered on the said issue-organ harvesting.

The story goes thus: their daughter, Sonia, had some health challenge which has to do with the kidney. Apparently in a

desperate attempt to save the life donor entered the U.K reads 45/ of their daughter, a kidney 50 much for age! transplant was needed, hence, a According to **THE NATION**, 15-year old homeless boy was (Saturday June 25, 2022) the transported, from Lagos to term organ harvesting, has Heathrow with the intent of since topped social media harvesting kidneys abacus for trends. Organ harvesting or Sonia: it is a truism that anybody, donation transplantation, indeed, everybody, can fall sick involve removing an organ from any time, any day and anywhere. one person (the donor) and And if there are practical and surgically placing it in another workable solution(s) to the (the recipient) whose organ had illness, why not, if not?. failed. In the UK, forced organ

However, in the present circumstance in which harvesting and trafficking of human organs are interlinked Ekweremadu and Beatrice have crimes. Trafficking of human found themselves which has organ as legal donations of organs can only take place with since topped social media trends, a lot of moral, social and political the donor's consent? questions ought to be raised. The It further revealed that, the must pertinent one: was the illegality of harvesting and consent of the supposed donor trafficking human organs within teenager sought? At age 15, did and outside Nigeria has made it this teenager really know the one of Nigeria's Serious implication of donating a kidney? Organized Crimes (SOC). If

Even the age of the supposed convicted, the duo of donor is shredded in confusion Ekweremadu and his wife and controversy. It has been Beatrice may get a maximum of alleged, the letter Ekwe remade life sentence or 12 months wrote seeking for visa, he did not imprisonment or a fine or both disclose the age of the male but on summary conviction under UK prosecutors alleged that the the United Kingdom's modern victim is a minor and that slave-Act 2005.

Ekweremadu had falsified his age It is quite unformatted that to 21. One of the men's supposed Ike Ekweremadu has found siblings said the man is 25 while it himself in such an unfortunate was equally alleged that the and very precarious situation. passport which the supposed With his daughter, sofia down

with kidney disease and suddenly his arrest alongside his wife, Beatrice, certainly, it is double jeopardy. While an investigation of this saga are still ongoing in the United Kingdom, expectedly, tongues are wagging and the must wag after it is human nature. It will amounts to Satanism to be happy or even tacitly rejoice over the plight of the Ekweremadu's family. It is really a trying moment.

However, it does not fore close raising some fundamental questions. This man-teenager at the centre of this saga, does he have parents? Or verifiable relations? If he does, where are they in the face of this raging controversies?

It must emphatically state that, the life of every homo sapien matters before God, the giver of life himself. Without being a medical expert, one can posit that, even a layman can double guess the potential backlash of a kidney transfer.

Again, Ekweremadu as a highly placed Nigeria politician is now in the eyes of the storm. How the international community would view Nigeria and particularly the senate would remain a matter of conjecture. One is not amused

because, in a recent encounter with someone I thought he should know, he retorted that is this the first time Nigerian politicians are engage in such unwholesome acts? Its' a Pity and so sad!

Nigeria as a country should now start aggressive image laundry abroad. It is plausible that Ekweremadu was desperate to save Sofia from the life threatening kidney disease. But the "teenage" donor, as alleged, equally has a life to leave and leaved it abundantly. From haven of corruption, killing fields of terrorists and bandits, are of sophisticated Advance Fee fraud popularly known as 419, and now" organ harvesting" Nigeria's image is in trouble.

Nonetheless, one believes that while investigations continue with the July 7, 2022 for another appearance in the United Kingdom court, Ekweremadu should be given a fair hearing. For whatever reasons, this is certainly not the best of time to let Ekweremadu down. There is always a flip side to life. Perhaps, if the nation's health infrastructures were in tandem with what obtains in other limes, this international embarrassment of monumental proportion might have been averted.

2023: Elections of sentiments and emotions

BY DESPAN KWARDEM

2023 is an election between Christians and Muslims. Simple. It has nothing to do with parties. If you are a Muslim, vote your Muslim brother; if you are a Christian, vote your Christian brother as president. By presenting Muslims as their presidential candidates, the mega parties have just shown us that they have no respect or regard for our sensitivities as Christians.

Hence, 2023 will purely be a battle between us and them; between Christians and Muslims. Christians in both mega parties must understand this game and make a choice: to either go with their parties at the perils of their future and those of their children, or do what will secure and safeguard this future. And so me, I will vote based on religion.

Sentiment No. 2: Party no longer matters

In 2023, party wouldn't matter anymore. What we would vote is capacity; a candidate's ability to get us out of this quagmire that the two mega parties have plunged us into in the last twenty four years. Sixteen years of PDP, which culminated with bombings as far as the Police headquarters in Abuja, led to a national dissatisfaction that produced the APC government in 2015, which became a further disappointment, to the point where today, nowhere is safe anymore; not even our houses. Sadly, both parties have angled to return to power in 2023, potentially for another eight years...

Me, I will simply use my sentiments and say let's try a fresh new hand.

Sentiment No. 3: Na Soja go, Soja

Come, Nothing Change

My sentiment on this one is big. A Fulani Muslim from the left side of the north is going. Another Fulani Muslim from the right side of the north is coming. Ha!!! That's potential sixteen straight years of Fulani, Muslim rule...and all for what?

With all the atrocities alleged Fulani herdsmen have unleashed on, especially we, the north central Christians, my sentiment never to ever vote another Fulani president is big, even if I own the party he's contesting on. Moreover, I don't own the party; I'm not even a member of any.

It is only those of you who are members of these parties that I pity.

I cannot come and carry my hard-earned PVC to go and stay in the hot sun to stamp another eight-year Fulani rule.

And so, the sentimental need to vote a fellow Christian is quite simplified for me.

Well someone could argue, 'what about the soja in the other party; he's not Fulani and he's not from the north.' That's true, but wait until you read Sentiment

No. 5...Sentiment No. 4: Shifting goalposts

I'm deeply offended and seriously troubled by this sentiment. All the mega parties held their conventions to elect their chairmen and national officials on the principles of zoning.

And so, with the thinking that presidency would rotate to the south, they both produced their chairmen from the north central. However, when the time came for the presidential primaries, mega party A shifted the goalpost, and brought in the argument of numbers, of national spread, of acceptability, and so on. And thus, effectively jettisoned

zoning. The core north stole away the day.

Mega party B held on to the principle of zoning, but did what was less than honourable; by giving the party ticket to another Muslim. This act, in itself, is a shift in the goalpost because it has effectively not only destroyed the argument for balance of religion whenever power is rotating, but it has also set a dangerous precedent that will hurt Christianity in Nigeria and the southern parts of the country forever.

And so, I also think it is within our rights as electorates to shift the voting goalpost away from these two mega parties in 2023.

Sentiment No. 5: Coded test

2023 is a coded test. It is an exam for Christianity in Nigeria and the south. The core (Muslim north) is using the two mega parties to conduct this exam.

Plan A is to use mega party A. If their candidate wins, then the move seals the argument against zoning. What replaces it is the argument of numbers. And with its already advantageous number of delegates, the north will always produce the presidential aspirant at party primaries.

Plan B is to use mega party B. The pretext is for the party to supposedly sustain the principle of zoning and power rotation. And so, Party B expectedly zoned the presidency to the south, but the core north ensured the ticket was given to a Muslim, thus ensuring that either away, another potential eight years of continuous Muslim rule is assured. At the expiration of the eight years, the presidency is expected to be zoned to the north, where again, the argument of numbers would come into play, thus

ensuring the emergence of another Muslim... And so the cycle continues.

I will so use my sentiment to help put an end to this deceit before it even gains legitimacy. Even if my Christian candidate does not win the election eventually, at least, we will lose knowing we tried to terminate an agenda that will consume the future of my kids and religion.

Sentiment No. 6: Perpetual northern presidency

This is the ultimate goal of the game. Once a Muslim emerges as president in 2023 (whether he is from the north or south), then we would have triggered and stamped a perpetual northern presidency. The south should say bye bye to Nigeria's presidency. Similarly, Christians should say bye bye to the country's presidency. Conspiracy theory, you may call it... that's fine. But read on...

Using numbers, guile and deceit, the north has started to perpetuate itself in power. What is unfolding is just a test. That's why they are brazen about it. And are hoodwinking every member that everyone's interest is protected.

If mega party A wins, you can be certain that the Christian vice president will not succeed his boss; simply because numbers would come to play at the party's primaries. If party B wins the presidency, the same scenario will play after eight years.

When the presidency will rotate to the north, numbers would come into play, having previously destroyed the argument of balance of religion. And thus, effectively institutionalizing northern Muslim presidency forever.

So, it is up to us, Christians and all who love equity, justice and fairness, to make sure it doesn't happen.

News

Hunger, starvation hits IDP camp in Katsina

By IBRAHIM SULEIMAN INGAWA, Katsina

THE Chairman of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), in Jibia Camp, Katsina State, Malam Salisu Sa'adu said that the refugees are suffering from hunger, starvation and deaths in the camp.

Salisu disclosed this in an interview with the Nigeria Standard in Jibia on Tuesday.

He said that, the refugees who were camped in Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS), Jibia were mainly from Kwari, Zango, Shimfida, Tsauni, Far Faru, Tsanbe, and Gurbin Magarya villages of Jibia local Government of the state.

According to him, food that is provided to the refugees is not enough, hence, they are suffering of starvation, hunger and deaths.

He said that, there was not enough feeding for them, stressing that there are only two policemen guarding the camp.

"Most (refugees) are sleeping without mosquito nets and blankets, but we thank a non-governmental organisation, medicine san frontier, Doctors without borders that supply drugs to us always at the camp.

"In fact, let me tell you, in view of the hardship we are passing through, 15 of us died, while, 35 women gave birth under unfavourable conditions," he said.

Salisu appealed to state government to return them to their villages to enable them farm, and get what to eat with their families before

the rainy season ends. "We are now almost three months here, we can't continue like this, we really want to go back to our villages and look for what to eat with our families."

"So we are appealing to government to take cogent measures and relocate us to our places," he said.

When contacted, the chairman of Jibia Local Government, Alhaji Bashir Mai-tan, said that government is trying its best in providing feeding to the refugees in the camp.

Mai-tan said that, apart from that, the local government releases N200,000 each day for some of the

daily needs of the refugees. According to him, he always have sleepless nights, to ensure peace and security in the area, as well as paying of ransome to secure release of his people from bandits.

He said that, currently, over 1,500 of his people are still being held hostage by bandit's hostage, advising that, government alone, cannot fight the issue of banditry.

The Nigeria Standard observed, during a visit to the camp, some of the refugees are looking Haggard, worried, hungry as well as in tears looking forward for more help.



Ganduje

Federal Commissioner of the National Population Commission and Housing Census representing Plateau State, Hon. Mrs Cecilia Dapoet has urged the functionaries staff to put in their best.

Speaking during the training of adhoc staff for the census trail for three senatorial zones in Plateau State, held at the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geo-Sciences Jos, on Monday, said the exercise was timely.

She admonished the participants to be serious with their training as only those who are dedicated would be picked at the end of the exercise expected to last for 12 days

She added that the participants should not disappoint the commission's mandate, which is to conduct a credible census, because the trial census is in line with the preparation to the forthcoming general census by next year 2023.

Dapoet stressed that the commission want to assure Nigerians and the International Community of her readiness to conduct the best and reliable census.

Earlier in a welcome speech by the state Director Mr. Pam Dung Deme, he stated that the trial census would be conducted in 9 Local Government Areas selected out of the three senatorial zones of the state, Plateau Northern zone comprising Jengre in Bassa LGA, Gindin Akwati in Barkin-Ladi LGA and Jarawan Kogi in Jos East,

In Plateau Central zone, Mangun in Mangu LGA, Chip in Pankshin LGA and Maiduna Daffo, in Bokkos LGA are

NPC flags-off staff training

By HOSEA NYAMLONG



Dapoet

selected for the exercise at the end of the day.

He assured the participants that those that would be trained as enumerators and supervisors, would receive the best training from the controllers of the commission selected from the local government areas, where the trial census would be conducted. Deme concluded by wishing them the best as they commence the training.

Similarly, areas to be covered for trial censuses in Plateau Southern zone are Panwasa in Shendam LGA, Jak in Qua'an-Pan LGA and Pilgani in Langtang North LGA respectively. He expressed that the trial census is very important at this material time, with the commission's new methodology on ground for the census, our equipment would be tested including the quality of the functionaries staff.

Deme emphasized that participants should be of good character and behaviour, for in every stage of the training, they would be monitored to ensure that only the best are

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DEATH

The general public is hereby inform of the death of **SATI BAKSHAKA SEKAT**, held from Kor in Pankshin LGA, who died on the 20th June, 2022 and have since been buried on the 25/6/2022. All concerned authorities should please take note.

Signed:
**ROTJI SATI SEKAT and
PLANGNAN SATI SEKAT**
Next of kin to the deceased.

Change of Name

<p>DASHE</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANLADI PETER, now wish to be known and addressed as DASHE PETER JOHN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SELJING</p> <p>I, formerly known as PETER SELZING, now wish to be known and addressed as SELJING, PETER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>FAVOUR</p> <p>I, formerly known as FAVOUR CHINAZA NDUBUISI, now wish to be known and addressed as FAVOUR PRECIOUS NDUBUISI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MAGIT</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBRAHIM ELI IBRAHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as MAGIT ELI ELISHA. Correct date of birth is 08/12/2000 not 08/12/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>COMFORT</p> <p>I, formerly known as COMFORT EMMANUEL OTEH, now wish to be known and addressed as COMFORT YILJI MWATAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>BANJAMIN</p> <p>I, formerly known as YILKIME ZAKA GOFUP, now wish to be known and addressed as BANJAMIN ISHAYA MWAWAL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>DANJUMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NENGAK DANJUMA, now wish to be known and addressed as DANJUMA NENGAK GOMOS. Correct date of birth is 05/10/1998 not 05/05/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANKO</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANKO NANZING, now wish to be known and addressed as NANKO DEBORAH BELLO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>FAISAL</p> <p>I, formerly known as FAISAL DAHIRU AHMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as FAISAL DAHIRU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MIENSHEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as MIENSHEL CLIFFORD K.S, now wish to be known and addressed as MIENSHEL CLIFFORD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>FAITH</p> <p>I, formerly known as FAITH UMATER DANIEL MAPIS, now wish to be known and addressed as FAITH DANIEL ADISA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JURDIMMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSHUA DORKAT, now wish to be known and addressed as JURDIMMA DORKAT JOSHUA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>DEBORATH</p> <p>I, formerly known as DEBORAH YAKUBU AGWOM, now wish to be known and addressed as DEBORATH ATANG IZANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ZALIHA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZALIKA TIJJANI, now wish to be known and addressed as ZALIHA AHMAD MOHAMMED. Correct date of birth is 15/1/2003 not 15/1/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>PONFA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DOMTIM JULBYEN, now wish to be known and addressed as PONFA JULBYEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>TOKKE</p> <p>I, TOKKE SHANGSHIKMWA SUNDAY, SUNDAY SHANGSHIKMWA, SHANGSHIKMWA SUNDAY TOKKE is one and the same person hence wish to be known as TOKKE SHANGSHIKMWA SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LABARAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as LABARAN TANIMU INWA, now wish to be known and addressed as LABARAN TANIMU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAN SIRPO YAKUBU, now wish to be known and addressed as DAN SIRPO YEPWA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>GOLADI</p> <p>I, formerly known as GOTOM PARDUNG GOLADI, now wish to be known and addressed as GOLADI PARDUNG FILISBUS. Correct date of birth is 1/1/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please</p>	<p>AGBO</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGBO CHARITY ONYINYE, AGBOEZE CHARITY ONYINYE, AGBO ONYINYE CHARITY and ONYINYE AGBO, now wish to be known and addressed as AGBO CHARITY ONYINYE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HASSAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as HASSAN INUWA, now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN MUHAMMAD INUWA. Correct date of birth is 5/4/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SALEH</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISMAL IDRIS, now wish to be known and addressed as SALEH IDRIS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MOHAMMED</p> <p>I, formerly known as SHOLA JOSEPH SANGARU, now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED ABBA SANGARU. Correct date of birth is 15/4/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MATHIAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as MATHIAS ISHAYA, now wish to be known and addressed as MATHIAS ISHAYA PEMELEM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>

News

Bauchi Police arrest ritualists

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Bauchi State Police Command has announced the arrest of three suspects in connection with the forceful removal of a 16-year-old boy's that lost his two eyes to unknown criminals

The spokesman of the Command DSP Mohammed Ahmed Wakil, made this public in a press release circulated to newsmen in Bauchi where he said, "Suspects arrested in connection with the crime include Isaac Ezekiel 'M' 32-year-old of Rafin Zurfi Yelwa, Bauchi Metropolitan; Nensok Bawa 'M', 38-year-old of Kabwir District, Kanke Local Government Area of Plateau State, and Yohana Luka (AKA Doctor Samu), 52-year-old of Golbong Village, Amper District in Kanke Local Government Area of Plateau State

"The prime suspect, Isaac Ezekiel, after he was arrested, voluntarily confessed to the unfortunate crime.

"A prompt search of his house by the police led to the recovery of Uzairu Salisu's eyeballs and other exhibits - The two human eyeballs in a calabash, cable wire used in perpetrating the heinous act, travelling bag containing some native medicine."

The release further explained that "Findings revealed that in April 2022, the principal suspect (Isaac Ezekiel) conspired with the two other suspects to conceive the idea to commit the atrocity of getting the eyeballs of a human being.

"On 24th June 2022 at about nine o'clock in the morning, the principal suspect lured one Uzairu Salisu 'M', 16-year-old of Jahun Bauchi Metropolitan



Alkali

into a nearby bush for a casual job on his farm, Isaac Ezekiel used a wire to strangulate Uzairu Salisu into a coma and used a knife to remove the two eyes for a ritual purpose".

DSP Wakil said the Commissioner of Police, Umar Sanda, has reassured the commitment of the Command to arrest ritualists and tackle crimes while urging residents to be supportive of the police.

He added that the task has not been an easy one, "but in line with our constitutional mandate, we shall remain fierce, tireless and relentless in committing ourselves to the safety and security of lives and property of the people of Bauchi state and the country at large."

DSP Wakil said in furtherance of their commitment to steaming down crime and criminality, the command has made adequate use of intelligence gathering towards

the continuous maintenance of law and order which has yielded positive outcome.

He said the investigation is in progress, after which the suspects will be charged to court.

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation (FMSTI) Mrs Monilola Udoh has advocated for traditional medicine to be included in the School curriculum to enable Nigerians develop interest in the traditional medicine.

Mrs Udoh said this when the Nigerian Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association (NTMPA) paid her a courtesy visit in her office in Abuja.

Monilola Udoh stated that traditional medicine if properly developed will not only eliminate medical tourism but will be a great source of revenue generation for Nigeria.

She further said that development of traditional medicine will improve the scientific, research and innovation sector in the country.

Udoh noted that

Udoh advocates for traditional medicine curriculum inclusion

traditional medicine is pure undiluted and organic natural medicine which is provided by God and will be an alternative medicine to Nigerians, adding that traditional medicine should be included in the school curriculum in order to avail the children its importance in our health and national growth.

She assured the association of the ministry's support and advised her to keep with her God endowed medicine, document it as much as possible, store the data for posterity so that students can study and continue on their research in the future.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Science, Technology and Innovation Plateau state, Honourable Gyang Dung Musa who introduced the association to the ministry,

noted that traditional medicine has been of immense health benefit to Nigerians.

Gyang Musa however called on the Federal Government to remove the association from the Federal Ministry of Health and place her under the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation for the desired development.

Speaking, the President of the Association Dr. Peter Luke Dako said that the association has a lot to offer the country and the world in terms of traditional medicine but she is highly confronted with the challenges of office accommodation, registration with NAFDAC among others which have been hindering the progress of the Association.

NCEA matriculates new students

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

THE Nasarawa State College of Education Akwanga has matriculated over 2,000 students for the 2021/2022 academic session with the tasked on them to endeavor to be of good conducts and role models as potential teachers and character moulders as potential teachers and character for their pupils/students and the society in general to copy from them.

The Provost of the College Rev Thani Jonathan gave the tasked during the matriculation ceremony of the newly admitted students

saying that it has become highly imperative upon them as teachers and role models to be of good moral conducts, sound knowledge and character and also make disciplinary behaviours their watch words.

"As potential teachers who are the lifewire in the education industry you should always be guided by sound knowledge to impact to your pupils/students be great role modes in character, disipline and all good moral conducts so as to help build a better society just as expected of you" he admonished.

On the other hand, the Provost who spoke through the Deputy Provost Administration Alhaji Umar Shafa warned the newly matriculated students to shun all forms of vices such as drug abuse, drinkeness, indecent dressings, examination malpractice, sexual promiscuity, cultism, stealing, fighting, gossiping among others saying that such negative attitudes would attract serious sanction for anyone of them caught indulging on them.

"Since all the vices stated above were inimical towards the development of the school and the students the authorities of the college would invoke the appropriate provision of the law to deal or punish the perpetrator(s) of the act" he warned.

The Provost who assured that the college would continue to provide a conducive and learning friendly environment for all its students and lecturers as well, advised the students to ensure that they are always diligent in all their studies in order to achieve academic excellence as well as their desired targets.

Speaking about the current security challenges confronting the nation, the Provost advised the students to adhere strictly to the



Sule

security arrangements put in place by the security operatives within the colleges and always be security conscious by reporting all suspicious movements to the security agencies for an appropriate and prompt actions to avert any unfortunates situation or happenings.

He further advised the students to always carry along their identity cards to anywhere they may go for an easy identification.

While commending Governor Abdullahi Sule of the state for his recent visit to the college and the approval of funds for the accreditation of the colleges Degree and NCE programmes and also the release of funds for the convocation of the eight sets of graduates of the colleges, the Provost assured that on their parts they would continue to make the best use of all what was given and ensure good standards in their activities.

Thani who used the occasion to congratulate the newly

matriculated students for scaling through the admission process of the colleges also reminded them that the matriculation oath taking by the new students in the institution signals the first of initiation and acceptance into the institution's community adding that the oath of allegiance taken they have formally been enrolled as student of the College of Education Akwanga.

Ourmen reports that highlight of the ceremony include the administration of the matriculation oaths to the students by the Registrar of the college Mr. Yakubu Akiru Ojikpa.

Meanwhile, some students interviewed expressed their happiness with their matriculation and pledged to be of good moral behaviours throughout their stay in the college and face their studies squarely in order to meet-up with their academic targets and the expectations of both their parents and society in them.

Government's concern on killing of Christians disappointing, disgraceful -CAN

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State, has described the lack of concern by the government on the killings of Christians as "disappointing and disgraceful".

From **JOHN FWAH, Kaduna**

Joseph Hayab accused the federal and state governments of keeping silent while Islamic terrorists under the cloak of bandits massacre Christians in the state.

Rev. John Joseph Hayab, who stated this in a statement on Sunday, described the killings as too many and the lack of concern by the government as "disappointing and disgraceful".

"The bandits are now hardened and brutal. They are killing without mercy and the rate at which they have turned on the Church in Kaduna State and Nigeria is alarming and worrisome," he said.

He added, "The last three weekends have all been periods of mourning and anguish from our communities to the church."

He lamented the killing of Rev Fr Vitus Borogo on his farm on Saturday.

Borogo, 50, was killed at Prison Farm, Kujama, along Kaduna-Kachia Road, following a raid on the farm by terrorists.

The deceased priest was the Chaplain of the Catholic Community of the Kaduna State Polytechnic, and the Chairman of the Nigerian Catholic Diocesan Priests Association (NCDPA), Kaduna Chapter.



Ayokunle

News

EU partners FG on infrastructure, security



Buhari

The EU Ambassador to Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Ms Samuela Isopi, on Tuesday, said the EU was collaborating with the Federal Government to improve infrastructure and security. Isopi, who said this at a briefing with business editors in Lagos, noted that it was imperative for Nigeria to improve critical infrastructure and overcome security challenges to attract investments into key sectors of the economy. Isopi said: "We are working to support the government to address security challenges in the area of farmers/herder clashes, oil bunkering and others. "Nigeria needs to create the appropriate

environment to attract investments in the several sectors of the economy." The ambassador said the EU was also focusing on investments in the oil and gas as well as agriculture sectors as key drivers of the Nigerian economy. "We want to wean ourselves from dependence on gas from Russia. By continuing to buy gas from Russia, we will continue to support their economy. "We are reaching out to the Nigerian government and other African countries as alternatives. "But we are confronted by the issues of inadequate infrastructure, vandalism, banditry and kidnapping. That's why we are collaborating with the Nigerian government," said Isopi. Isopi, who described the EU bloc as Nigeria's biggest

-Envoy

trading partner, said the European bloc accounted for 20.9 per cent of Nigeria's trade with the world. She added that the EU accounted for 25.4 per cent of Nigeria's exports to the global market, and was Nigeria's second largest import destination, accounting for 16.1 per cent of the country's total imports. She further noted that the bloc was Nigeria's first partner in foreign direct investment, with EU companies, together with their Nigerian business partners, contributing to the country's economic growth, job creation and wealth generation. She said all the issues hindering investments in Nigeria would be tackled at the 8th EU-Nigeria Business Forum, themed 'Nigeria and the New Economy,' scheduled to hold in Lagos from June 30 to July 1. According to her, business leaders and government officials from Nigeria and Europe will seek to identify new opportunities to unlock the Nigerian economy towards win-win outcomes for Nigeria and Europe at the forum. "This year's event will focus on three key sectors: backward integration policy of the Nigerian government; opportunities to increase gas exports to Europe; and new initiatives in the agricultural sector.

Police in Imo State Monday, paraded some suspects who allegedly killed former Presidential aide of President Goodluck Jonathan, Alhaji Ahmed Gulak last year. Gulak was murdered on Ngor Okpala Airport Road, Owerri, the state capital. The suspects were paraded alongside others who allegedly bombed the residence of the President General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Prof. George Obiozor. Commissioner of Police Mohammed Barde said the suspects confessed to be members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Eastern Security Network (ESN). He said detectives, on June 20, arrested one Anosike Chimobi, 28, who confessed being among IPOB/ESN members that murdered Gulak on May 30, 2021. Barde also claimed that Anosike was also involved in the burning of police stations in Aboh Mbaise, Ahiazu Mbaise, Ezinihitte Mbaise, Hitte-Uboma and Obowo. The police chief equally

Imo police arrest suspected killers of Ahmed Gulak

said the suspect participated in the attack on a truckload of onions at Enyiogwugwu Junction shortly after killing Gulak. Interacting with newsmen, Anosike confessed that some politicians were behind some of their crimes in the state. "Sometimes the politicians will come and meet our commander, Ebube Uche Madu aka Virus but our leader will drive us away each time they came to discuss with him," he said. Also paraded were three suspects, Ifeanyi Awaenyi, 28, Ahanotu Chimezie, 24, and Ahazie Chukwudi, 24, arrested in connection with the burning of Prof Obiozor's residence on March 19. The suspects, who were arrested in Lagos, were said to have taken part in the kidnap of one Chief Okoro Junior, and the killing of his police guard on April 28.



Alkali

NDIC advocates for collaboration with ICPC

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

The Chairman of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) Board, Mrs Ronke Sokefun has called for stronger collaboration on the implementation of the National Anti-

Corruption Strategy (NACS) towards strengthening the fight against corruption in the country. Mrs Sokefun made the call in Abuja at a sensitization seminar for Board and Management of the Corporation facilitated by the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Secretariat. The NDIC Chairman said collaboration through effective sensitization on components of the NACS, particularly the National Ethics and Integrity Policy, and the Freedom of Information Act would go a long way in enhancing the buy-in and ownership of the anti-corruption campaign of the Federal Government amongst top echelons of government agencies. While stressing the total commitment of the board and management of NDIC to sound corporate governance, Mrs Sokefun said the drive towards deepening anti-corruption practices in the Corporation informed the invitation of the NACS secretariat to host the sensitization seminar for the board and management.

In his presentation on the National Integrity Ethics and Integrity Policy, the Deputy Director, Public Institutions Ethics and Values of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC), Mr John Ode lauded the NDIC Board for being the first institution in both the public and private sector to accept and also take the NACS sensitization to the board level. Mr. Ode said the collaboration with NACS and the emergence of NDIC as overall best agency in the 2021 ICPC Ethics and Integrity score card among over 300 public institutions were testament to the corporation's commitment to mainstream anti-corruption policies and practices into its operations. Ode who noted that the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACTU) of the NDIC was the most active among other public institutions charged the Corporation to further imprint its anti-corruption campaign messages on all its communication channels as a way of reinforcing the conduct of staff.

Commercial tricycle riders protest over extortion

From GYANG PAM, Yola

Commercial activities came to a halt Tuesday when tricycle riders blocked several spots in Jimeta, the commercial city of Yola, Adamawa State capital over what they say was undue extortion by Jimeta marshalls. Furthermore, the riders complained about the extortion of double taxation at both Jimeta and Yola South by officials of the riders association. One of the riders disclosed that every year, they pay the sum of N6,500 to the state government through the Ministry of Transportation. "Worrisome is the fact that we are forced to pay monies to these Jimeta marshalls, an outfit put in place by the Yola North Local Government Council", some of the riders claimed.

They are accusing the Jimeta marshalls of using arm twisting to extort from them even as they pay a hundred naira daily and even twice each per day. On why they blocked selected routes thereby causing hardship to other commuters, they said it was because they learnt from Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri was passing through it to commission a four kilometer road that leads to the NYSC Camp. Most traders even had to lock up their shops for fear of looting by miscreants. Contacted over the nasty development, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation, Barrister Asiyale Ananze disclosed that the N6,500 was

introduced for ICT registration of all tricycle and motorcycle owners in order to reduce security challenges involving them (tricycles) popularly called Keke Napep. They were asked to procure form that cost N1,000 and another N3,000 paid to the Board of Internal Revenue while it is not true that they were asked to pay N6,500. As at the time of this report, the protesters had destroyed the offices of the Jimeta marshalls. The State Police boss S.K. Akande when our correspondent called was said to be at a meeting with Chairman of Yola North and that he has since visited the scenes of the protest and would not comment. Meanwhile, many people, frowned at the protests as it deprived many of the opportunity to attend to their businesses.



Fintiri

2023: The same old story for women?



By JENNIFER YARIMA

The political landscape hasn't been very palatable for women in Nigeria to actively strive for elective positions. While some scholars blame women for their own undoing, the reality of the fact is that our stakeholders are not ready to create an enabling environment for women's integration in the scheme of things. This is the sad commentary of Nigerian women at the moment. Therefore; it seems women have little or nothing to celebrate even as our journey into the Fourth Republic has reached appreciable level. It is very clear that the political atmosphere has become quite tight to accommodate more women as against what was earlier hoped for.

Consequently, women are becoming compulsorily submissive and subservient in the present

dispensation against their wish. This is because; the powers that be in our deplorable system have dominated the space and relegated them at the background becoming back benchers. These forces are not providing any space for healthy competition for political offices. Sadly, our women are not allowed to challenge the anomaly which has become a cankerworm in the country today.

The fundamental questions most women are asking today is; what has happened to the treaties, conventions and the much acclaimed Beijing Conference which suggested 35% affirmative action and lobbied successfully for space for the recognition and inclusion of women in the scheme of things? In the aftermath of the Beijing Conference, some countries of the world duly upheld the terms of the engagement that have allowed women to play leading roles in issues of governance and other related matters. Nigeria's case however is fast depreciating as it has only but a pocket few women occupying political and leadership spaces. Currently, only seven out of one hundred and nine Senators and twenty two of the three hundred and sixty House of Representatives members are women.

This unfortunate trend of events is a pointer to the fact that most women are at ease with the peanuts they receive from politicians and would prefer to remain as praise singers, party supporters and women leaders, a position considered insignificant, yet we celebrate such as major land

mark. One carefully watched with dismay the excitement of most women who were 'fortunate' to have been on the delegates list that earned them huge sums of money during the recently conducted party primaries with dismay. So what if these monies were shared, is this all these women could bargain for? After all, the male folks in their greater usual numbers also benefited from these humongous acts of money sharing. If the truth must be told, then most of us have obviously sold our birth rights, compromised the future of our children and render ourselves voiceless because of this token given these women during these primaries and or other shoddy political engagements in the country.

Well, the high cost of politics has prevented most women from vying for positions. The huge financial implications for the purchase of mandatory expression of interest and nomination forms required by political parties are a pointer to the fact that our women are highly marginalized in the nation. In a situation where these forms are even given to women free, campaign costs are exorbitant considering the financial incapacitation of most women who have poor access to gainful employment and reasonable sources of income.

It's discouraging to note that women candidates are often subjected to gender related electoral violence and hate speeches because of the perception that women are competing to get



what is traditionally men's. Educated women also face all manner of hindrances; they encounter gender stereotypes that assign leadership to mostly men, sexual assault, child care and house work, placing them at a great disadvantage.

Cultural and religious norms surrounding marriage and indigene ship identification are concepts that recognize only ethnic group's native disposition to a particular state and the structure that portrays women as subordinate to men which impede active participation of women in politics.

Some unpatriotic people have often seen women as competitors, threat to their success and would always have a way of trying to kick them off the scene. Is it not fair that women who constitute more than half of the country's population have a level playing ground? Their participation will create a balance of power between genders which is an indicator of development in any society. This happens with ease in other countries of the world but Nigerian women are having it very tough.

The mind blowing question is, can quota system mechanism work in Nigeria? Countries like Rwanda and South Africa have effectively used the quota system strategy to pave

the way for women representation in politics. In Rwanda for instance, over 50% of political positions are held by women who have become role models. Seeing women in positions of power can encourage others to confidently aspire to leadership positions. This in turn tends to promote diversity and increases opportunity for disadvantaged groups.

So, the question some of us are asking is; how long should our women's ordeal linger? Women obviously need training in the area of political inclusion. They need to be tutored through the rudiments of politics. When people are unknown at the grass root, the chances for them to be successful is slim. They need to disabuse their minds to know that politics is not dirty, but a worthwhile venture that must also routinely be re-emphasized.

Networking and mentoring is important. Financial support is crucial for women to enable them participate or vie for positions. Women must ensure that only women who are efficient and have the capacity to lead are encouraged to vie for positions to justify what we clamour for. The end has not yet come as there are better days to work harder to proof a point.

How hopeless is Nigeria?



By BULUS GAMBO

A few years ago, I found myself queuing in one of these filling stations in Jos, the Plateau State capital waiting for my turn to fuel my car when an expected situation transpired. Before it could get to my turn, I saw one heavily built man who bought a package of bottled water from a kiosk heading towards his parked car.

On reaching there, he opened the bayonet of the car and began to pour one of the bottled water into it. So curious, some of us approached and asked him how on earth would he not request for a bucket of free water but opted to use bottled water to refill his car. Without wasting time, the man smiled and boastfully mumbled, "I don't have problem with that. We from the Niger Delta region are rich and super rich, so buying bottled water to pour in a car is certainly not a big bargain. We are more than this, however, up north here; you are poor; so, it may be a big deal for you here, I

guess."

Nonetheless, it was his money and he had the absolute right to decide whatever to do with it, but some of us felt it was not morally right for him to buy a crate of bottled water for his car usage when majority of the citizens of this country cannot afford three square meals a day. It was a bizarre attitude which, some of us were not comfortable with and could not be silent about it.

Actually, it was not right for such a person to publicly be so extravagant at this particular time when it is not well with more than half the populace of our citizenry. That fateful day, I was unable to sleep at night while trying to fathom the logic behind such an attitude openly displayed without any remorse by the stranger. What the man did was unimaginable and beyond human comprehension in all ramifications of life yours sincerely must confess.

As days rolled by after this awful incident, I began to pacify myself with some scriptures encouraging myself to remain more focused in my daily obligations than think consistently of such an unimaginable and unthinkable act displayed by this nonnative that ruinous day. It took me some months to overcome this shock and begged God afterwards not to let me see such an act of irresponsibility again in the future.

Some days back, another

unfortunate incident brought back the memories of that sad incident which I witnessed at the filling station. While I was flipping through the pages of a newspaper, I coincidentally came across a story where it was alleged that Nigeria's Accountant General was arrested and subsequently interrogated for syphoning the sum of N200 billion while in office. After I read that striking story; my jaw dropped even as I kept wondering where and how on earth can one person be able to steal a humongous amount as such and not be wiggled at all? A few days later, I again had the opportunity to witness one of the House of Representatives Public Hearing committee interrogating this same Accountant General over his inability to put his records straight. Even as his responses triggered more unanswered questions, I was left to conclude that Nigeria was already in a very big trouble with these horrible scavengers.

Though I know that since the country got liberated from the shackles of military dictatorship in 1999, many unscrupulous elements have continued to steal from the national treasury. The ferocious and intriguing nature of this direct and unremorseful stealing of government funds by these looters is still bewildering many of us in this nation. Though our country is today systematically nose-diving into oblivion becoming much of a

failed state, some unashamed thieves and looters are not mindful of our excruciating predicaments but only promoting their selfish agenda.

Unfortunately, these same thieves and looters are the ones always given front seats in our places of worship. These same thieves are the ones our community leaders and members are protecting with the last drop of their blood.

I pity some of our clergymen in this country particularly those who have deliberately restrained themselves from speaking to power even in the midst of such a terrible calamity that has befallen our dear nation. For the fact that our men of God have compromised; they are leading our people into great doom without any resistance.

Beyond this, the devil has also confused our elites to a point where to compromise over a cup of porridge is no longer a big deal for them. Selling our rights to the highest bidder has become a part of their dishonest character.

That is the more reason why many of the citizens of this nation have lost hope in the democratic system of governance. For these classes of people, only the elites have benefited from this kind of government which has been quite repressive subjugating the common man.

Since the advent of this democratic dispensation, the common man has been left at the mercy of inflationary

circumstances which is presently bedeviling the country. Consequently, the excruciating gap between the rich and the poor in terms of unequal wealth distribution is glaringly indicative of the fact that our epileptic economic framework has become so fragile beyond comprehension. Added to dilemma is the rising state of insecurity following the increasing cases of kidnapping and banditry. It is a mere fact today that no village and or community is any longer safe as these hoodlums comb more rural areas and metropolitan places to unleash their acts of terror.

These acts of administrative ingenuity have forced many citizens to have a rethink about the overwhelming perpetration of bad governance and its serious implications on the vulnerable population of this country. Sad enough, the divide and rule mechanism employed by the political class to recycle power among themselves has only but jeopardized our collective interest.

Our country is heading towards distinction owing to the obvious fact that truth in the word of the popular Nigerian musician Fela Kuti is dead. For sure, many citizens of this nation have become lovers of money and themselves rather than providing their shoulders for us to lean on. The question on the lips of many citizens is; how hopeless is Nigeria? Only God will help us in this country, only God will see us through this unending predicament.

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

CO-OPERATIVE societies are considered important institutions for uplifting the socio-economic conditions of their members and local communities. To be successful, these co-operatives need to have dedicated, trained and vibrant leaders that would sustain and maintain the growth of various societies in Plateau State.

It is important to know that leadership skills, management, information technology, and application of co-operative principles need leaders that are pragmatic in nature that would drive modern day co-operative societies to greater heights in development.

Again, professional behaviours, interpersonal relations, governance and motivation of leaders, need to be cultivated through constant training, seminars, workshop, to adequately equip leaders of primary societies with the modern day skills, knowledge and experience.

Similarly, the Plateau State Co-operative Federation Limited, (PLASCOFED) held a two day Workshop/Summit for her leaders of various primary societies in Plateau, with the theme: "Developing Pragmatic, Visionary and Purposeful Leadership for Co-operative Sustainability" at Sarau Event Centre in Jos recently.

However, leadership is the ability of an individual or group of individuals to influence and guide followers or other members of an organization in making sound and sometimes difficult decisions, creating and articulating a clear vision, establishing achievable goals and providing followers with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve planned goals.

Moreover, an effective leader possesses the characteristics of self-confidence, strong communication, management skills, creativity, innovative thinking and perseverance in the face of failure, willingness to take risks, openness to change etc.

The resource person during the two day programme, Mr. Buden Augustine Dunka, is from the Department of Co-operative Economics and Management, College of Business and Management Studies, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna State.

He said that, "with the rising global prospects in population and development that are connected with increasing usage of resources and environmental influences, it appears that business entities do not have a direct option for reliable future sustainability. However, there is a need for a holistic and pragmatic approach to combat the various difficulties of future sustainability that would withstand the ever-changing market environment."

"Therefore, nowadays the corporate leaders, firm manager and owner-managers of enterprises are being challenged

to make inputs to sustainable development on economic, organisational, societal and environmental matters." In today's competitive market environment, for a business to achieve sustainability, it is largely dependent on a business sustainability model to highlight the logic behind firm value creation and its potential effect".

On the other hand, Co-operatives societies are

management and members, inadequate Co-operative Education for both members and Exco, ignorance of the society's bye-law, injustice and selective treatment of some members by management committee etc.

When such conflicts occur, it should be handled carefully to avoid escalation of further conflicts among members of the

Sustaining co-operative societies through pragmatic leadership training



Events People & Places



democratic in nature when it comes to decision making, processes of selecting leaders to man the affairs of the society.

It would be highly adaptable and very resilient when we compete to make our society better by having pragmatic leaders who would focus on practical approaches and solutions rather than allowing their emotions to distract them in the cause of administration.

Pragmatic leaders are goal driven, they value hitting their goals above anything and are very bold thinkers, even when others are afraid of the risk in business.

Nonetheless, you don't have to be a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), but to be a visionary leader, this management skill can exist in all levels of leadership, whereby, they are persistent to navigate challenges and push through them in keeping the team on course by leading with a "never-give-up" attitude no matter how tough things get.

Whereas, in the cause of running the affairs of co-operative societies, obstacles, conflicts are bound to happen as a result of an autocratic management style, inadequate regular meetings, inadequate information inflow between

society by putting in measures in the resolution that encompasses the use of non-violence in promoting effective resolution without fear or favours by being proactive in handling issues, getting facts of the matters and to keep communication open to get a feedback.

Dunka added that, there are ways of minimizing conflict in Co-operative societies in creating of a democratic atmosphere, holding regular effective meetings, organizing intensive co-operative education, abiding by the provisions of the law and by-laws, to understand and harmonize the needs of various sub-groups in the co-operative, maintaining free flow of essential information, building membership-management trust etc and increasing co-operative spirit of oneness among members.

He stressed that, existence of conflicts in an organization where persons work together is normal, as conflict is a part of life conflict in co-operative is an evidence that there is a wealth of experience, knowledge and ideas among members.

Co-operatives are well known for economic entities that pursue social justice and fair distribution of income in the

society but conflicts if left unchecked can disrupt the achievement of these ideals. Conflicts in co-operative need to be well managed and properly resolved in a non-violent way. This would lead to a stronger co-operatives on the Plateau and would also help in building a better human community, the resource person concluded

The PLASCOFED President, Mrs. Hannatu Paul Mershak in her remarks, stated that the leadership workshop was timely, considering the state of the economy of our country today and world wide.

Leaders who have a sense of direction can work towards achieving the common goals of the co-operative and to also sustain the future through pragmatic steps. She urged co-operative leaders

to ensure that they put what they have learned into practice in order to build a lasting economic viability of our country, Nigeria.

Mershak called on Plateau state government to kindly ensure that monthly remittances of various co-operative societies are being paid as at when due, co-operative societies cannot survive without funds and is the life wire and hope of every Civil Servant in the state.

Highlights of the event was the fund raising of 10 million naira by members of co-operative societies, supported by bankers, friends and well-wishers towards the purchase of a bus for PLASCOFED official use so as to enhance the smooth running of the activities of the Federation.

IMAGES

SHITNAAN TAKES LAETITIA AS WIFE

The wedding ceremony between Dr. Shitnaan Joseph Ari Jnr, son to the Director General, Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Sir Joseph Ari and Laetitia Kabasele took place at St. Monica Catholic Church Rantya, Jos, Jos South LGA



Bishop David Ajang of Lafia Catholic Diocese (middle) assisted by Rev. Fr. Fred Wukari joining the couple in marriage



Dr. and Mrs. Shitnaan Joseph Ari in a group photograph with His Grace Bishop David Ajang and their sponsors



Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State and his wife, Regina witnessing the ceremony



A cross section of Reverend Fathers at the wedding ceremony



Former Military Governor of Plateau State, Rear Admiral Samuel Bitrus Atukum (right) exchanging greetings with the Executive Secretary, NCPC, Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam



Bride, and Bridegroom, Parents, Governor Lalong, Sen. Sam Egwu, Sen. Jonah Jang, Sir Joseph Ari, Lady Vicky Ari and well-wishers in a group photograph



Nigeria's House of Reps Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase delivering his goodwill message at the wedding reception



A cross section of Zumunta Mata and dignitaries at the wedding

Odd World

'Dad abandoned us, demanding my inheritance share'

A woman has found herself in a difficult moral dilemma after her grandmother passed away and left her everything in her will.

Although this is not an unusual thing for a grandparent to do, the woman has been left conflicted after her dear grandma left nothing but a single dollar to her dad, who abandoned the family for another woman when she was just 13 years old.

"When I was 13 years old, my mother found out my father was having an affair and he got the other woman pregnant. My dad confessed he was in love with the other woman and wanted to leave my mother," the woman wrote on Reddit's AITA forum.

"She obviously heartbroken and didn't know what to do, as we had moved to a new state with my father for work so she had no family around. My father dropped us like a bad habit, he attempted to keep a relationship with me, but ultimately his new family was 'his priority' as he said.

Her dad said his new family was his priority now.

"Tough to understand for a 13 year old, but whatever. If he didn't want me, I wasn't going to need him so my mother and I moved on. The only way we were able to move on was with the help of my grandmother, my father's mother. She always loved us and was appalled with what her son had done to us. He stopped seeing her as well for the most part."

Over the years, the woman and her mum became increasingly close with her grandmother, often spending special occasions and holidays together, while her dad was "nowhere to be found."

"Unfortunately, the years caught up with her and she developed colon cancer, advanced late stage. Her decline was rapid. Within a few months she was in hospice," the woman continued.

She and her mum developed an amazing relationship with her grandma

"Days before she passed, she asked me to call her son to come see her as she knew her time was coming. He'd only been to see her a couple times since she had gotten sick. When he came by, I was visiting as we did every few days and he acted like I was some random person.

"Grandma asked him to come back tomorrow, but he said he'd be back in a few days. She passed 4 days later without him coming back despite my calls and texts to come. She went peacefully with me and my mom by her side. That was hard. I miss her every day. She was my guardian angel most of my life and I know she continues to watch over me."

After the funeral and everything took place, the woman and her mum were contacted by her grandmother's lawyer, who revealed she had, in fact, left both her home and \$200,000 to her in her will.

"I had no idea she did that, but in the will, there was a note to me from her that said: 'You are worth it. Love Grandma.' She's amazing," the woman added.

"Also in her will, she left my father exactly \$1 as his inheritance. When he found out, he went ballistic, blowing up my phone all the time demanding I give him 'his house and his money.' His new wife and his son were messaging me a lot and his son was writing on social media that I manipulated my grandmother."

Eventually, the woman's father apologised for his behaviour and explained he was under a lot of stress because he's in debt and was expecting a windfall from his mum to help cover his bills and send his son to college, leading her to feel bad and question whether she should share the money after all.

Source: The Mirror



Notorious kidnappers are back in town

A week's days ago, one of my uncles was kidnapped around Jagindi village while returning to Jos, Plateau State from Abuja on routine assignment. Though my uncle works with one of these delivery companies in the Federal Capital Territory, his daily routines includes shuttling between various cities within the Middle Belt and North Eastern regions where the company's clients are surging by the day. Interestingly, in his routine obligations, he always travel within short notices collecting parcels and ensures and all end receivers get their messages intact without difficulties. Thus, my uncle is always on the move beating datelines to ensure that his company retains its dignity as a pace setter in the industry.

One cannot presume that as a delivery man; my uncle is that rich to be a target considering the struggles he is always left to overcome while providing three square meals a day for his family. Though my uncle is having an average family like any other Nigerian, putting food on the table and ensuring his children's school fees payments are regular sometimes require an unimaginable degree of efforts and energy. To cut the long story short, it has not been that easy taking care of his family particularly during this time of our harsh economic retardation.

Thus, when the news of my uncle's kidnaping got to me, I was flabbergasted and left in a complete state of disbelief knowing too well that his abductors would sooner than later find out that they have ventured into a business gone bad. Therefore, I kept wondering how on earth would his family get his ransom payment should his abductors transmit their demands for possible negotiations.

Some days later and after my uncle was released, I went to his house to make inquires about his experience and what he revealed shocked me to my bone marrow. I could not believe that he had to dole out a significant amount of resources with the help of several friends and well-wishers before he secured his freedom.

Narrating his ordeal, my uncle explained that "these people are highly sophisticated and immediately after we were abducted about the ten of us, we were separated into various groups and camps through sophisticated maneuvering to avoid the criminals getting caught. We were beaten by them and they also told us that since rich men have abandoned this Jagindi road and have opted for Akwanga road, they will follow them to the other roads and must kidnap them because business must continue if and when there is life." Interestingly, I was also informed that all the criminals had AK 47 but are planning to upgraded their weaponry as soon as possible to stand heat and challenges of their kidnaping business.

Though my uncle's experience cannot be quite different from the narratives of many others who have also been kidnapped for ransom in this country, this sad ordeal reminds us of the obvious fact that Nigeria is losing its fight against kidnappers and or banditry. In most cases, these victims of kidnaping are never found alive while some of their loved ones later excruciatingly recover from the corpses of some of these unfortunate kidnapped victims even after ransom payments are made.

In the past few days, kidnappers have successfully launched and executed various attacks with impunity in the heart of Jos metropolis. So far, about three traditional rulers have been kidnapped for ransom here on the Plateau. The latest was the kidnap of the District Head of Panyam, His Royal Highness, Da. Engr.

Aminu Derwam who was abducted by an unknown-gunmen at his home in Panyam in Mangu Local Government Area of the state. Investigations have since revealed that the hoodlums are demanding for N150 million even as negotiations are ongoing for his eventual release. Sometimes back, the Village Head of Gindiri and that of Vwang were also taken away but subsequently released after fruitful negotiations. As it stands, some vulnerable areas where these nefarious activities have continued unabated include, Haske Quarters, Rantya, Nassarawa Gwong and Agingi in Bassa Local Government Area amongst other black spots across the Jos city center. Most astonishing however is the fact that during some of these crimes, the perpetrators are linked to either close neighbors and or persons who are related and or have known their victims for several uninterrupted years.

Though the Plateau State Police Command has of recent tried in its efforts towards curbing the menace of some of these acts of criminality, recent upsurge in the rate of kidnappings have raised serious concerns amongst various stakeholders including leaders of thoughts in these communities.

Sad enough, hardly does a week passes these days without one hearing about one kidnapping incident in one community or the other in the state. This situation is almost getting out of hand in our surrounding local government areas where Police outposts are absolutely nearly absent. In such communities, residents are left at the mercy of such criminal elements who intimidate, maim, kill and abduct for ransom their victims without any stiff resistance by vulnerable communities. In some cases, there are allegations of direct connivance between these criminal elements and unpatriotic security agents who desire to get rich quick by all means necessary.

For some security experts, this mushrooming in kidnaping related activities can be attributed to the unchecked menace of the proliferation of small and light weapons across various states of the country. Added to this ugly development is the glaring government's failure to mob out illegal weapons in the hands of non-state actors in the past few years.

As a result of this, many criminal elements have consistently had easy access to many of such illegal weapons as there have not been reasonable background checks to stop its proliferation in our society. But again, many of our stakeholders and community leaders have shielded some of these harden criminal elements from facing the wrath of the law through their acts of compromise.

At the end of it all, these same criminals have not spared any of our community members but unleashed their acts of terror with devastating effects on the entire citizenry. It is against the backdrop of these ugly trend of events that our security agencies must wake up from their slumber to do the needful in the collective interest of all our citizenry.

It has become necessary for the Nigeria Police to re-strategize particularly in the area of information gathering so as to ensure that proactive measures are taken to nib this problem in the bud. More than ever before, our communities must also come to the realization of the fact that shielding criminal elements from prosecution would not be in the best interest of our society. In the long run, we may only but be encouraging these criminals to continue terrorizing innocent citizens of this nation with impunity.

To help curbing this menace, both the Federal and State governments must also synergize and collaborate with other stakeholders in the sector towards ensuring that our states become too hot for these criminals to reside and penetrate their notorious activities.

View Point

Plateau NAWOJ: Yarima, two tenures ended well...

On Thursday, 16th June 2022, the former Chairman of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, (NAWOJ) Plateau State chapter, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima graciously bowed out of office after serving two excellent tenures. The epoch-making event witnessed by many members of the association and other well-wishers also ushered in new executive members who are expected to pilot the affairs of the body in the next coming three years. BULUS GAMBO, writes.

THOUGH many people are full of gratitude to God that the former NAWOJ chairman through our creator's mercy and members' support recorded a huge success during her tenure, one cannot rule out the fact that she throughout her period of duty remained committed on the path of leaving an extraordinary legacy behind. For me, the accomplishments story of Mrs. Yarima was necessitated by her high spirit of personal sacrifice and realistic commitment ever known and or imagined in the annals of the association's history on the Plateau. Here is a woman who converted her personal financial resources fueling her car and giving such unending support to many vulnerable individuals to encourage them to remain prayerfully optimistic while pursuing their cases. While many individuals envisage occupying such an office to enrich themselves, Mrs. Yarima saw this as an ample opportunity to help the less privileged. Therefore, when I was told that a few cynics in the association were alleging that the immediate past NAWOJ chairman embezzled some funds, I was not surprised as such because; one cannot record these groundbreaking achievements without cynics cooking and proliferation of such fallacious stories against such a person. It was certainly the hand work of the devil and his cohorts and they have been put to shame; this I can confidently say.

During her first tenure of office, one can recall with great nostalgia how she remained so dogged fighting invariably several issues pertaining to our collective quest towards protecting the rights of vulnerable women and children in the state. Right from the onset, one can rightly conclude today that the immediate past NAWOJ chairman was born to serve humanity and this she did diligently with all sincerity of purpose to the admiration of us all.

In the course of her service, Mrs. Yarima also ensured that very vulnerable and traumatized persons who crossed her path got some sort of relief be it through physiological therapy and or a token. Though the immediate past chairman and yours sincerely have come a long way back, it was in the circuit of our rituals in NAWOJ that I got to understand and acknowledge some of her surveillance attributes when it comes to seeking for justice for the defenseless in our society. Yarima's overseeing qualities and humane character no doubt linked her up with several kind-hearted individuals who contributed a lot in making her tenure quite a memorable one.

By the way, I was compelled to join NAWOJ and eventually appointed her unofficial Personal Assistant, (PA) owing to the fact that we were always together executing lucrative missions which concerns the association. Thus, it was an overwhelming magnetic experience to the extent that if Mrs. Jennifer Yarima is appointed into any office today and anywhere, be assured that the two of us would always be there working together as a team. Indeed, we are like sesame twins stuck together for good until God decides otherwise. I sometimes used to crack a joke that should I transit to heaven before Mrs. Jennifer Yarima, I would request our Lord Christ Jesus to please reserve the next two closest rooms for her and SP Musa Hassan unoccupied till they join me no matter how long the waiting takes. I still stand by this notion unshakably no matter how crazy it sounds.

In the cause of our several rendezvous in NAWOJ, we also came across many interesting personalities. For instance, I can recall the first day she mumbled me about the Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) of Nassarawa Gwong, Jos in the person of SP Musa



Yarima

Hassan. Though I had worked with the Police for decades when I was still a green horn in journalism profession decades back, I never completely trusted the Police. As a Crime and Judiciary reporter back then, my relationship with the Police can be analogized to that of a cat and mouse. This was because; periodically we synergize with the police during my reportage but in most circumstances, what kept us apart was the consistent cases of police brutality and extrajudicial killings which I never swept under the carpet. Back then, many of the Police were unaware of the relevance of Police/civilian relationship for a better society while a pocket few of them were intrinsically vicious to the core. These categories of Policemen were also unapologetic about their misconduct and acts of personal aggrandizement.

In this regard, when Mrs. Yarima approached me on that fateful day asserting, "you need to meet this DPO Musa Hassan, he is a policeman with a difference. This man does not collect bribes and he is transparent in his expected obligations as a police officer", I just couldn't stop looking at her with skepticism. My jaw just dropped as I kept soliloquizing, "Haba Elder Yarima, what has come over you today self?"

Though we always try to avoid ludicrous arguments and rarely had and or still have it, she stood her ground insisting and coaxing me to meet SP Hassan and not to evaluate him by the cover. Reluctantly, I later met the DPO and since then, my intuition of the Nigeria Police has changed for the better. Today, both SP Musa Hassan, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima and I have established a strong bond which spiritually has helped us improved our faith in Christ. Later in our blossoming friendship, I got to know that this outstanding Divisional Police Officer and a complete gentleman is also a clergy and a prayer warrior to the glory of God. The journey of NAWOJ on the Plateau in

the past few years inevitably cannot be completed without mentioning the positive contributions of the DPO Nassarawa Gwong and his officers, men and women of the rank and file. Basically, through an effective and efficient synergy, NAWOJ and Nassarawa Gwong Jos Police Division held several seminars, enlightenment programmes and street walks to educate the communities in the areas of the devastating consequences of rape, gender abuse and other forms of domestic violence which has negatively affected many promising families and homes.

Through SP Musa Hassan, NAWOJ was also able to consolidate on the already existing structures intended to create an enabling environment for peaceful coexistence of the heterogeneous communities in Nassarawa Gwong. Interestingly, before the coming of SP Musa Hassan, the entire area was a no-go area and one of the black spots causing headache for security agencies on the Plateau. Criminals had taken this entire jurisdiction hostage and were perpetrating acts of criminality with impunity.

Within the shortest possible time after his assumption of office however, SP Musa Hassan was able to gather all stakeholders including both the Muslim and Christian leaders to brainstorm on the possible way out of this quandary. The coming of NAWOJ under the leadership of the immediate past chairman also helped in the area of subtracting the preponderance of thugs related violence and drug abuse.

The synergy between these two bodies subsequently climaxed with an award which was given to DPO Musa Hassan and other important personalities who did tremendously well towards changing the ugly and unpleasant narratives of violent conduct and other social vices. Most of the cases including gender violations through the Police Gender Desk under the direct supervision of

SP Musa Hassan were eventually amicably resolved within the ambit of the law and put to rest.

Mrs. Yarima's synergy with the International Federation of Women Lawyers, (FIDA) Plateau State chapter and the National Human Rights Commission in the state also helped in no small measure towards restoring the hope of many violated victims. Even though some of these cases eventually ended up in the court of law, the victims became so fulfilled that they eventually had a shoulder to lean on during their trial moments. In appreciation of her leadership integrity, members of NAWOJ including some of us known as the "He for She" kept doling out our widow's might to assist the body conduct some of its routine tasking and or demanding obligations.

A couple of years back, Jennifer Yarima met me one evening during one of our routine official engagements and told me of a difficult case which was brought to her attention by one Mr. Zingak Deshi. The case was about some students of St. Stephen Center International at Abeokuta in Ogun State who were violated with impunity by the Director of the center. Zingak then completely traumatized about the whole scenario had approached NAWOJ for help to liberate these innocent children from captivity.

Narrating the children's ordeal, Zingak had explained that most of the them were taken by the then Director of the Center, Rev Isaac Newton Nwosu for rehabilitation as a result of the then consistent attacks and conflicts in some northern states of the Federation. Considering the fact that most of the victims were children of Christian minorities in the North East and North Central regions, the center was established to help these vulnerable children who lost either one or both parents during the crisis to find their footings and valuably integrate back to our society. The center was then funded strongly by a foreign Christian Aid group but the resources were highly underutilized, syphoned and misappropriated to the detriment of the children.

Thereafter, many vulnerable children from poverty-stricken homes were recruited and admitted into the center to help better their lives. Much later, the Director derailed from his anticipated duties and eventually began to allegedly have canal knowledge of the teenage girls while enslaving the boys inside the facility. It was subsequently reported that at a point, the Director was allegedly selecting some of the young and innocent girls and taking them on a cruise, sexually exploiting them as he further went neck-deep into acts of immorality.

Following Yarima's passion for children, she immediately ventured into the matter which dragged on for years ending eventually in a court of law. Unfortunately, the Director of the center unexpectedly died in lawful custody and the case came to an abrupt end. The joy of it all however was that despite the long trips and shuttles between Plateau and Ogun States, Mrs. Yarima on several occasions was docked during many traumatizing court appearances with Zingak's stunning incarceration in the course of these litigations, today many of the inmates of the center in Abeokuta have been liberated to the glory of God. Hence, another opportunity has been created for these former students of the center and some of them are presently studying different courses in several universities even as others are married and self-employed.

During the last NAWOJ Delegates' Conference in Minna, Niger State, for the first time; the association's

chapter on the Plateau decided to field a candidate for the seat of the National President in the person of Mrs. Lucy Chindaba. The choice of Mrs. Chindaba was quite overwhelming and obviously given a clean bill of health after she had served as the National Secretary of the association with outstanding records to show for it.

To sum it up, Mrs. Chindaba was overwhelmingly accepted as the right candidate for the job but for a pocket few Judases and bonafide Plateau indigenes who decided to betray our collect purpose in their quest for personal aggrandizement. Rather than supporting the entire Plateau project to its logical conclusion, these particular individuals subsequently compromised and sold off the Plateau Project over a plate of porridge.

But again, life must continue as we sometimes win and lose some battles of life but never renege in our aspirations for a better tomorrow. After we got noticed several times together during many NAWOJ engagements, it never came to Mrs. Yarima's attention or I that many members of the association were perceiving us to be a married couple. At least not until Prince Charles Dickson let the cat out of the bag during a seminar held at Crest Hotel in Jos. My jaw dropped when I got to know that our friendship and her being my in-law was misread, misconstrued and totally quite on the contrary misinformed and or misunderstood.

To set the records straight, yours sincerely got married to Madam Yarima's immediate younger sister after dating her at their house some years back. When we met for the first time and I fell in love with her sister, I was compelled to retreat a bit from Mrs. Yarima not until I knew for sure that her sister and I had concluded to get married.

Back to business however, I think any NAWOJ chairman taking over from Yarima in the coming years will have a lot to do to sustain the tempo of the feat already recorded in most recent years. This is so because; NAWOJ has not only become a household name in the fight against injustice, gender-based violence, child enslavement, stigmatization and discrimination but restored the lost hope of many vulnerable members of our society.

It is also true that Mrs. Yarima's success story is linked to the support given her by our umbrella body in the state, which is the Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ) Plateau State Council. No doubt, the Plateau State Council Chairman, Paul Jatau did his best for NAWOJ and only God will bless him. We cannot also forget the former Chairman of NUJ, Mr. Yakubu Taddy for the tremendous support he gave NAWOJ when he was the leader of the council. So also, is another former chairman of NUJ, Mr. Katdappa Gobum and all the chapels in the state.

After all is said and done, we must conclude that Mrs. Jennifer Yarima during her tenure indeed came, saw and conquered and has written her name in gold in the annals of the history of the association of this vibrant women journalists in the state. Though her leadership role in NAWOJ has come to an end at the state level, something quite special is gradually taking a good shape and very soon, another interesting chapter of a splendid service to our society will be unleashed. I therefore wish her all the best in her future endeavors in service to humanity while promoting equal rights and justice for all in Nigeria.



The visit to NASCO Foods

Last week, Plateau Governor Simon Bako Lalong and some members of his executives stormed the premises of NASCO Foods, Yakubu Gowon Way, Jos to celebrate the company's success story.

NASCO Foods had organised the forum on June 23, 2022 to launch its new multi-billion Naira production plant, that was described to be world class and state of the art technology and facilities that would increase the output of the production of its popular 'NASCO Cornflakes'.

The event attracted political big wigs, many personalities and representatives of organisations, heads of banks and industries and officials from the private and public circles.

Among corporate entities present were First Bank Nigeria PLC, Bank of Industries, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Industrial Training Fund, Standards Organisation of Nigeria, National Agency for Food, Drugs and Control (NAFDAC), among others. They all praised the over 6-decade old company for sustaining its production tempo and sustaining the business enterprise to a leading one despite Covid-19 and other challenges.

NASCO Foods is the biscuit, cereal and snack unit of the group and it produces breakfast cereals, as well as a variety of biscuits and snacks.

Governor Lalong who was Special Guest of



Honour at the forum was glad that since its establishment in 1963, the company which produces various brands across the country and Africa has become one of the leading companies in Plateau. He said it has grown to become a major booster to the state's economy, aside being a job creation determinant, wealth creation catalyst and source of pride to Plateau.

Parts of the accolades he poured on NASCO was their resilience during the period when the state was faced with ethno-religious crisis, conflicts that led to a mass exodus of businesses from the state to other states.

"I am delighted that this foremost company has not only deepened its presence in Jos, but has endured all the challenges that emerged at various times which led to the exodus of many investors from the state" said Lalong.

He also said his administration has worked hard to regain the confidence of both foreign and local investors in the state by fulfilling one of its policy thrust- "Sustainable Economic Rebirth".

He gave a tribute to the founding father of the company, the late great Industrialist, Ahmed Nasreddin who died at the age of 97 in May 2021 for laying a solid foundation for the company and nurturing it to a sustainable level before his demise. Lalong said he was glad that his son, Dr. Attia Nasreddin who is the Chairman of NASCO group is continuing in his father's footsteps by making the Jos-based company a leading industrial conglomerate.

He thereafter commissioned the new cornflakes production plant before taking a tour of the facility alongside other key stakeholders.

The NASCO Foods visit climaxed with the organisers treating special guests to lunch on a roundtable, and serving corn-flakes as the major meal.



News

Call out those who betrayed our Plateau ideals

Stories by EZEKIEL DONTINNA

A veteran journalist and former General Manager of the Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), the publishers of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** and **SUNDAY STANDARD**, Nde Jonathan Ishaku, has encouraged youth to develop courage and call out names of those who betrayed Plateau dreams and ideals.

He made the call while presenting a paper Titled: "Plateau Dream; Sustaining the Vision of our Fathers" at the 5th Edition of the Plateau Leadership Summit, held at the Crest Hotels and Gardens Jos, the Plateau State capital recently.

The veteran said, "I believe that the only way we can continue to be inspired by the vision of our forefather, is to remember their struggle for a free, just, peaceful and united society. We should document as well as teach about the lives and history of our heroes past."

"In the Benue Plateau State, the Military

Governor, Joseph Dechi Gomwalk, a Commissioner of Police, consolidated on the newly found freedom of the independent state and worked tirelessly to give concrete political and economic expression to the dream of the Middle Belt ideology.

"This entailed the demonstration of self-determination by introducing policies aimed at cutting the umbilical cord of feudalism domination. Adopting "Liberty and Peace" as its motto, Benue Plateau State paid due tribute to its long years of struggle against conquest by jihadists and later resistance to Northern feudal oligarchy.

This aspiration to be free and to evolve political and economic institutions, policies, models and systems that enhance self-reliance are what, in my view, constitute the Plateau Dream through the years. It is the same dream our generation share with our early nationalists such as the David Lots, the Patrick Dokotris, the Moses Rwangas, the Azi Nyakos, the Solomon

Lars, Michael Bubas, etc, who toiled to give us freedom with dignity.

"We should list the accomplishment and honour the achievers of the Plateau Dream. We should also have the courage to call out those who betray our ideals. Now that we stand at the pedestal of a new dawn, with these young and energetic young men and women, it is my hope that the Plateau Dream would inspire this generation anew", he enthused.

Ishaku, disclosed that, in order to educate, inform and give a voice to the "liberated" people of the state, Gomwalk established **The Nigeria Standard** and the Benue Plateau Television (BPTV), which incidentally was the first colour TV station in Nigeria, if not the entire West Africa and also pursued the transfer of Jos and environs to NEPA's national grid to free the service of NESCO for part transfer to the rural areas of the state respectively.

He, also opined that Solomon Lar realized the

extent to which the Middle Belt Dream had suffered under the preceding military dispensation in his words, "the personality clashes between former comrades-in-arms, the treachery and betrayals within the Middle Belt-officer corps as well as the increasing rivalry of sub-ethnic groupings previously subsumed under the Middle Belt banner had seriously undermined its solidarity."

"This was what led him to embark on his "Emancipation" programme. His agenda was to reunite the ethnic minorities for the political liberation under the middle Belt Dream of our forefathers. Indeed, true to expectation, Chief Lar carried on exactly from where the late J.D. Gomwalk stopped, "away from and without the influence of the Northerners", he revealed

Early, the Chief Executive of COA Media Group and Coordinating Executive of Plateau Leadership (PLS), Ambassador Cletus Akhimiemi, said, "the Plateau Leadership Submit has held grounds to foster critical reasoning for the sustainable development of Plateau State amidst prevailing challenges and emerging leadership issues".

We are first Plateau people before tribes

-Nentawe

THE All Progressive Congress gubernatorial candidate of Plateau State, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, said there was no unity, you expect that So, unity is key and how can we get unity? First, we must de-emphasize their differences and focus on how first they are Plateau people before tribes to help move the state forward. He stated this recently while speaking at the 5th Edition of the Plateau Leadership Submit (PLS) where he happened to be one of Discussants, held at the Crest Hotels and Gardens Jos, the state capital.

The Governorship candidate who was represented by Mr. Kelvin Pankshin, said, "all started from God when He was about to create man. He said "Let us make man in our image. That is multi-lateral and not unilateral. Despite the infinite capacity of God to anything, He still recognized the importance and essence of unity that was why he made that statement.

"You have seen across the globe that, whenever there is no development. So, unity is key and how can we get unity? First, we must de-emphasize their differences and focus on how first they are Plateau people before tribes to help move the state forward. He stated this recently while speaking at the 5th Edition of the Plateau Leadership Submit (PLS) where he happened to be one of Discussants, held at the Crest Hotels and Gardens Jos, the state capital. The Governorship candidate who was represented by Mr. Kelvin Pankshin, said, "all started from God when He was about to create man. He said "Let us make man in our image. That is multi-lateral and not unilateral. Despite the infinite capacity of God to anything, He still recognized the importance and essence of unity that was why he made that statement.

Sports

Okagbare ban extended to 11 years

NIGERIAN sprinter Blessing Okagbare has been handed an extra one-year ban for additional doping violations to add to her existing 10-year suspension.

The Athletics Integrity Unit charged her with "evading sample collection, and tampering or attempted tampering with the doping control process".

In February, the 33-year-old was handed her original ban for "multiple breaches of anti-doping rules".

She was suspended during the 2021 Tokyo Olympics after failing a drug test.

As a result of Okagbare's additional ban, Nigeria has lost its potential qualification place in the women's 4x100m relay at July's World Championships in Oregon.

Six days after she evaded sample collection - on 13 June 2021 - she competed in the relay event at Nigeria's Olympic trials, helping her team to qualify for the World Championships. However, all results involving Okagbare have now been disqualified.

"Over the years, we have repeatedly seen how one person's actions adversely affect team-mates who have trained hard and worked



Okagbare

honestly for their results," AIU head Brett Clothier said in a statement.

"In this instance, Nigeria has lost an important qualification spot. Those are the rules and we will not compromise on integrity."

Okagbare, the 2008 Olympic long jump silver medallist, was a medal contender for the women's 100m in Tokyo last year and won her heat in 11.05 seconds.

But she was ruled out of the

semi-finals after the AIU said she had tested positive for a human growth hormone following an out-of-competition test on 19 July.

THE Local Organising Committee for the 2022 National Sports Festival has announced Thursday, 30th June for the unveiling of the logo and mascot for the 21st National Sports Festival, NSF, scheduled to commence in November this year.

Speaking with journalists, Secretary of the LOC, Sir, Chris Anaziah said the logo and mascot would be unveiled in Asaba at the Government House Unity Hall by 11am, with his Excellency,, the Executive Governor of Delta State, and the People's Democratic Party's Vice-Presidential candidate, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa as the chief host of the event.

Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare with other members of Main Organising Committee (MOC) headed by the Sports' Ministry Permanent Secretary, Alhaji Isma'il Abubakar, will also be present that the unveiling ceremony.

The LOC had earlier though its Chairman and Secretary to the Delta State Government, (SSG) Chief Patrick Ukah,

2022 National Sports Festival's logo, Mascot get unveiled tomorrow

reiterated Delta's commitment to the hosting of the 21st National Sports Festival as the best of the festival since its inception.

He had asserted that the Asaba 2022 National Sports Festival will be the best of its kind as it will be second to none since the inception of the games in the country since

1973.

He noted that Delta as a major sporting state in the country, are committed to providing the best of facilities for citizens of the country and not just Deltans alone.

Delta 2022, will be the first time perennial champions, Delta State, will be hosting the "National Olympics"



The Sport festival trophy

Nnamdi, Popoola promise exciting times at Commonwealth Games

DEBUTANTS in para-sport at next month's Commonwealth Games, Innocent Nnamdi and

Jubril Ademola Popoola have promised Nigerians exciting times at the Birmingham 2022

edition of the competition, which holds from July 27 to August 7.

Speaking to The Guardian at the flag-off of the 2022 Olympic Day celebration, Nnamdi and Popoola, said they are looking forward to registering their names in gold.

Nnamdi, featuring in the 72 kg category of para-weightlifting, said despite the camp not opening, he has commenced serious training to keep himself in good shape for the Games.

"This is my first participation in the Commonwealth Games and as you know, the camp has not officially opened. But on my own, I have been training hard at the National Stadium, pending when the sports ministry will declare it open.

"My teammates and I have high expectations of performing well in

Birmingham. I believe I will come out on top in my weight category. My target is to win a gold medal for my country in the para-weightlifting event," he said.

To Popoola, who is participating in the para-basketball team event, the fact that he is a first-timer at the Games will not stop him from winning a gold medal.

"My ambition is to ensure that my team wins the gold medal, which will help create an awareness of the need to start a para-basketball league in the country. This is needed

so that basketball athletes with disabilities will not go about begging for alms, as this will also take them out of joblessness," he said.

Popoola revealed that the para-basketball team had a training tour of some West African countries, where they

featured in competitions as preparation for the Games.

...Nigeria disqualified from 2022 World 4x100m relay

NIGERIA will not take part in the 2022 World Athletics Championship 4x100m relay following extended ban handed to Blessing Okagbare in the wake of her anti-doping violations, www.bestchoicesports.com.ng can report.

The Athletics Integrity Unit, AIU of the World Athletics, WA announced that banned Nigerian sprinter Blessing Okagbare has been found to have committed additional anti-doping rule violations - specifically evading sample collection, and tampering or attempted tampering with the doping control process.

While Okagbare has had her current 10-year ban from athletics extended by one year (now 11 years in total), another significant consequence of this decision against her is that Nigeria has lost its potential qualification place for the women's 4x100m relay at next month's World Athletics Championships Oregon22.

This is because six days after Okagbare evaded sample collection (13 June 2021), she competed in the 4x100m relay event at the Nigeria Olympic Trials, with her relay squad qualifying for this year's World Championships.

All individual and relay results involving Okagbare, from 13 June 2021, are now disqualified under the rules.

Head of the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), Brett Clothier, is encouraging athletes and entourage to report suspected doping, noting the unscrupulous behaviour of dopers could have damning repercussions for their team-mates and



Dare with weeping Okagbare

country.

His comments come in the wake of already-banned Nigerian sprinter Blessing Okagbare being found to have committed additional anti-doping rule violations.

"Over the years, we have repeatedly seen how one person's actions adversely affect team-mates who have trained hard and worked honestly for their results," noted Clothier.

"In a relay team, if one member violates the anti-doping rules, everyone bears the brunt of results being expunged. They all pay the price. In this instance, Nigeria has lost an important qualification spot. Those are the rules and we will not compromise on integrity."

On 14 February, 2022, the Disciplinary Tribunal banned Okagbare for 10 years; consecutive five-year bans for the presence and use of multiple prohibited substances, and for her refusal to co-operate with the AIU's investigation into her

case. The prohibited substances were human Growth Hormone (hGH) and recombinant erythropoietin (EPO). This decision stemmed from charges which the AIU brought against Ms Okagbare on 07 October, 2021. Details can be read here.

On 10 June, 2022, the AIU further charged Ms Okagbare with Evading Sample Collection, and Tampering or Attempted Tampering with the Doping Control process. These charges related to the circumstances of the athlete's Whereabouts Failure on 13 June, 2021, and were pursued based on information in a criminal charge, brought against US-based "naturopathic" therapist Eric Lira, on 12 January, 2022, by the United States Department of Justice under the Rodchenkov Act. Mr Lira is alleged to have supplied performance-enhancing drugs to athletes before the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (delayed until summer 2021 because of the Covid-19

pandemic).

The complaint against Mr Lira provides specific information of his interaction with a person named 'Athlete 1', including a written exchange on or around 13 June, 2021, demonstrating that 'Athlete 1' knowingly and deliberately avoided testing by a Doping Control Officer in Jacksonville, Florida. There was also other pertinent information about 'Athlete 1' in the criminal complaint which led the AIU Disciplinary Tribunal's sole arbitrator to be "comfortably satisfied" that 'Athlete 1' is Blessing Okagbare, including text conversations imaged from Ms Okagbare's mobile phone by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Ms Okagbare failed to respond to the charges by the extended deadline (21 June, 2022) and is therefore deemed to have admitted the anti-doping rule violations (under Rule 2.3 and Rule 2.5 of the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules) and to have accepted the consequences.



Para-athletes in training

Sports

Pinnick charges Falcons

Go out and conquer

PRESIDENT of the Nigeria Football Federation and FIFA Council Member, Mr Amaju Melvin Pinnick has told the Super Falcons of Nigeria to bulldoze their way to a 10th African title when they participate in the 12th Women Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco next month.

Pinnick spoke on Sunday night while hosting the nine-time champions to a special dinner at the Eko Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos.

"There is not much for me tell you about the need to go all out there and conquer; it is something you are used to because you have the spirit, the energy and the aura of champions. You have won this trophy nine times out of 11 and you have to go for the 10th with equal passion and desire.

"Surely, there will be teams that would believe they can topple you from your throne; from your position as champions. I have no doubt that you have the capacity to deal with every opposition and emerge champions once more."

Pinnick's dinner guests included NFF Executive Committee Member and Chairman of the Nigeria Women Football League, Ms Aisha Falode; Head Coach Randy Waldrum and his assistants; 25 players and; Super Falcons' backroom staff. Meanwhile, the Super Falcons' contingent has landed



Pinnick

in Casablanca, and already moved to Morocco's administrative capital, Rabat where the team will camp for seven days before their crunch opening match of Group C against South Africa's Banyana Banyana in the same city on Monday, 4th July.

The Falcons will also play Botswana (Thursday, 7th

July) and Burundi (Sunday, 10th July) in the group phase.

All four semi-finalists in Morocco will qualify to represent Africa at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia & New Zealand next year, with the fifth-placed team handed an opportunity to also gain a place through a Playoff Tournament taking place early next year.

NBBF hails Buhari for reversal

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

The Board of the Nigeria Basketball Federation has extended its gratitude to His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari for rescinding the Federal Government's decision, through the Honourable

Minister of Youth and Sport, Chief Sunday Dare, to withdraw the national teams from international basketball. In its immediate reaction, following the press conference presided over by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Alh. Ismaila Abubakar, held on Thursday in

The Super Eagles Captain, Ahmed Musa has maintained his charitable activities by distributing N20,000 to 5,000 people in Jos, Plateau State, as a way of giving back to the community.

According to several sources, Musa made the decision to financially and materially support a number of individuals in Jos.

In pictures that have gone viral, the 29-year-old Super Eagles skipper can be seen giving money to a number of individuals.

Musa, who represents Fatih Karagümrük in the Turkish Süper Lig, is renowned for his charitable works and recently opened the M&S International School in Bukuru, Jos South Local Government, Plateau State.

Bauchi SWAN kicks off 2022 Media Sports Week

The Bauchi state Chairman of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has tasked members of the need to be professionals in reporting sporting activities in the state to

Musa empower 5000 Nigerians with N50m

Musa personally handed the gift to them one by one as the crowd was heard praying for the Super Eagles captain.

Musa's offer was intended to assist the recipients in growing and

expanding their enterprises. In the past, Musa gave Kingsley Obiekwu, a former Nigerian player who is now a bus driver, a donation of two million naira.



avoid sensationalism and bias in their coverage.

Mahmud Yakubu Muhammad of NTA Bauchi is the chapter's Chairman in the state and he threw the

challenge during the opening ceremony of the

Bauchi SWAN 2022 Inter-media sports competition week held at the NUJ Press Center Bauchi on Monday.

According to him, the aim of the SWAN week was to foster cordial relationship among media practitioners via sports and to serve as forum to

relax and interact with one another in the spirit of sports, adding that the week was also an avenue to create healthy competition through various games that will take place during the week long events.

Mahmud further said that the Association will be organizing trainings for Sports Writers in the state to keep them abreast with trends in the sporting world as well as enhancing their reporting skills in sports.

He emphasized the need for

Journalists to always exercise themselves to stay healthy as it enhances the physical well being of individuals and promotes mental and psychological health considering the nature of their job.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Bauchi State Council, Comrade Umar Sa'idu said that sports is today beyond entertainment or business but a tool for national unity and unification of the world.

He commended media organizations in the state for promoting sporting activities through their reportage and encouraged them to sustain the tempo.

In his contributions at the occasion, the Director of Sports, Bauchi Sports Commission, Alh. Lawan Garba appreciated the positive contribution of Sports writers to sports development of the state stressing that sports administrators and sports writers are partners in progress.

He assured that the Sports Commission will continue to partner SWAN for sustainable development of the sports sector the state urging them to in always approach him for clarifications on sports issues.

This is what I truly will say, no victor and no vanquished".

"It gladdens our heart that the Federal Government has decided to return basketball to where it rightfully belongs".

"We recognize that some of the actions of the stakeholders and their effects are regrettable. Vital lessons have been learnt and stakeholders are now committed to close ranks in the overall interest of the game".

"There can be no viable grassroots development without international exposure. No country can be an island while every kid who takes up sports wants to play on the global stage and represent its fatherland, with the resultant huge economic benefit to the child that attains global recognition in the game", Kida said.

Kida also emphasized that the NBBF pledged, in line with its decision at its last meeting in Lagos, to set up a high-powered and all-inclusive committee to reconcile every genuine grievance amongst stakeholders.

"At our last board meeting, we resolved to put machinery in motion to bring every genuine stakeholder to the table. We have also resolved to maintain a very high level of respect for the Federal Government, through the Ministry of Sports, as we recognize their supervisory role in line with global laws governing sports federations".

It stated that the reconciliatory move will herald the necessary constitutional amendments recommended by the stakeholders, through the FMYS and others, as approved by the NBBF congress- the highest governing body of basketball in Nigeria.

athletes and other players to replace the already aged and underperforming ones and therefore, tasked the teeming youths in the state to avail themselves with opportunity which he described as good for them.

Also speaking the chairman of the Badminton Association of Nigeria (BAN), Malam Lawal Yusuf Yashi, thanked the national body of the association for the honour done to them by bringing the tournament to Keffi which is the first of its kind and assured that it has become one of the best and memorable one.

He further assured

highly committed towards the development of sporting activities and youth development as part of efforts towards keeping away their minds from indulging in miscreant behavior.

He stated that it was based on that the state government has embarked on the upgrade and the provision of sporting facilities across the state to make them conducive for the proper sporting activities

He further disclosed that very soon the state government would start the recruitment of



Sule

National badminton tournament kicks off in Nasarawa

From MUHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE 2022 edition of the National Badminton Tournament hosted by the Antau Badminton Club, Keffi in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State and supported by the Emir of Keffi, Alhaji Shehu Muhammadu Yamusa II, kick started at the Youth Centre Keffi.

The tournament which attracted badminton players, male and female across the 22 state of the federation, was kick started with players displaying their skills and talents to the admiration of the spectators who trooped in to catch a glimpse of the competition.

Declaring the tournament open, the Emir of Keffi, Dr. Shehu Yamusa, assured them of all the necessary enabling environment to play and display their skills and talents in the game.

The royal father who further assured them of all the necessary support for the success of the tournament, thanked them for their choice of Keffi to show case their talent in the game.

While congratulating the officials of the Badminton Association of Nigeria for the remarkable success they have achieved in their endeavour, he pledged to host them for a gala night at the end of the tournament.

Earlier, the National Chairman of the Badminton Association of Nigeria (BAN) Barrister Francis Orihi, thanked the Emir, the Nasarawa State Government and the Keffi Local Government chapter of the association for their rare display of hospitality and adequate preparation towards the successful kick-starting of them tournament.

He then assured that they would continue to do their best in the promotion of the game across Nigeria to enable many people to participate in it.

In his remarks the state Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development Ambassador Lucky Isaac Yargwa, on behalf of the State Government, assured that the Engineer Abdullahi Sule led administration is

Sports



Super Eagles in training

NFF owing Super Eagles AFCON match bonuses, allowances

THE Nigeria Football Federation NFF, is yet to pay the Super Eagles their 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON outstanding match bonuses and allowances. Nigeria played four matches at the Cameroon 2021 Africa football showpiece winning three and losing one

However, some players have come out to say that their match bonuses and camp alliances for the tournament have not been paid

The players who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they have contacted the secretariat of the NFF through the team secretary, Dayo Enebi who keeps telling them that the NFF has since sent the monies to the central bank whose duty it is, to deposit the money into individual accounts.

"After the loss to Tunisia in Garoua, the team secretary collected our account details and assured that our match bonuses and allowances will be paid directly into our accounts.

That has always been the practice so it wasn't strange to any of us. It is five months since AFCON and we are yet to get any alert. We have made frantic efforts to know where our money is and all they keep telling us is that the money will be paid soon.

"We don't know when that will be and our patience is waning. That is because, we are beginning to suspect foul play since most of our colleagues have received their full entitlements," one of the players told NSM Media

"We have decided at this point to petition the honorable minister of youth and sports Sunday Dare on this matter because it is now obvious that someone is sitting on our money", another

player added. All four players have been invited for post AFCON matches involving the Super Eagles and have vowed not to stop honoring National team invitations while stressing too, that they will not rest until their outstanding match

bonuses and allowances are paid.

The Super Eagles who dropped places in the latest FIFA ranking will regroup again for the double header 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON qualifiers against Guinea Bissau in September.

THE League Management Company (LMC) has rearranged the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) Matchday Day 36 game involving Dakkada Fc and Katsina United FC

.The relegation battle match is scheduled to hold on Sunday the 3rd of July 2022 but now shifted back to Saturday the 2nd of July

LMC reschedules Dakkada, Katsina Utd NPFL match

2022 The LMC therefore called on the two NPFL teams to ensure that all logistics are put in place for successful conduct of the match.

Dakkada are second to the last on the table with

40 points from 35 matches. Just four points better than MFM FC who have 36 points to be placed 20th. Katsina United however have not escaped relegation as they have just two points (45) above relegating teams.

Osimhen sued by former agent

The 23-year-old Nigerian forward joined the Partenopei in September 2020 from the French side in a deal that was valued at around €71.2m, including the estimated market values of the four players included. The valuation was so high that doubts have been raised by both French and Italian law enforcement agencies, creating a headache for both Osimhen and Napoli.

Reports from Nigeria detail how a complaint has been filed at the Court of Ikeja, in Nigeria's Lagos State, by Osimhen's former agent Osita Okolo. The agent, who is also the Napoli striker's brother-



Osimhen

in-law, alleges that the player kept most of the commission from that transfer for himself, on the grounds that some of his family members in Nigeria

needed it. Osimhen replaced Okolo as his agent earlier this year, switching to Italian agent Roberto Calenda.

Peseiro eyes NPFL talents

SUPER Eagles Coach, Jose Peseiro, is thrilled by the quality of talents in the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL), saying the league has the potential to become Africa's best.

Speaking after watching a Matchday 35 game between Akwa United and Plateau United at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo, Peseiro described Nigeria as a country full of talented players, who have proven themselves at the highest level of football, while commending the organisers of the league and the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) for upholding high standard to discover and nurture football talents in the country.

The Portuguese said he enjoyed the quality of play by the teams, as well as the fans' passion, promising to go around all the football venues next season to see the players and also know where he can contribute to



Peseiro

the development of the league.

"This is my second time watching the NPFL game... first was in Kwara, now in Uyo and so far, I can say the quality of the league is high and the players are committed.

"The season is almost over, but from next season, I will

go round all the football venues and watch the players and see how many we can bring into the national team. After the game, I interacted with the coaches, gave my assessment and also asked them how I can improve my team."

He reiterated his promise that the Super Eagles are open to everyone, regardless of where they play.

Meanwhile, Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, has congratulated Rivers United for winning the 2021/22 NPFL.

Rivers United has officially confirmed the champion of the 2021/2022 NPFL season following Plateau United's 1-2 away loss to Akwa United on Saturday.

A statement Wike's Special Assistant (Media), Kelvin Ebiri, said the governor commended the players and coaching staff of the club on Sunday, following the memorable victory, which ended their five-year title wait.

Wike attributed the achievement to the talented team's determination, adding that it is most heartening that by virtue of the league win, the club will represent the country at the Confederation of African

Football (CAF) Champions League next season.

He added that Rivers United's triumph at the 2021/2022 NPFL has brought a wave of joy and happiness to the people of Rivers State and the country at large.

"I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the coaching staff, particularly, the capable players of Rivers United for the valuable efforts they made to emerge the winner of the 2021/2022 NPFL.

"The government and good people of Rivers State are very proud of the team's exploits following their dogged performances and resilience display throughout the 2021/2022 season. It is worthy to note that over the years, Rivers United has brought so much joy and happiness to football fans and supporters all over the country. This victory, no doubt, marks a major milestone in Rivers State football's history."

'Banyana Banyana players are fit for Super Falcons'

RODNEY Mokoka, Banyana Banyana team Doctor has confirmed that there are no injuries or any medical conditions within the squad and all the players are fit to take on rivals Super Falcons and other teams in Morocco, BSNSports.com.ng.

Mokoka spoke in a short video released by the South African women team, assuring fans at the Rainbow Nation of the Banyana Banyana players good progress as the 12th Africa Women's Cup of Nations kicks-off in Rabat, Morocco, in less than a week.

"Good day South Africans,

I have great news for you as all Banyana Banyana players are fit, available and we don't have any medical conditions that were are really concerned of, as we're really looking forward to the TotalEnergies WAFCON."

Super Falcons, who are nine-time African champions will take on rivals Banyana Banyana in a crunch Group C opening game on July 4 in Rabat.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of African Football has appointed SAFA administrator Ms Potso Mohami as a General Co-ordinator (GC) for the upcoming 2022 African Women Cup of Nation



Bayana Bayana train for victory in Morocco

scheduled for Morocco. The up-and-coming Mohami will be the GC for

Group C in the Moroccan capital of Rabat where she will oversee a total of four

matches comprising Nigeria, South Africa, Burundi and Botswana.



Quest



writer

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

FRAGMENT

The history of the relation between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria is closely tied to the history of the Nigerian state. The tensions generated by the colonial state laid the foundations for most of the tensions that still persist today. Before the emergence of the colonial state, the relations between the peoples of what would later become Northern Nigeria were marked by the conflict, war and violence that were the hallmark of the establishment of the Sokoto caliphate1.

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

Christian-Muslim relations: Nigerian situation

THE institution of the Secretariat for Non-Christians on May 17th 1964 marked a major turning point in the history of the Church's view of its missionary life. The further publication of *Nostra Aetate* on October 28th, 1965 blazed the trail for the commitment of the Catholic Church to dialogue. As fallout of the Second Vatican Council, it is important to examine the impact of the Council on Christian Muslim relations.

If we are to be guided by the empirical evidence, it will be right to say that after almost fifty years, not much progress has been made in the way of dialogue. What is more, it also seems that the conversation has been unidirectional, that is, that it is the Catholic Church which has been responsible for almost all the initiatives towards with Islam.

This short paper, assessing the impact of dialogue between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria will focus first of all in briefly tracing the origins of this dialogue. Secondly, I will examine the content of the dialogue forums in Nigeria that is the key issues around which dialogue has been formulated in Nigeria. Thirdly, I will examine the agents of dialogue by looking at the institutional infrastructure for dialogue in our country. Finally, I will look at the challenges dialogue in a multi ethnic and multiparty environment as we have in Nigeria.

Origins of Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Nigeria:

The history of the relation between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria is closely tied to the history of the Nigerian state. The tensions generated by the colonial state laid the foundations for most of the tensions that still persist today. Before the emergence of the colonial state, the relations between the peoples of what would later become Northern Nigeria were marked by the conflict, war and violence that were the hallmark of the establishment of the Sokoto caliphate.

The British colonial state was built on a mutual suspicion between the colonial state and the Muslim community because of the violence that attended the process of the establishment of the state. The colonial state, for economic and political reasons soon made common cause with the conquered Fulani ruling class. To consolidate this relations and to further exploit its economic



Ayokunle, CAN National President



Abubakar, Sultan of Sokoto

benefits, the colonialists propped up the existing feudal system that they had overthrown by a power sharing mechanism that entrenched their powers by designing an architecture of power that subordinated the non-Muslim communities across the Middle belt to the structure of feudal power that would later be known as the Emirate system. Large swathes of lands and communities who had successfully repelled the Fulani ruling classes in wars were now parceled out and brought under the rule of Emirs. An understanding of the history of this injustice is fundamental to appreciating the reaction of say, the peoples of the Plateau to the situation in Plateau state today. The decision by the colonial state to further create the *Sabon Gari* (strangers' quarters) system of exclusion and separation in pursuit of a policy known as *non-interference* further deepened and widened the chasm of fear and suspicion between Christians and Muslims in Northern Nigeria.

In 1964, the Muslims set up the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (Society for the Victory of Islam, JNI) as an association to defend and protect the interests of Muslims. It would later expand to include Muslims outside northern Nigeria and transform itself into the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA).

Thus, even before Nigerian independence, and after, the political struggles of the peoples of the Middle Belt were tied to unwinding these foundations of injustice: this explains the

struggle for a Middle Belt Region and also accounts for why the first political association to be formed in the region was known as the Non-Muslim League. The Northern ruling class had shown that it was not willing to create any distinction between the boundaries of Muslim culture and politics in Nigeria. The non-Muslims, feeling left out and treated very clearly as outsiders, decided to seek common cause by also defining their own identity. While the political class struggled within politics, seeking a new political space, the Christians on the other hand, sensing and feeling discriminated against on the basis of their religion, decided to also seek a platform for defining their identity and asserting their rights and freedoms.

Thus, within the Christian community, this struggle for freedom found expression in the setting up of the Northern Christian Association. Its objectives were the protection and preservation of the rights of Christians in the North. It is important to note of course that this was in keeping with the regional nature of the politics of the time. The details of this association, the subsequent politics at the national level are outside the scope of this short presentation but it will be helpful to look at how these relationships have shaped up at a national level. To do this, I will highlight some key areas where these contestations have taken place.

Religion and the Politics of Power sharing:

The greatest source of tension in Nigeria has been the lack of an adequate power sharing mechanism to institutionalize and guarantee the pursuit of a good society based on justice, equity and fairness. Whereas other parts of Nigeria have tended to concentrate on democracy and the building of a secular state, the Muslims in Nigeria have focused more on some form of a theocracy and a variant of feudalism.

Politics in Nigeria has been dominated by region, religion and ethnicity. Whereas others navigate around the themes of ethnicity or region, the Muslims continue to talk about one North which, intrinsically, is synonymous with Islam. The anxieties of the non-Muslim minorities still persist largely because, whereas they are geographically considered to be part of the North, they do not believe that they are getting a fair share in the power game because of their religious affiliation. And, clearly, those within the Middle Belt who have become Muslim, as it is the case in parts of Benue, Adamawa, Plateau and others, have seen a noticeable change in their bureaucratic, professional, economic or political lives. This remains an area of tension.

At the national level, the perceived monopoly and domination of the levers of power by the Muslim North has remained a matter of concern for others in the country. For example, Nigeria has had a total of 13 heads of State. Out of this

total only 5 have been Christians. Under the military, General Gowon was the only non-Muslim who became the Head of State. Some of these concerns have filtered into the discussions surrounding the Jonathan Presidency the rise of the Boko Haram insurgency which has been subjected to various interpretations. Clearly, these anxieties account for a substantial percentage of the crisis of confidence between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria.

Religion and State Policy: The Sharia Law:

The issues of the role and place of Islamic law since the conquest and displacement of the Sokoto caliphate and the subsequent emergence of the colonial state have been a source of concern to all sides in the Nigerian project. All Constitutional debates about the future of the country have always been marred by the debate over the status and place of Islamic Law in the statutes.

While Muslims have presented the application of Sharia law as a *conditio sine qua non* for a stable polity and a guarantee of justice, non-Muslims have come to see it as a grand design to acquire, control and monopolize power by the Muslim elites. Their conduct before, during and after these debates have shown very clearly that in the main, the call for the application of Sharia law has always been at best, a gimmick for political mobilization. For the politicians on both sides, this issue has come to be seen as a platform for perceived compromise among the elites but also as a viable strategy for mobilization.

Two examples will suffice. In 1978, at the height of the Sharia debate in the National Assembly, all the Muslim delegates walked out of the Assembly. They finally came back, negotiated some favorable terms and the matter was resolved. Interestingly, all but two of the members of the Committee that resolved the crisis ended up as members of the National Party of Nigeria, NPN. A key member, Alhaji Aliyu Shagari who also walked out was later to become the President of Nigeria the following year. It is also instructive that after his election, there was not a mention of the word Sharia right through until he was overthrown by the military on December 31st, 1983.

To be continued next week